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IT TAKES A  
COMMUNITY

FALL 2004

A Twelve Tribes Freepaper

All those who believe *are* together and have all things in common... Acts 2:44

# CIVILIAN AFFAIRS

2 Timothy 2:3-4



## For Christians Only

# CIVILIAN AFFAIRS

*We just passed a century that could be classified as the century of dictators, and someone had to pay the price to restrain unbridled oppression and to preserve a world that was worth living in. Those who were engaged in this struggle had a cause to fight for, so much so that every aspect of their life became subject to seeing this struggle through to victory. The goal to be reached justified every sacrifice, even the supreme sacrifice of their lives.*

**I**t was such soldierly qualities that the Apostle Paul wanted to see translated into the spiritual realm, into the life of everyone who claimed to be a believer in the Son of God. There was a spiritual battle to be

*he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. (2 Timothy 2:3-4)*

“The affairs of this life” simply means making a living. Paul was saying that just like a soldier, a believer doesn’t concern himself with making his own living. If a soldier did so he would be disqualified from carrying on active service because he would be completely ineffective in warfare. This is just plain common sense.

In the army a soldier joins a structure that not only functions as a unit, but that also takes care of his every need and equips him fully to perform at maximum capacity. That is how it must be for disciples in the Body of Christ. So where does that leave a believer who is making a living for himself? Is he disqualified as a believer? Is his faith completely ineffective? Where is the structure he is to join that would enable him to function according to the lines Paul puts forth in his letter to Timothy?

We have to understand that in saying these things Paul was only echoing the words of the Savior Himself, who had explained to His

fought, a spiritual tyrant and oppressor to be dethroned, and this battle called for the single-minded devotion and complete loyalty to the cause of everyone engaged in it. There was absolutely no room to be distracted by civilian affairs.

*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the **affairs of this life**, that*

disciples that they shouldn’t worry about what to eat and drink and what to clothe themselves with. That’s how the nations of the world live. They have to take care of their

own needs. But **Yahshua\*** called His disciples to a completely different life when He told them to seek first His kingdom.<sup>1</sup> Of course disciples need food and clothing as much as anybody else. That's not in question. The point Yahshua was making was how they would obtain these things. He knew that all those who received His Spirit would have His love poured out in their hearts,<sup>2</sup> which would compel them to take care of each other. They would be set free from the curse of living for themselves.

And that's exactly what happened when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost after Yahshua's resurrection. All those who received this Spirit were together and shared all things in common. They formed an actual community, where they could live a life of taking care of each other. It was a place where nobody needed to be concerned for his own needs, because everyone who belonged to that place would lay down his life for everyone else who belonged to that place, seeking and working for the good of all. This is full-time ministry in the Body of Christ, the church or community of the living God.

*Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. (Acts 2:44-45)*

*Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet;*

*and they distributed to each as anyone had need. (Acts 4:32-35)*

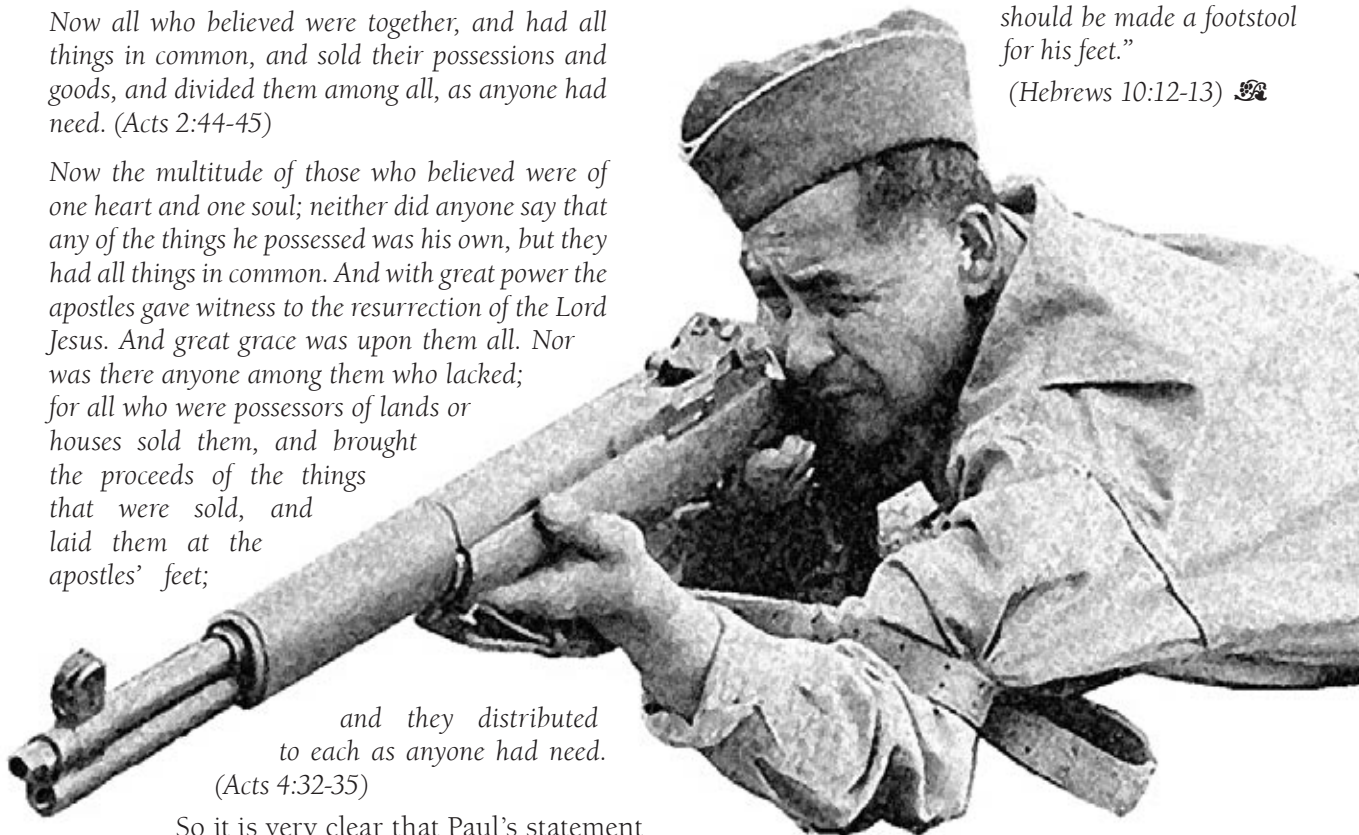
So it is very clear that Paul's statement to Timothy can't even be understood outside of communal living. In other words if a person isn't living this way he can't help but be engaged in civilian affairs – the affairs of making a living for himself.

Unfortunately Paul saw many forsaking the good fight and taking their life back into their own hands. It is only in community where the good fight can be fought. This is the place where the great big enemy of self-life and everything that stems from it is being exposed and subdued. Selfish ambition (seeking recognition and acknowledgment) and selfishness (providing for their own needs according to their likings) destroyed the community. Pretty soon those who claimed to believe couldn't even live together anymore and had to reduce their common life to an occasional meeting. Before long they were actually fighting against each other and killing each other. But that's surely not the "good fight" Paul talked about.

And so to this day Yahshua, the Son of the living God, is still waiting for those who would forsake civilian affairs in order to subdue all of His enemies.

*"But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet."*

*(Hebrews 10:12-13)* ☞



\* For more on the name Yahshua, see "What's in a Name?" on page 22. <sup>1</sup> Matthew 6:31-33 <sup>2</sup> Romans 5:5



# Life On Civvy Street

*Discharge papers in hand, I walked out through Gatehouse B the way I had signed in three years previously – a civilian. The last step had been to hand my uniform in (53 lbs. of parade dress, fatigues, boots, bags, and all the badges of office and military identity) and walk out.*

**F**ree at last! Now I was free to go where I pleased, do as I deemed fit, wear what I wished. I could do anything that came to mind. Here it was, 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a Tuesday, and I could do as I pleased (not what my sergeant pleased). I opted for crossing the road to take a walk in the Botanical Gardens, those beautiful gardens, which I had only seen from the perimeter on our thrice-weekly (of course, compulsory) “5 kilometer run.” Now the sunshine was beautiful, shining through the autumn foliage, dappling the gravel path as I strolled along. It was time to consider my future, something which, looking back, I can say I hadn't thought through thoroughly. The immediate concern I had was a place to sleep tonight. Then I had to find a place to rent, but I couldn't do that until I found a job. I had money in my pocket – two weeks' wages and my discharge pay. It was enough to give me the deposit on a lease. But first, a job.

