

# FOR LOVE OF KING & COUNTRY

ANZAC DAY MESSAGE 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

*Last week commencing 18 April 2021, like many others, I had the pleasure of watching the funeral ceremony of Prince Phillip – The Duke of Edinburgh.*

*Now, I am not a 'royalist', but I have to say, I was moved watching this ceremony and the sincerity that emanated from this occasion.*

*Because of the restrictions with the pandemic in England, we were spared the normal crowd hysteria and obstruction to view, and were able to observe the true core values of the British Monarchy which were displayed openly and so sincerely. I know I saw them.*

*I admit, it touched my heart. I actually enjoyed it and God Spoke to me while I was watching it.*

So this morning, I would like to share with you what I felt the Lord allowed me to see, and I pray it blesses and inspires you onward.

The first thing that crept into my heart was ...

**The obvious sincere and strong dedication** of every branch of the British armed forces such as The Royal Guards / The Royal Marines / The Royal Navy etc.

I became aware of everyone's sincere **dedication** and solid **discipline**, which appeared to come from their **love for queen and country**

## **SLIDES x 3**

**1** They stood perfectly still with their heads bowed in respect ...

**2** All regiments stood still and ...

**3** They all stood still without wavering from 14.15 BST to 15.00 BST which is 45 Minutes.

***Stillness is a profound discipline and a great victory over the driven flesh – the lustful, discontented flesh ...***

Proverbs 16:32

***He who rules his spirit [is greater than] than he who takes a city.***

## **SLIDES x 3**

- 1 They gathered in perfect formation
- 2 They marched with perfect precision
- 3 They stood in perfect alignment.

WE WERE SEEING AN EXAMPLE OF HUMAN EXCELLENCE IN LOYALTY, DISCIPLINE, CONTROL & DETAIL.

WE HAVE A KING AND COUNTRY AFAR OFF

I thought if Britain can display such exquisite discipline and dedication for love of queen and country ... then how much more should we as soldiers of The Lord show our love for King and country.

This is what I believe Paul was saying to Timothy in this verse:

2 Timothy 2:4 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*No one **serv**ing as a **soldier** entangles himself in the affairs of this life, that he might please **the one having enlisted him.***

**NB: THIS SCRIPTURE IS NOT A CALL TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**

THIS IS ACTUALLY **A CALL TO MILITARY DISCIPLINE & DEDICATION** IN OUR SERVICE TO OUR KING

Unfortunately, the King James Version has the misleading phrase '~~No man Wars~~'. It should say, 'No man while engaged in military service', or 'serving as a soldier' as our text says.

So many of us have the wrong concept of Christian warfare eg:

*~~Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war ...~~*

*~~Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe ...~~*

***Forward into battle** see His banners go*

This is NOT what The New Testament teaches about warfare.

Jesus is NOT leading us 'against the Foe, forward into battle,'

Because He has already defeated him.

**OUR CAPTAIN HAS SINGLE HANDEDLY TRIUMPHED OVER THE FOE IN PURITY / IN HOLINESS / IN GLORY / WITH MIGHT & POWER.**

Jesus cried when he died, '**tetelestai**' - '**it is finished**' – *the victory cry of a roman general upon seeing all the enemy lying dead on the battle field.*

**SO THE BELIEVER DOES NOT HAVE TO VANQUISH GOD'S EMENY**

**PAUL HERE IS SAYING TO TIMOTHY THE YOUNG PASTOR OF  
EPHESUS ...  
AND OF COURSE, TO US NOW -**

**SLIDE SERVE YOUR LORD WITH THE SEPARATION, THE  
CONSECRATION & THE DEDICATION OF AN ENLISTED  
SOLDIER**

*(NB: This is Paul's last letter before he was martyred).*

Paul was a Roman citizen so he knew about Roman military might.  
He knew about the honour of belonging to the Roman military.  
**He knew the separation, consecration and dedication required.**

**YOU SEE, AN ARMY IS FAR MORE THAN A GROUP OF RUGGED  
INDIVIDUALS WHO PHYSICALLY CLASH WITH AN ENEMY.  
THERE IS A POSITIVE SIDE TO THE ARMED FORCES OF A NATION**

*This is what I saw watching the funeral of prince Philip.*

### **THE POSITIVE ASPECT OF THE ARMY**

An army is created long before any conflict. A nation is in trouble if  
they are invaded and they do not have a prepared military ... So as  
much as it is a deterrent against any would-be invaders ... it is far  
more than that ...

