



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ FEBRUARY 2018 ❖

For the Duration Plus Six Months

In World War II, the Selective Training and Service Act called for the registration of all men between the ages of 18 and 65. Anyone from 18 years of age through 45 would now be liable for immediate induction into the armed forces. The period of time that a person must serve was extended to 6 months after the war's end. Those who were called did not know how long they would serve, it would be until after the end of the war. In the 7 year time frame from 1940 to 1947, over 10,000,000 men were inducted under the act.¹

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

FOR THE DURATION*

All volunteer army. No one drafted.
Basic Training in the teachings of Christianity.
Equipped with spiritual armor.
Fight against Satan and sin.
Follow the commands of Jesus Christ.
Motivated to serve by love, not duty.
Serve along side of fellow soldiers.
Length of service: Until death.
Not to desert by leaving the ranks and going back into the world.
Not to be distracted by the cares of the world.

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

² Timothy 2:3-4

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹ Gleaned from sources on the web,

*Continuance or persistence in time. A period of existence or persistence.

A Soldier of the Cross

1

Am I a soldier of the Cross—
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?

4

Since I must fight if I would reign,
Increase my courage, Lord!
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

—Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

PROVERB

*Like a trampled spring and a polluted well
Is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked. Proverbs 25:26*

Instrumental Music in the Church

Instruments have always been used in churches. No they haven't! For many centuries, no church used them. The Eastern Orthodox Church has always forbidden their use. Not all movements during Reformation used them. They were rejected at the beginning of the Restoration movement.

It's easy to think that whatever is done today as worship to God has always been done. But any student of religious history knows that there has been and continues to be changes in how people worship God. This is especially true concerning music in the church. Following is just a sampling of historical references noting the absence of mechanical instruments being used in worship.

Historical Notes

“Musical instruments were not used. The pipe, tabret, and harp here associate so intimately with the sensual heathen cults, as well as with the wild revelries and shameless performances of the degenerate theater and circus, it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in the worship.”

(Augustine 354 A.D., describing the singing at Alexandria under Athanasius)

“The general introduction of instrumental music can certainly not be assigned to a date earlier than the 5th and 6th centuries; yea, even Gregory the Great, who towards the end of the 6th century added greatly to the existing church music, absolutely prohibited the use of instruments. Several centuries later the introduction of the organ in sacred service gave the place to instruments as accompaniments for Christian song, and from that time to this they have been freely used with few exceptions. The first organ is believed to have been used in the Church service in the 13th century. Organs were however, in use before this in the theater. They were never regarded with favor in the Eastern Church, and were vehemently opposed in some of the Western churches.”

(McClintock and Strong, Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature, Vol 6, p. 759)

“If instrumental music was not part of early Christian worship, when did it become acceptable? Several reference works will help us see the progression of this practice among churches: ‘Pope Vitalian introduced an organ in the church in the seventh century to aid the singing but it was opposed and was removed.’”

(James Hasting, Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics.)

“The execution of Byzantine church music by instruments, or even the accompaniment of sacred chanting by instruments, was ruled out by the Eastern Fathers as being incompatible with the pure, solemn, spiritual character of the religion of Christ. The Fathers of the church, in accordance with the example of psalmodizing of our Savior and the holy Apostles, established that only vocal music be used in the churches and severely forbade instrumental music as being secular and hedonic, and in general as evoking pleasure without spiritual value.”

(G. I. Papadopoulos, A Historical Survey of Byzantine Ecclesiastical Music (in Greek), Athens,, pp. 10, 11).

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*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Colossians 3:16

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*Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;  
A stranger, and not your own lips.  
Proverbs 27:2*

✧  
**Succinctly**  
**Put**  
✧

## **QUESTION**

**Since another or a stranger is to be the source of praise,  
who is that person? Am I that person?**

Be generous in giving sincere praise. Words of appreciation, approval, commendation, compliment, and kudos do wonders for any relationship. Both the giver and the one who receives benefit.

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## **An Inspiring Example**

Her name was Jewel. She was a widow who lived alone. She had experienced numerous health issues (including heart trouble) during her 60+ years. She was only able to be out of bed for about six hours a day.

One could easily feel sorry for her, but she wouldn't hear of it. She tended a small garden outside the back door of her apartment. She made quilts on a quilting rack in her front room. She always was thinking of others. And she made it to church services regularly.

I can recall seeing her sitting in the second row with a smile on her face, yet all the while knowing she was suffering. Her determination, her cheerful disposition, and her genuine love of the Lord were something to behold.

Now many years have passed and she is no longer with us, but I continue to draw strength from her example.

I'm sure there are those who have impacted your life in a positive way. Be grateful for what they have done. And be thoughtful of how you can impact the lives of those coming along after you.

***Be inspired by other's examples. But  
don't let it stop there. Be an  
inspiration to others.***



## **ONE ANOTHER**

*Therefore encourage one another and build up  
one another, just as you also are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

## **GIVING AND RECEIVING**

At times we may be the gift giver and at other  
times we may find ourselves in  
need of receiving.

*For this is not for the ease of others and for  
your affliction, but by way of equality—at this  
present time your abundance being a supply  
for their need, so that their abundance also  
may become a supply for your need, that  
there may be equality; as it is written, "HE  
WHO GATHERED MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO  
MUCH, AND HE WHO GATHERED LITTLE HAD NO  
LACK."*

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

**Be a generous giver.  
Be a grateful receiver!**



## Ponder This

## HEAVY STUFF

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”*

Matthew 23:23

It is said that these men preferred the rituals of the ceremonial law, and the traditions of the elders, above the duties of the moral law. They neglected:

### JUSTICE

acting according to justice, fairness and equity.

### MERCY

having compassion and showing kindness.

### FAITHFULNESS

keeping one’s word and promise, fidelity.

**Justice, mercy, and faithfulness** are “heavier” (Greek word, **barus** – metaphorically: burdensome, severe, weighty) in that they require practical application and demonstration of one’s faith. Religious activities are important and not to be neglected, but by themselves they are nothing more than a hollow shell.

*“What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.”*

James 2:14-17

## Singing with the Understanding . . .



1 Corinthians 14:15

Focusing on the words of the hymns we sing.

## A Beautiful Life

Each day I'll do a golden deed,  
By helping those who are in need;  
My life on earth is but a span,  
And so I'll do the best I can.

To be a child of God each day,  
My light must shine along the way;  
I'll sing His praise while ages roll,  
And strive to help some troubled soul.

The only life that will endure,  
Is one that's kind and good and pure;  
And so for God I'll take my stand,  
Each day I'll lend a helping hand.

[This verse isn't included in some hymnals]

I'll help someone in time of need,  
And journey on with rapid speed;  
I'll help the sick and poor and weak,  
And words of kindness to them speak.

While going down life's weary road,  
I'll try to lift some traveler's load;  
I'll try to turn the night to day,  
Make flowers bloom along the way.

### CHORUS

Life's evening sun is sinking low,  
A few more days, and I must go  
To meet the deeds that I have done,  
Where there will be no setting sun.

–William M. Golden



(Interesting note: It is said that he wrote most of his 23 hymns while in a state penitentiary.– Hymnary.org)

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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