I had looked in the papers; I had a fair idea where I could get started... oh, later. Right now, I was going to enjoy the absolutely delicious luxury of being free

to do whatever I wanted. Now what did I want to do? A movie? A drink at the pub? Ah, the day was too nice to go inside. As I walked past the kiosk, I gratified my desire to do something by buying an ice cream.

Hey, another thought came to me! I could wear my hair any length I wanted! Quickly another thought came: I could wear any kind of clothes I wanted. That was quite a prospect. Even off duty I had been restricted in what kind of “civvies” I could wear (they had to be conservative), but now I could go along with any fashion fad that blew my way – punk, hippie, cool, retro-hip. The options were endless. Wow, I could choose my own friends and hobbies! I was no longer restricted to what the base had to offer (which was only team sports). The vistas of possibilities were opening up to me: hang gliding, deep sea diving, skateboarding, rollerblading...

Ice cream finished, I looked for a trash bin to toss the stick! A new thought – I could even throw it on the ground. I was free to do that, too. With no authority and no accountability, I could be my own

standard of what was right and wrong.

Still, I felt uncomfortable with throwing litter on the ground, especially in such a beautiful park. Oh, how well I knew the work involved in keeping litter off the grounds. Trash pickup had been my weekly experience. Not that the army grounds had ever been littered with trash; we mostly picked up cigarette butts and the little tear-offs from opening gum packets, but even these seemingly insignificant bits of litter had to be picked up. I actually had liked the way the base looked spick-and-span. "I guess I'll never have to pick up trash again," I thought as I deposited the stick in the litter bin.

The air was getting cooler, the day drawing in, and the evening exodus from the city would start soon. I needed to find a place to lay my head and somewhere to eat. Cheap clean hotels are not hard to

find in downtown Melbourne, and a reasonable feed wasn't too hard to find either. Still, it was an eerie feeling to eat all alone, "table for one." As I finished my steak and chips, I realized with a pang of loneliness that I hadn't eaten one meal alone in three years straight. Climbing into bed in my own "\$27-a-nite" room, I felt kind of lonesome. Waking up, I missed reveille. Who would have expected that I would wish there had been reveille! The sweet sensation of lying in bed a little longer was no compensation for the sudden acute awareness that no one would care whether I got up or not.

That thought chased me out of bed as quick as any sergeant could ever have. I needed a plan, I needed a job. I needed a life. I needed to get in control. Getting dressed, I realized I had a lot to take care of – meals, shopping, cleaning. (I'm going to need a vacuum cleaner – how much do they cost? I'm going to need a winter jacket, too.) Sitting over coffee and a toasted cheese

sandwich for breakfast, I started looking through the employment classifieds in Wednesday's paper. Plenty of work. I got a phone card and started dialing.

### A Few Months Later

Punching the numbers in the office of Boral Cyclone, some months later, I had to say it: it was more or less the same kind of clerical work I had been doing at Vic Barracks.

The "more" part was that come 4 o'clock I was out of there and the time was my own. 1600 was the same time we finished regular army working day, but actually a soldier's time was never his own. If I had had any misconceptions about that, they were gone when I checked my first payslip. I thought I'd been gypped when I saw the ridiculously low hourly rate, but then I noticed it was applied to 168 hours (24 x 7). In the end, the pay came out the same as a normal rate per hour applied to 40 hours. The platoon sergeant made it clear to all of us in the first week of intake. He relished explaining it to us.



“We own every minute of your day. We pay you for every hour of the day. We can call on you for service at any hour of the day or night. Graciously, we give you some time every day for sleep. Don’t get any ideas about overtime. It doesn’t exist.” Well, now I didn’t belong to anyone and no one could have any claim on me. I could just serve “yours truly.”

The “less part” of doing office work of the same kind and nature as before was that there was no purpose to it. (Who would have thought I would care about a purpose?) There were some surprising things about being on Civvy Street that I hadn’t anticipated. For one, I had no identity except as an individual. True, there were no mocking jeers about my uniform being tossed at me now by passers-by, but man, there was no respect either. I was now as anonymous a “nobody” as any other civvy. Being a nobody was getting me down. I wished I could have kept my corps badge, but I had to hand it in. I should face it – I was no longer a soldier. I was now a civilian. I had no part in it, even if I kept the memories and jargon. I could have said I was still a soldier (as I was somehow in my mind wanting that identity), but the day-to-day reality was that I was out here, in another place altogether, and my work didn’t go past my back pocket and making some manager upstairs comfortable.