**SLIDE AN ARMY IS A BOLD EXPRESSION OF A PEOPLE'S  
LOYALTY UNDER A UNITED BELIEF AND COMMON LEADERSHIP**

**SLIDE AN ARMY IS A NOBLE & STRONG EXPRESSION OF A  
NATION'S VALUES & SOVEREIGNTY**

It is more than a *'flexing of the muscles'* to other nations ...  
**IT IS A DECLARATION OF A PEOPLE'S DEDICATION TO THEIR  
NATION & ITS SOVEREIGN LEADERSHIP – TO IT'S IDEALS &  
VALUES ... ALL SEEN IN THE PRIDE OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

This is a call for all believers to join the army of Christ Jesus, **not  
because we as are under threat** from the enemy, but because the  
enemy has already been defeated and is now under threat from us.

**THE BELIEVER'S ARMY IS A VERY UNUSUAL ARMY ...**

**GOD FORMED THIS NEW TESTAMENT ARMY AFTER THE BATTLE WAS WON ... AND ...**

**WE NOW JOIN THE ARMY AFTER THE BATTLE HAS BEEN WON.**

**2 Timothy 2:4** Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*No one serving as a soldier entangles himself in the affairs of this life, that **he might please the one having enlisted him.***

### **WHO ENLISTS US INTO GOD'S ARMY?**

**Jesus is The Head of The Church.**

**Jesus is The Lord of The Harvest.**

**Jesus is The Captain of The Army of The Redeemed.**

***THE LORD JESUS IS A SPIRITUAL WARRIOR***

**Psalm 45:3-4** ESV

*Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty! <sup>4</sup>In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness ...*

**Joshua 5:13-15** tells us that Jesus is the captain of Yahweh's host.

### **WHY DO WE ENLIST?**

**TO PLEASE HIM BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM**

This is the same concept as being 'Bond Servant', which Paul called himself (Romans 1:1). It is a free son who chooses to be a servant ...

So in Christ's army we choose to enlist as a soldier of righteousness ...

**THERE IS NO GREATER DEDICATION THAN A SOLDIER WHO IS DEDICATING THEIR WHOLE LIFESTYLE ... THEIR WHOLE FREEDOM ... THEIR WHOLE FUTURE ... FOR THE CAUSE OF KING & COUNTRY.**

### **AND WHY DO WE DO IT?**

- **WE VOLUNTEER** FOR LOVE OF KING & COUNTRY ...

**WE ARE NOT CONSCRIPTED AS THE NEW ZEALAND TROOPS WERE IN WORLD WAR 1.**

**BUT WE ARE VOLUNTEERS LIKE THE AUSSIE TROOPS WERE.**

- WE VOLUNTEER **FOR LOVE OF KING & COUNTRY!**

**WE LOVE HIM & HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WE ARE PROUD TO STAND FOR HIM & REPRESENT OUR HEAD ... OUR SOVEREIGN ... TO STAND FOR HIS VALUES AND LOOK TO OUR HEAVENLY COUNTRY (Hebrews 11:14-16)**

*Why did all these royal military people sincerely stand so still for so long? Because of what they believed in... They did it **for love of queen and country.***

**BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE ... OUR DEDICATION SHOULD BE GREATER THAN ANY OTHER SOLDIER IN ANY OTHER ARMY.**

- **WE LOVE FAR MORE THAN ANY OTHER SOLDIER**
- **WE ADMIRE & WORSHIP OUR SOVEREIGN MORE THAN ANY OTHER SOLDIER**
- **WE LOVE THE CULTURE / SPIRIT OF THE KINGDOM WE STAND FOR**
- **WE LOVE & BELIEVE IN THE IDEALS OF THE KINGDOM WE STAND IN – IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- **WE STAND IN A VICTORY ALREADY WON ...**

We don't go on the attack ...

The Spirit of the kingdom strengthens us ... inspires us ...

**improves us** ... beyond our physical, mental and emotional ability.

- **WE LIVE & SERVE BY FAITH**

### **HOW DO WE BEGIN TO DO THIS?**

Romans 6:13 **SLIDE**

*... Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, **but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments [weapons] of righteousness to God.***

Instruments = (hopla) = Weapons

'Present your weapons' is a military scenario referring to a soldier dedicating himself and all his skills to his sovereign king.

