

10/1/11

What Kind Of Soldier Are You For Jesus Christ?  
A Mercenary or A Volunteer

**Text:            2 Chronicles 16:1-14**

**Introduction:**

- ▶ **V. 1** - Baasha, King of the northern kingdom of Israel comes up against King Asa, King of the southern kingdom of Judah.
  - ⊙ To build the city of Ramah to prevent anyone from going out or coming into to see King Asa.
  
- ▶ **Vs. 2-3** - Notice who King Asa goes to for help.
  - ⊙ He goes to the heathen.
  - ⊙ Benhadad, King of Syria.
  - ⊙ He hires him.    ⊙ *Notice he uses the Lord's money - silver & gold from the house of the Lord*
  - ⊙ Benhadad and his armies are mercenaries.
  - ⊙ Mercenaries are hired soldiers.
  - ⊙ They have no allegiance or loyalty only in it for the money.
  - ⊙ Fight for whoever pays the highest price.
  
- ▶ **Vs. 4-5** - We see that Benhadad and his armies are successful against the cities of Israel.
  
- ▶ **V. 6** - We see that Asa King of Judah was successful in stopping Ramah from being built and in fact with the materials was able to build the cities of Geba and Mizpah.

- ▶ **Vs. 7-8** - We see the man of God, Hanani rebukes King Asa for hiring the mercenaries to battle against their enemy instead of trusting in the Lord and allowing to use His people to fight the enemy.
  - ⊙ Hanani reminds King Asa how previously that because he trusted in the Lord, that the Lord delivered his enemies into his hands.
- ▶ **V. 9** - Hanani pronounces God's judgment upon King Asa.
  - ⊙ The Lord sees everything.
  - ⊙ To bless them that trust in Him.
  - ⊙ But because Asa did not trust in the Lord more wars would come.
- ▶ **V. 10** - King Asa rebukes the man of God and becomes angry with him.
  - ⊙ Put the man of God in prison.
  - ⊙ This is nothing new is it?
  - ⊙ When the man of God preaches against sin and steps on some toes, the people whose sin he preaches against get their backs up and want to get rid of him - Amen!
  - ⊙ King Asa even took his anger out on some of the people because it says that he oppressed some of the people.
  - ⊙ Probably the ones who listened to the man of God.
  - ⊙ If you back up the preacher when he is doing right, then there is going to be a group in the church who will want to oppress you.
  - ⊙ It is usually the ones whose sin is being preached against and won't get right.

- ▶ **Vs. 11-14** - We see King Asa's demise.
  - ⊙ **V. 12** - The LORD sent King Asa an illness or disease to his feet.
  - ⊙ It was severe - "was exceeding great"
  - ⊙ Probably very painful.
  - ⊙ I believe that it was no accident with God that it was his feet.
  - ⊙ Feet are symbolic of the believer's walk with the Lord.
  - ⊙ But still he wouldn't get right and turned to the flesh - physicians first instead of the Lord.
  
- ▶ We can see then from our passage the results of having mercenaries or paid soldiers to fight in the Lord's army.
  - ⊙ Even though it seems like victory may have been won, it is very displeasing to the Lord.
  - ⊙ God's army has only volunteers.
  
- ▶ **I. Each Christian Is Chosen By Christ to endure hardness as good soldier of Jesus Christ.**
  - ⊙ **2 Timothy 2:3-4**
  - ⊙ The Apostle Paul tells us that the Christian is to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
  - ⊙ The Christian is liken as a soldier.
  - ⊙ A soldier **v. 4** tells us that Christ has chosen himself.
  - ⊙ The scriptures tells us nothing of being paid for being a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

- ◎ The scriptures do tells us that if endure hardness and suffer for Him now then "...we shall also reign with him..." - 2Tim 2:12
- ◎ We will reign with Him during the millennium on this earth.
- ◎ You may receive a blessing now.
- ◎ If you are a good soldier then you will receive rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- ◎ But nowhere in the scriptures does it say the Christian is to be paid for his service to the Lord.