That was another aspect to the “less part.” A takeover had been rumored for Boral Cyclone, and I knew “last hired, first fired” was the bottom line around here, even though I had done my work well. One especially lonely night, I had to admit that there was no one around now like Major Irvine. He was the one who had given me what I needed to make it through

the training for promotion to corporal. It was a tough course, tougher than basic training, and I didn’t want to do it. I dug my heels in and I wouldn’t do it. Major Irvine sent for me and said he would hear me out. At the end of my controlled outburst he looked me right in the eye and said, “How will you ever increase if you avoid things that are too hard for you?” How indeed? I went. It was tough. I made it!

Out here, on my sweet lonesome, there were next to no demands on my life, besides what I placed on myself (like getting up to run twice a week), but who

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would look out for me? Sergeant Chan-Algie had explained to me that when I was doing good, the army was doing good. It made a difference to the whole if I was doing good. The only good doing good would do now was to make me feel good. It amounted to beans to almost anyone else except my mother.

Sometimes, in the evening, alone in my neat little flat, the tape player chasing away the background silence, I had time to wonder what it was about the military life that I hadn’t considered before. I was

no longer part of a co-ordinated body. The army was a marvel of co-ordinated parts – each corps doing its vital part and, in turn, all the soldiers’ needs were taken care of by the other corps. Those in the medical corps could leave the details of transport to the transport corps, of supplies to the ordinance people, and getting food on the table to the catering corps. I could painfully consider that now with the twinge of toothache – I would have to find a dentist (and pay for it).

Of course, having the weekend all to myself had become the highlight of my life now. Rather than be alone and the only recourse being the local pub, I had joined some associations, become a member of a club, and even started going to church, but it was all so fragmented, and you know, the worst part, it was so inconsequential. I could quit when I wanted, or join something else, turn up on Sunday or find another church. Here I was, going the way of civvies on Civvy Street, reduced to my finding my own level of competence and comfort. No one to push me but myself. Sitting in the traffic, waiting for the lights to change, all I could see were people coming to and fro, calling their own shots. (Who would have thought calling your own shots was such a bad thing?)

### Getting off Civvy Street

I was adrift, free, as the old Doobie Brothers song said, to do what I wanna do, be what I wanna be, but for what? Taking the bull by the horns, I sat down one Wednesday to take stock of what I wanted to do with my life. At the end of an hour I just had to get outside. The nice white letter-size paper couldn’t contain what I was grasping for.

God had to be the answer, so



wasn't hard to figure out if I was obedient or submitted to authority. When the sergeant told you what to do, you hated it or loved it. It was a three-dimensional reality check. Where was the reality of my obedience to my Savior? Who was I submitted to out of reverence for Messiah? (And how could I know?)

Of course, I never heard that verse read in church, not with any salt in it. If it turned up on the reading schedule, it was a poetic call to be more sincere. But, just look at the bills posted on the pin board, the calendar marked with

I earnestly went back to church looking for Him and a life different from the one I and everybody else on Civvy Street was living.

Now, if while sitting in my pew on Sunday I could have heard 2 Timothy 2:4 read, "No one *engaged* in *warfare* entangles himself with civilian affairs, that he may please him who enlisted him," what would I have had to think? I had first-hand experience of both the enlisted life and the civilian life.

When I was *engaged* into the armed forces, I took an oath. While swearing allegiance and service to Queen and country, I also swore my life into the hands of the men who constituted the army in Australia. It had been a sobering moment, and I hesitated when I grasped what that would practically mean – they could do with me whatsoever they saw fit, because I was making an oath that I would be loyal and would come under authority. The drill sergeant had reminded us of that one, and we had better be clear on it. No rebellion could be tolerated in the army when everyone's life depended on working together completely coordinated and submitted to the

chain of command.

I knew about being prepared for *warfare*. All our training and discipline was in order to meet the enemy in battle, or to support those at the front lines who laid down

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their lives. I knew that I could be called upon in any way to save the lives of my friends. I also knew that no one could think he was engaged in *warfare* if he wasn't under the command of a man who was under the command of a man who could see the overall plan. Obedience was required; submission was optional.

