



All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 2001 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this CD.

* * * * *

Digital Edition 11/22/2001
By Holiness Data Ministry

* * * * *

Shot! Because He Forgot -- The Battle

By Duane V. Maxey

"Remember the battle, do no more" (Job 41:8).

"This one thing I do" (Philip. 3:13).

The two following stories, taken from the Illustrations folder of the HDM CD, are striking examples of neglected duty on the battlefield by those whose only responsibility was to "remember the battle" and "do nothing more" than fight the battle. As a good soldier of Christ Jesus, the apostle Paul was continually focused on "this one thing": warring a good warfare for the Captain of the Lord's Host. His conduct on the battlefield of the Lord was markedly different from that of the two soldiers mentioned in the following stories, who took time to "smell the roses" and to tinker with trifles while the war was raging. -- DVM

* * *

The story has been told of a soldier who was missed amid the bustle of a battle, and no one knew what had become of him, but it was known that he was not in the ranks. As soon as opportunity offered, his officer went in search of him, and to his surprise, found that the man, during the battle, had been amusing himself in a flower garden. When it was demanded what he did there, he excused himself by saying, "Sir, I am doing no harm." But he was tried, convicted and shot! What a sad but true picture this is of many, who waste their time and neglect their duty, and who can give no better answer than, "Lord, I am doing no harm." -- Topical Illustrations

* * *

A soldier who went to war took with him some of the small instruments of his craft. He was a watchmaker and repairer, and thought to make some extra money while he was in camp. He found plenty of watches to mend, and almost forgot that he was a soldier. One day, when he was ordered off on some duty, he exclaimed: "Why, how can I go? I've got ten watches to mend." Some Christians are so absorbed in self-seeking that they are ready to say to the Master's call: "I pray thee have me excused." -- Topical Illustrations

* * *

The one thing that a true Christian must focus continually upon is God's War, or, to change the figure, God's Work. The following story -- also taken from the HDM CD -- illustrates the same spirit as that of Jesus, when He said: "I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49), and when He also said: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

A characteristic incident is told about Dr. Carey, the pioneer missionary in India, who, before he left this country, was a shoemaker, or, rather, as he himself put it, a cobbler. He used to go about from village to village preaching, for his soul was filled with the love of God. One day a friend came to him and said: "Mr. Carey, I want to speak to you very seriously." "Well," said Carey, "What is it?" The friend replied, "By your going about preaching as you do you are neglecting your business. If you only attended to your business more you would be all right, and would soon get on and prosper, but as it is you are simply neglecting your business."

"Neglecting my business," said Carey, looking at him steadily. "My business is to extend the Kingdom of God. I only cobble shoes to pay expenses." -- Gospel Herald

* * *

Paul's service in God's army was much like that of Carey in that he was a tentmaker on the side, to pay for his living expenses, but he never let that "business" become his main focus. Nevertheless, Paul no doubt believed that every Christian who went to battle for his Lord, and who made that warfare his only occupation, could count on God to see to it that his financial needs were supplied. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:7 "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?" -- the inference being that a soldier's needs are always supplied by the authorities that sent him into battle. Further, the apostle's admonitions to Christian soldiers were aimed to help them lay aside every other burden so that they might "attend upon the Lord without distraction" (1 Corinthians 7:35).

If God wants a minister to work on the side, it is surely His will that this Christian soldier not become distracted with either trifles or with legitimate burdens so as to be unable to "remember the battle" with all of the attention that must be given to it in order

to make triumphant advances for Christ. Probably in most cases, it is the will of the Great Captain of the Lord's Host that his warriors completely lay aside all secular employment and depend upon Him for their personal and family needs.

After the onset of America's current war on terrorism, I heard of one reservist that had been called into service who was quite concerned about how his family's bills were going to be paid. He was forced to leave what may have been a quite good-paying job to go and fight our nation's battles, and he felt that he simply could not meet his financial obligations on the paltry amount he is now receiving as a full-time soldier. His plight was quite identical to that of the soldier in the following story, with which I conclude this little article. I hope that it will inspire some soldier of Christ who is now languishing in similar circumstances.

* * *

A poor soldier in Russia was sitting one day in his barracks in deep despair, for he owed a great deal of money, and he knew not where to get it. He got a piece of paper, and made on it a list of all his debts, and underneath wrote: **"Who shall pay these debts?"**

He then fell asleep, and while he slept the Emperor of Russia passed by, and taking up the paper read the question. Having read it, he took up a pen and signed his name, **"Nicholas,"** at the bottom. When the soldier woke up, he could not believe it. He thought it was too good to be true, but in the morning money came round. The debts were paid, and the soldier was free, both from the debts and from his weight of concern over them. -- From D. L. Moody

* * *

The admonition to "remember the battle" and "do no more" should be taken by Christ's warriors as a solemn injunction to not allow either foolish trifles or legitimate burdens to distract them from the constant prosecution of their assigned warfare. Those who trifle, and those who become distracted, from their duty in God's army will doubtless face a Tribunal far more fearful than a military Court Martial, but to render such culpable neglect entirely unnecessary, the Sovereign of the Universe has promised to supply the needs of those serving in his warfare. The financially beset warrior of Christ may sometimes wonder: **"Who shall pay these debts?"** -- but beneath that concern he can always find, as it were, the signed promise of his faithful Provider -- **"JESUS"**! Realizing this, even though his debts are mountainous, he can say with the Psalmist: "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8). Do I hear a loud **AMEN!**?

* * * * *

The End