

## THE CHURCH THE ARMY OF GOD

Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God’s people.
4. The role of the church in God’s plan of redemption...
  - a. Eternal purpose
  - b. Connected to the crucifixion
  - c. Result of the resurrection
  - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
  - a. “The Called Out”
  - b. The Body of Christ
  - c. The Bride of Christ
  - d. The Kingdom of Christ
  - e. The Saved
  - f. The House of God
  - g. The Temple of God
  - h. The Husbandry of God
  - i. The Army of God

- I. The Description of the Army (1 Timothy 1:18)
  - A. The New Testament often uses military terminology to describe the Christian and the Lord’s church.
  - B. The church is a spiritual army (John 18:36; 2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:12ff).
  - C. The church is a volunteer army (Matt. 11:28-30; Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12; Rev. 22:17).
    1. Consider the lesson from Gideon’s 300 men (Judges 3).
    2. One must obey “from the heart” (Rom. 6:17).
    3. Then, he will serve willingly (cf. Isa. 6:8; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 8:5)
  - D. The church is an organized army.
    1. Jesus is the commander-in-chief (Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 2:10; 4:15; 7:26; 1 Pet. 2:21-22).
    2. Elders are overseeing officers (Acts 20:28-29).
    3. Christians are soldiers.
      - a. “Special forces” (2 Tim. 4:1-5)
      - b. “Rank-and-file” (1 Cor. 12:11-12)
  - E. The church is a fighting army (1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:11; Heb. 3:13).
  - F. The church is a perpetual army.
    1. No “leave of absence” (Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9)
    2. Continual recruitment (2 Tim. 2:2)

- II. The Duties of a Soldier (2 Timothy 2:1-4)
  - A. A good soldier must enlist (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).
  - B. A good soldier must be in uniform (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 13:14; Phil. 1:27).

## Biblical Description of the Church

### Lesson Thirteen

2 Timothy 2:1-4

- C. A good soldier must obey orders (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Tim. 6:12-16; Matt. 7:21).
  - 1. Orders are commands (1 Cor. 16:1; cf. Acts 23:31; Matt. 11:1).
  - 2. The disobedient are disorderly (2 Thes. 3:6-7, 11).
- D. A good soldier must undergo training (Eph. 6:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15).
  - 1. Basic training in fundamentals
  - 2. Specialized training
- E. A good soldier must engage the enemy (1 Tim. 6:12; Jam. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
- F. A good soldier must endure faithfully (2 Tim. 1:7; 2:3; Rev. 2:10; Heb. 13:6).

### III. The Defense of Truth

(Jude 3)