When I lived in the army, it

upcoming social events, the clothes and possessions that outlined my own identity, the newspapers with their controversies, the concern with who will come into political power, and, oh yes, the everyday pursuits of commerce, profession, and occupation. That is civilian life, and is it only a matter of opinion as to whether living it is an entanglement? What was Paul saying about being *enlisted* as a soldier? Where could I have enlisted as a soldier of Christ? Where was the recruiter for this kind of calling?

In the end getting off Civvy Street didn't happen when I was going to church. How could it have?

*Shelem*



# I Was A Soldier Once...

I was ready to serve him with everything that I had... Finally I was free from my hopeless existence, I was now full of vision and purpose! I always wanted to know why I had been born. At last it all made sense! We had been created in God's own image in order to reveal His character to the world! Of course we could never do it if love had not first been *shown* to us. So there it was, I could *read* all about the love of God in the Bible. Jesus\* was just the man I would follow anywhere. He was clearly calling His disciples *out* of society and into the new way of life that would transcend this world and its passing ways.

Whatever words of Jesus that were unclear to me were further explained by the apostles Paul, Peter, and John (those who knew Him personally). These men had apparently given everything they had in order to build His kingdom on earth. I wanted to do the same! I could feel the excitement in Paul's words as he laboriously groped to convey the awesome magnitude of what God had done for us. Always exhorting us to be "good soldiers" for Christ, Paul painted a detailed picture of a life full of love and *total* devotion! I couldn't wait to experience this vibrant life together with all those who believed.

Unfortunately, it was obvious to me that much of what was *professed* to be from Jesus was nothing more than the same old religious hypocrisy rampant in His day. By the words of the Teacher himself, there would be many insincere people claiming to be His disciples. Yet soon, I found myself intimately involved in a variety of Christian ministries among a multitude of denominations. With zeal I gave myself to the distribution of food to the poor and service of the

saints. I attended several different Bible studies every week, eagerly anticipating the moment we would all just "cast off" everything that hindered us from **really living out** the gospel. We were always reading and talking about love and forgiveness. We would study how, why, and to whom the scriptures were written. We even spoke of how Jesus was going to "rapture" his people from



the earth at any given moment. We talked and studied a lot.

"The ministry" always focused on "more believers," but somehow the substance of life together was missing. Attending weekend church services and weekly Bible studies had a form of fellowship, but seemed to deny the power to really love. Long, "in-depth" studies and sermons were informative and all, but I just wanted to serve my new King in the midst of his people, to simply obey His commands and suffer together alongside my brothers. Yet, I was still just trying to make a living, and put myself through college like everyone else my age.

The "Church" didn't really seem to have any concrete solutions to life's very real problems. I knew Jesus was "the Way," but "Church" often seemed to be more of a country club for people who were content with this life. I was tired of playing Church and pretending that everything was just all right. I had to do something real. I knew that I had to serve somehow and that servants

suffer to do good. So I joined the United States Army.

As a bond servant of the United States Army, I made my confession and was immediately "baptized" into a new way of life, a new culture. Military culture. My rights as "Joe Citizen" under the U.S. Constitution were replaced by those of "GI Joe" under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The President was now my king, and my "chain of command" allowed me to understand the authority under which I stood.

On top of the "general orders" which should never be broken, our commander gave us specific orders, demanding absolute obedience to his

\* For more on the name Yahshua, see "What's in a Name?" on page 22.



word, ensuring a complete victory over the enemy. So many were these various commands that virtually all of my time was spent either carrying them out or preparing for the next one. A soldier wasn't caught up in the affairs of civilian life – the military was a culture “set apart” for a special purpose.

I was no longer “I,” but I was now “we.” For there is no “I” in “Team.” I was now a part of something greater than myself. Any personal agenda that I had must first submit to the greater needs of my country. I no longer had to worry about what I should eat or what I should wear, for the Army cares for its own. Food, clothing, and shelter were part of the contract. Anything more than my basic necessities could be purchased from the Post Exchange with money that was allotted to me for my service, or could be ordered through appropriate channels. I would never have to earn my own living. Working a side job in order to provide for my own food, clothing, and shelter, spending hours a week shopping for my own groceries and personal supplies, laboring every day in my own kitchen, fixing my own meals with my own tiny little pots and pans would be a complete waste of government time and money. These things would distract me from doing my part in building up the “body” of the Army. I was finally free to only serve my country!

