

## THE MILITANT MESSAGE

**Text:**

**2 Timothy 4:1-5:**

**1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom; 2 Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and Doctrine.**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound Doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

This message is so militant that it blazes the conquering force of Christianity — the Word of God. It is quick and powerful.

**Hebrews 4:12: For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**



Paul declares he isn't ashamed of the Gospel.

**Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

It has weathered all storms — the attacks of atheists, the heathen, idolators trying to put its fire out, cold church members, carnal believers, and its militant foe — satan.

The task of today's Church is to recover, somehow, the militancy that permeated and made it effective in the early church.

Paul said:

**Acts 21:13: Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break**

***mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.***

Paul did not stroll, he marched. He did not play, he fought. He didn't retreat, he charged.

### **Hear Queen Esther:**

***Esther 4:16: Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.***



### **Hear Daniel and the three Hebrew children:**

***Daniel 3:6-18:***

***<sup>6</sup> And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.***



***<sup>7</sup> Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.***

***<sup>8</sup> Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.***

***<sup>9</sup> They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.***

***<sup>10</sup> Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:***

***<sup>11</sup> And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.***

***<sup>12</sup> There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.***

**13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.**



**14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?**

**15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?**

**16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.**

**17 If it be so, our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.**

**18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**



### **Hear Jesus' Words:**

**Luke 12:49: I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?**

And in Gethsemane, He boldly faced the armies and they fell back to the ground!

View the message of God's Word from any angle. You will find it burns with militancy. I challenge Christians to deny self, forsake the world, surrender to Jesus. Take your cross and follow Him. It points out if any man will save his life, he will lose it.

The preaching of Jesus to the hypocrites was not a sissy message. It puts iron in my blood and steadies my nerve as it is filled with invincible power. With relentless blows Jesus hammered away at the thick skulls of the self-righteous Pharisees.

Paul came to Ephesus, a stronghold of black magic, idolatry, and lustful pleasures. He came in torrents of Gospel bombshells. He tore down their barricades of self-justification and every stronghold of satan, for he knew the power of the Gospel that can change the vilest sinner, and reach down to the lowest caverns of despair.

There is only one remedy for mankind's lost condition: the Gospel of Christ. **Christ is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.** Millions have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.

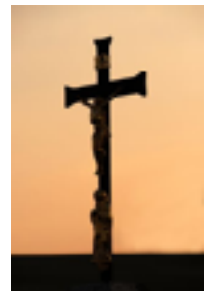
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***Revelation 1:5: And from Jesus Christ, Who is the Faithful Witness, and the First Begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His Own Blood,***

The sinner cries, "Away with your bloody religion." We shout back:

***Hebrews 9:22: And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.***

Many mock the Cross of Christ; they say it is a shame. George B. Shaw said, "On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross . . ."



Hear the militant Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, calling sinners to repent and be baptized:

***Acts 2:38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

A prize fighter and drunkard had stooped so low that he was planning to murder his wife for the fun of it. At the saloon, he was drinking to pick up his nerve. Suddenly he rushed out of the den of evil and home to his wife. Her astonished ears heard him say, "Molly, I'm going to join the Salvation Army!" She was skeptical, but she went with him to the next meeting. Both of them went down to the altar, called the penitent's bench.



Hear him, as later he described what happened. "I can't describe all my sensations. The past dropped clear away from me like a ragged garment. An immense weight was lifted from my brain. I felt light as air. I felt clean and happy. I felt my chest swell. I cannot say what it was.

*All I know is that there at the bench I was dismantled of all that was past, and was clothed afresh in newness of life.”*

Thank God, we can find Christ and be saved. All we have to do is repent sincerely, open our hearts, and let Jesus come in to forgive us and transform us.

The Gadarene maniac is a notable example of the power of the Gospel. In the realm Jesus fought, the real deliverance of soul comes.

***Ephesians 6:11-17:***

***11 Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***

***12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***

***13 Wherefore take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

***14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the Breastplate of Righteousness;***

***15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace;***

***16 Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

***17 And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:***



Our profession of faith isn't worth a thin dime if it doesn't put sinews on our soul to wrestle with the forces of evil, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and to conquer.

***2 Corinthians 2:14: Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place.***

There are people here who are bound with chains of sin no man can break, habits no human effort can conquer. There are evil passions no liberator can emancipate. But all these evils — Christ conquers; all our longings — Christ supplies; all



slaves of corruption — Christ sets free.

The dying thief and the Philippian jailer are two examples that Christ's power can break any chain and dispel any darkness, save any soul, and wipe away all tears of regret and remorse.

### **The Dying Thief:**

**Luke 23:39-44:**

***39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him, saying, "If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us."***



***40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?"***

***41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this Man hath done nothing amiss."***

***42 And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom."***

***43 And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be be with Me in Paradise."***

### **The Philippian Jailer:**

**Acts 16:25-34:**

***25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.***

***26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.***

***27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.***

***28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.***

***29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,***

***30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?***



***31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.***

***32 And they spake unto him the Word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.***

***33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.***

***34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.***



The Gospel goes beyond feeding the poor, comforting the widow, clothing the orphan, or helping the defenseless. It goes to the **root** that causes all this. It gives pardon and mercy; yes – melting mercy and forgiving mercy to every sinner who comes to Christ whole heartedly.



This is why satan hates and fights the Word of God and tries to adulterate the streams of living waters or to arrest its course. That can't ever be done! See the Gospel influence flow out of Jerusalem, then thru the Judean hills, to Galilee, to Greece, to Rome, tumbling pagan shrines, saving souls. The Gospel is not a loser. It will never be defeated!

Lawlessness, crime, infidelity are in array, but Christ is breaking the shackles of sin that hold humanity, tearing down the gates of brass and the bars of iron.

Those who have tried diplomacy to straighten out this crooked old world have failed. Peace movements, culture, science, legislation, and treaties have been worthless. Dictators fall; kings are dethroned; empires decay; systems dissolve; potentates perish – while He said:

***John 12:32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.***

***Romans 14:11: For it is written, "As I live," saith the Lord, "every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."***

This is the complete victory of the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit's anointing on the preached Word.

The entire Bible gives a vivid picture of God as the militant, all powerful Ruler of the universe. Perhaps the greatest single need of the Church today is a shot in the arm — or rather in the **heart** — of the power of the Holy Spirit. When we are convinced that the Lord is no weakling, we will discover that His Gospel is not a frail message but a message of deliverance from sin, satan, and the powers of evil habits. It is the powerful Lord with a triumphant message of victory over all evil.



Job describes Him thus.

**Job 9:4-10:**

***4 He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against Him, and hath prospered?***

***5 Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in His anger.***

***6 Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.***

***7 Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.***

***8 Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.***

***9 Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.***

***10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.***



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