▶ **II. The Preach Only One To Be Paid**

◎ **1 Cor. 9:7-15**

- ◎ In this passage Paul is speaking about the right of ministerial support.
- ◎ **v. 7** - Paul gives us an illustration -
  - Those who go to war don't go at their own expense.
  - Those who farm don't farm for nothing.
  - Those who raise cows don't do it for nothing.
- ◎ **v. 8** - Paul says I am not just saying this as a man or making it up but the law <sup>the Word of God</sup> also testifies of this.
- ◎ **v. 9** - Paul gives us another illustration -
  - He likens the pastor to an ox.
  - If the ox is to be allowed to eat as he treadeth out the corn so the pastor is to be feed or supported for his work.
- ◎ **v. 10** - Paul gives us another illustration -

- A man that plows and threshes does it because he expects to get something for doing it.
- ◎ **v. 11** - The Apostle Paul saying because we have ministered to you in spiritual things should we not reap the carnal things. <sup>?</sup>
- In other words be financially supported by those who we have bestowed our spiritual labor *upon.*
- ◎ **v. 12** - Paul says that we could have asked you to support us financially.
  - We have every right to according to the scriptures.
  - However, we gave up that right so we would not hinder the gospel from getting out.
  - The church of Corinth was full of tight wade Christians.
  - Paul knew receiving support for the work of the ministry was issue with the church of Corinth.
  - Instead of getting into it with them (remember they were babes in Christ) he gave up his right of support so the souls would get saved.
- ◎ **v. 13** - Paul reminds them that even the Old Testament priests were supported for their ministering in the temple.
- ◎ **v. 14** - Paul saying besides this the Lord Himself has ordained that a man who preaches the gospel should be supported.
- ◎ **v. 15** - Paul says I would have been within my rights to ask for support but I did not.

- I would rather die than to ask for your support.
- So, no man can take away my glorying in the gospel because they could say it was because they supported me.

◎ **Other Scriptures:**

- **Galatians 6:6**
- **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

▶ **III. Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give**

◎ **Matthew 10:8**

◎ Jesus telling his twelve disciples -

- You have been given certain gifts by God.
- God gave you these gifts freely
- You did not pay for them.
- So, don't you charge those that you minister with these gifts.

*Why faith healers  
are a joke -  
hold a service  
take up a  
collection.*

◎ Message for us today is this -

- God has given each of us certain gifts and talents freely.
- We should not be paid for ministering those gifts and talents to others.
- That is why someone who is a member of the church and is mechanical inclined should not be paid to do work around the church.
- The church should pay for the materials, etc.
- A member who has a musical ability, plays an instrument, or sings should not be paid.

*That is  
why?*

*That is  
why? A member has ability to teach - should not be  
paid to teach Sunday School.*

- God gave him that gift freely.
- ⊙ If that was not enough reason not to be paid for ministering your God given gift and talents to others.
- ⊙ How about this, look at what God has given us each freely who are saved.
  - **Romans 3:24** - "Being justified **freely** by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"
  - **Romans 8:32** - "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely give us all things?**"
  - **1 Cor. 2:12** - "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are **freely given** to us of God."
  - **See Romans 5:15-18**
    - The words "**free gift**" are mentioned in **vs. 15, 16, 18**
- ⊙ Praise the Lord that His gift of salvation was free that we do not have to pay for it.
- ⊙ You see that is why it is a gift because it costs the recipient absolutely nothing but cost the giver a great price.
- ⊙ In this case it cost God, His only begotten Son. - Amen.
- ⊙ But you know something if you really love someone, you love to give gifts to them.

☉ **John 3:16**, tells us "**For God so loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

☉ My friend how could anyone say they love God and charge Him for the gift that He has given them freely.

► **Conclusion:**

☉ If you are here today and claimed to be a Christian, the question I want to ask you is this -

- What Kind Of Soldier Are You For Jesus Christ? - A Mercenary or A Volunteer
- Thank God He did not charge us to die for Him.
- Because I know that none of us could have afforded the price.

☉ If you are here today and you are not 100% sure that if you died that you would go to heaven then you need to be saved.

- Won't you be saved today.
- Won't you repent of your sins and trust by faith the blood atonement of Jesus Christ for payment of your sins and receive His Gift of eternal salvation.
- It is absolutely free.
- The Word of God says in **Revelation 22:17**, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life **freely**."