You see, other soldiers who were not serving in the same “combat arms” unit as I was were *also* busy day and night, building tents, cooking food, fitting boots, sewing uniforms, trucking bullets, making bombs, testing equipment, plotting routes, scouting territory, raising flags, scrubbing tile, buffing floors, shining boots, pushing up, pulling up, running, screaming, digging, teaching, training, *and* recruiting for the sole purpose of supporting those

of us on the battlefield, that we might be *completely engaged* in warfare with **NO DISTRACTIONS WHATSOEVER...**

My duty was to become efficient with my comrades (through the *tight bond* of military life and service) in accomplishing whatever task was before us. We'd eat together, work together, rest together, fight together, laugh together, and cry together. Whatever we did, we did it together as one man.

Oh, how I had longed to be in such unity with my Christian friends. Why couldn't the Church

*If the Army was capable of bringing about such unity through mere human will, why could not the “people of God” be even more united through faith in the One who had laid His life down for that very purpose?*

learn from such an example? If the Army was capable of bringing about such unity through mere human will, why could not the “people of God” be even *more* united through faith in the One who had laid his life down for *that very purpose*? I had always wondered why the so-called Church was so divided, unable to bring about any “unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”<sup>1</sup> It was so clear from the scriptures that the unity that comes from *true* love would allow the world to know that God loves to save his people from their sins. Yet, there was no visible proof that God even sent His Son into the world at all.<sup>2</sup> Where was the resurrected life I had been told

about countless times? I had read and heard enough. Now I needed to see and experience the reality of this transcending life. I was determined to find God's Army!

One day I finally stumbled upon a people who had truly surrendered all to their King Yahshua. I joined my heart and my life to them and their God. Together we've obeyed His commands to forsake everything and love each other *just as he loves us*.<sup>3</sup> To be His disciple means to actually “come out” from civilian affairs (the things of this world)<sup>4</sup> and out of the camp of organized religion (Christianity)<sup>5</sup> into the place where His Spirit dwells – the place where brothers and sisters dwell together in unity!<sup>6</sup> Together, we overcome all the enemies of our God – those selfish thoughts, desires and inclinations that have destroyed relationships and marred the name of our God since the beginning.

Now we are inviting everyone to come and see this wonderful life we have together as we obey the Son of God. We are becoming a special people for God's own possession – a new set-apart culture founded on self-sacrificing love, one for another. The life of men and women set free from the bondage of sin in order to live together in unity is the joy that was set before our Master Yahshua, which gave Him the courage to fight the good fight.<sup>7</sup> Come and be a part of the army He is gathering in these last days!