**SLIDE** *As a Knight kneeling ... surrendering all he has to his king ... Knights of old used to dedicate their sword – their weaponry skills – to their king ... to shield and protect. As defenders of the realm.*

TO DEDICATE THEIR SWORD MEANS TO DEDICATE THEIR  
STRENGTH ... THEIR SKILL ... THEIR SERVICE ...

**POSITIVE - NOT NEGATIVE**

NB This doesn't say, present your members to God so you do not  
sin ...

*Like strap down your wayward hands ... bind up your renegade feet  
... harness your critical tongue ... etc*

We are not told to stop doing wrong in order that we might do right.  
We are asked to do right and then we will stop doing wrong.  
This verse tells us to present our members as 'weapons' of  
righteousness ... It tells us to do something positive with them ...

It tells us to bring those members that have been doing wrong to  
our Lord Jesus and dedicate them to start doing right ...  
It doesn't say you have to go through a cleansing process.  
It says to start doing something positive with your abilities ... your  
thinking ... your skills ...

*I am blessed having to prepare gospel messages throughout the  
week, so my mind becomes engaged with thinking thoughts of life  
and godliness.*

*This is presenting my mind-member.*

You can do it too. You don't have to be an official pastor or  
minister. The gospel is yours to discover ...

*I also realise this was what I did years ago with my guitar playing.  
God said to me 'Stop playing the guitar,' which I did for about 6  
months.*

*Then He told me ... 'Pick it up again and I will teach you to play my  
way' ... which He did.*

**THE FOLLOWING SONG DESCRIBES THIS PRESENTATION OF  
OUR MEMBERS ...**

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days  
Let them flow in endless praise  
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold  
Not a mite would I withhold  
Take my intellect and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose  
Every power as Thou shalt choose

Take my will and make it Thine  
It shall be no longer mine  
Take my heart it is Thine own  
It shall be Thy royal throne  
It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my love my Lord I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever only all for Thee  
Ever only all for Thee

*A man was coming out of church one day and the pastor was standing at the door as he always did, to shake hands with the worshippers. As he shook the man's hand, he pulled him aside and said, "You really need to join the army of the Lord."  
The man replied, "I'm already in the army of the Lord, Pastor."  
So the Pastor enquired, "Then why do we only see you at Christmas and at Easter?"  
The man whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."*

**ARE YOU READY TO ENLIST?  
IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO HIS GLORIOUS ARMY?  
ARE YOU WILLING?**

**YOU SAY, 'I'M TOO OLD'**

The first mention of war was around the time that Abram (Abraham) armed 318 of his trained servants to go and rescue Lot who had been captured by the king of Elam ...

Abraham was between 80 and 85 years old (Genesis 14:14)

**YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO JOIN THE ARMY OF THE LORD.**

**YOU SAY, I'M TOO BAD**

*Friend, you don't stop involving yourself in worldly things so you can join the army ...*

**YOU JOIN THE ARMY JUST AS YOU ARE AND YOU WILL LESS & LESS GET ENTANGLED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS WORLD.**

**THE REASON WHY SOME PEOPLE HAVE STRAYED BACK INTO WORLDLY REBELLION IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT FOUND**

- **THE BEAUTY OF CONSECRATION ...**
- **THE POWER OF SEPARATION**
- **THE DELIGHT OF DEDICATION**

**YOU SAY, IT'S TOO MUCH**

**BUT YOU CAN SUBMIT ONE THING AT A TIME**

A soldier doesn't get that discipline and dedication overnight.

Unlike our salvation which is instant ... this discipline of a soldier takes time and dedication ... training and dedication ...

**SUPPLEMENTARY**

Our enemies – God's enemies may still be around, but they are already conquered and they look upon us, His army, with fear.



NB: He doesn't say don't be involved in the world ... He says don't get entangled in the world.

Entanglement doesn't mean involvement.

**WE CANNOT BE HURT ... WE ARE IN NO DANGER**

No weapon formed against you shall prosper

'Greater is He that is within you ...'

Did anyone God led into battle ever die? Were they ever hurt?

NO!

**WE ARE CALLED TO OVERCOME, YES! RESIST, YES!**

**BUT NEVER TO TRY & DEFEAT SATAN ... BECAUSE HE IS ALREADY DEFEATED.**

**THE BELIEVER'S FIGHT IS THE FIGHT OF FAITH.**

**TO STAY IN THAT REALM OF FAITH – OF ETERNAL LIFE – IN**

**WHICH WE KNOW & ENJOY CHRIST'S VICTORY ...**

**SLIDES x 5** *THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE*

*By Alfred, Lord Tennyson*