JOSEPH

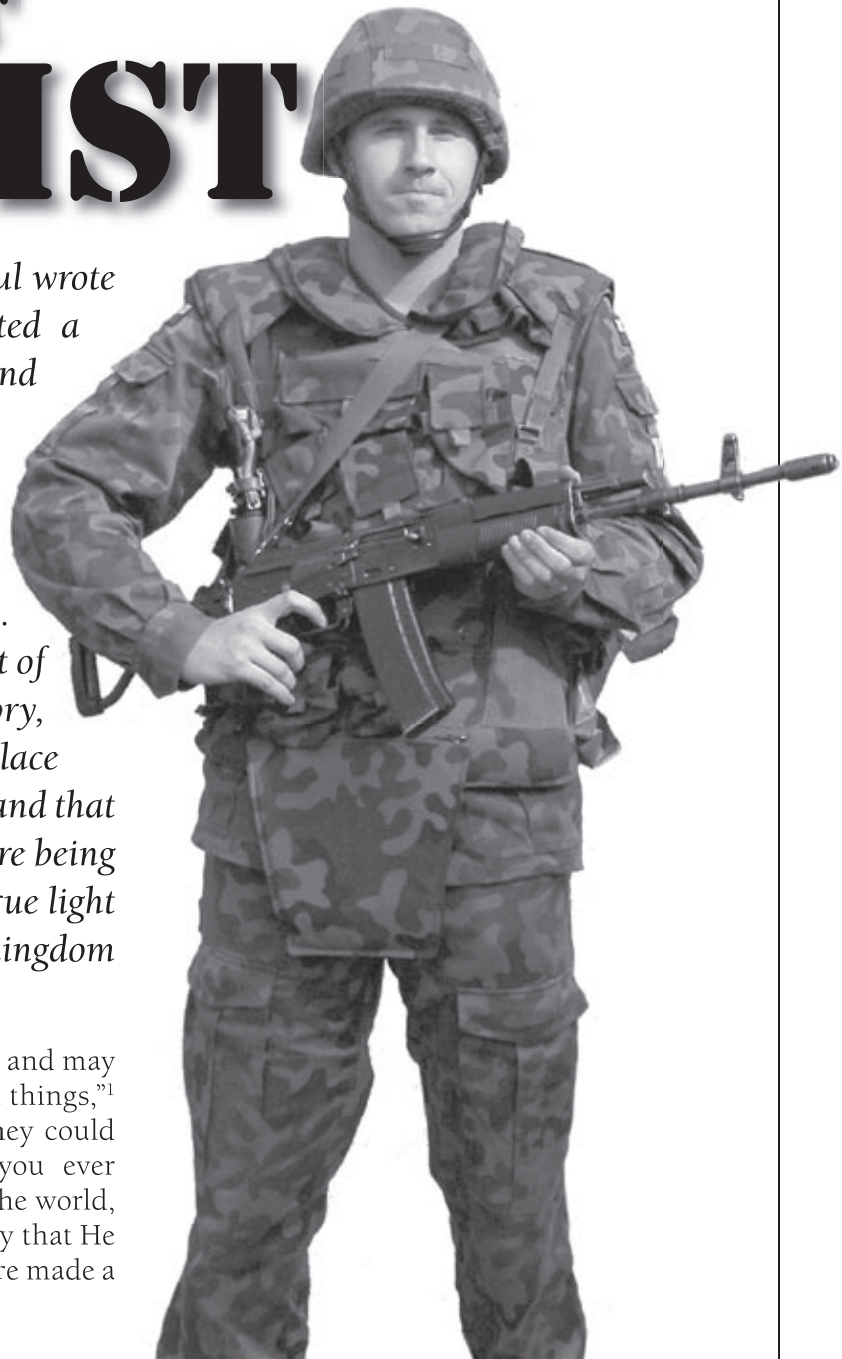


<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 4:3 <sup>2</sup> John 17:20-23 <sup>3</sup> John 13:34-35 <sup>4</sup> 2 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 2:15-17 <sup>5</sup> Hebrews 13:12-13 <sup>6</sup> Psalm 133 <sup>7</sup> Hebrews 12:2; Isaiah 53:10-11

# GOOD SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

*We are living in the perilous times Paul wrote about in 2 Timothy 3. Paul predicted a time of great danger, compromise, and catastrophic breakdown of moral character. We see it all around us in the world today. It is the evidence that God's enemies are taking over the world in unprecedented fashion. God's people are a very important part of what must happen at this time of history, "in the last days." There is only one place that God's enemies will be driven out, and that place is the church. As those enemies are being driven out, His people will become a true light to the nations and the witness of the kingdom that is coming when Christ returns.*

**P**aul told Timothy, "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things,"<sup>1</sup> so that as "good soldiers" of Christ they could know how to defeat His enemies. Have you ever considered, if Yahshua won the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, why does the Bible say that He must remain in heaven *until* all His enemies are made a footstool under His feet?<sup>2</sup>



We believe that if you are a sincere Christian and you genuinely consider what Paul says in verses 2-6 you will begin to understand this seeming contradiction in the Scriptures. In other words, if He defeated the devil, why then must He remain in heaven until all His enemies are made a footstool under His feet? And who's going to make them a footstool since He is in heaven? It seems as though it has to be His followers who do it, doesn't it?<sup>3</sup>

So if we are to put all His enemies under His feet before He can return, then we need to find out how to be good soldiers so that we can conquer them. In fact, how could anything please Him more than this? Let's consider what Paul is saying and maybe we can understand a very essential thing: the difference between the life of a good soldier and the life of a civilian. We must apply the "litmus test"<sup>4</sup> of verses 2-6 to our lives in order to know where we stand.

The "litmus test" of 2 Timothy 2:2-7 establishes whether or not a believer is a true soldier of Christ. The criterion is whether or not "one engaged in warfare entangles himself in the affairs of this life." Paul said in verse 4 that *no one* engaged in waging war for his commander-in-chief will get involved in the affairs of civilian life, that is, if he truly wants to please the one who enlisted him. Civilian life is what a person does every day if he is not enlisted in the military. The life of a soldier is what he does every day in preparing to go to war to defeat a deadly enemy. The sign that an enemy is defeated is when the victor puts the head of his enemy

under his feet. This is the goal of a good soldier in God's army. Can you imagine a soldier trying to wage war and work in the civilian world to support himself at the same time?

We can see what constitutes civilian life by reading Matthew 6:31-32: "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" For after all these things the Gentiles [civilians] seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things." A civilian is one who

*Soldiers of Christ don't get involved in anything of the world, for they would distract them and sap their strength away from fighting the enemies of God that they have been enlisted to defeat and put under their Commander's feet.*

seeks his own food, clothing, and shelter. This is the civilian life of the nations of the world. This is how the world lives.

A good soldier has one purpose – to please the one who enlisted him. A person enlists in God's army because he wants to serve Him and carry out His will. In order to be in God's army one must obey the gospel – the terms of enlistment. He hates his life in this world that is *still* ruled by Satan and wants to see his rule come to an end. Every soldier in boot camp gets to know his leader by learning to obey him in every command he gives. You

bring with you to boot camp only what is surrendered to the cause you're enlisting for, as Luke 14:26-33 makes clear. Soldiers of Christ don't get involved in anything of the world, for it would distract them and sap their strength away from fighting the enemies of God that they have been enlisted to defeat and put under their Commander's feet.

All believers are commanded *not* to love the world or the things in the world, because if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.<sup>5</sup> You see, if a person loves the world or the things in the world (which will be evidenced by involvement in the world's affairs), he is not obeying the commands of his Commander-in-Chief. And if he isn't obeying His commands, he doesn't love Him, and therefore the Commander can't reveal Himself to him to give him understanding in all things.<sup>6</sup> He can't teach him how to use His weapons of warfare (Ephesians 6).

The gospel can only be understood in the context of being a soldier fully engaged in fighting the enemies of his Master and Savior. This takes a total, all-out effort – a full participation with everything we have, all our time and energy, as well as all our possessions. The enemies of God are all the ways that spirits attach themselves to our desires, the desires of our flesh. The "fruit" or outcome is obvious. It is recorded in Galatians 5:19-21. This fruit is called "the works of the flesh." We were saved for "good works" spoken of in Ephesians 2:10 which we can *only* do if we are obedient to the Spirit of the One who enlisted us. He has a battle

<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 2:7 <sup>2</sup> Hebrews 10:12-13 <sup>3</sup> Revelation 12:9-11 <sup>4</sup> A litmus test is a test in which a single factor is decisive in proving the presence or absence of something. <sup>5</sup> 1 John 2:15 <sup>6</sup> John 14:21



Can you imagine a soldier trying to wage war and work in the civilian world to support himself at the same time? A civilian is one who seeks his own food, clothing, and shelter. This is the civilian life of the nations of the world. This is how the world lives. The gospel can only be understood in the context of being a soldier fully engaged in fighting the enemies of his Master and Savior. This takes a total, all-out effort – a full participation with everything you have, all your time and energy, as well as all your possessions.

plan that assures victory over the enemy. His banner is love<sup>7</sup> and He has gone before us as our example. He overcame all His enemies and sat down on the throne of His Father. We must do the same<sup>8</sup> *now* as good soldiers in order to bring this wicked age to an end.

If He truly is the one who enlisted us, then we want to walk as He did and follow His example, loving one another as He loved us. This is the path of victory under the banner of love in God's army. If we love something more, then we should go and do it as Deuteronomy 20 says, but then let's not say we know Him and are His followers. For He is engaged in winning the war and He is the supreme Commander-in-Chief and is not interested in civilian affairs. He made it clear that the world is passing away and all its fleshly desires, but the one who does His will will live forever.<sup>9</sup> If we say we're His soldiers and that He enlisted us, then we must follow His commands, learn His battle plan and execute it with all diligence.<sup>10</sup>

If you take a look at what's being preached every Sunday in your church, you'll probably find out that the Bible is being taught from the context of civilian life in the world, applying the words of the Bible to living like the Gentiles. Remember that according to what Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:2-7 among many witnesses that "if anyone competes in athletics, he is not

crowned unless he competes according to the rules" (verse 5). Interpreting the Bible in terms of civilian life is not competing by the rules. It's like an athlete winning a race only to be disqualified because he used illegal drugs in training.

We have to live for the cause He came for, lived for, and died

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for. He said in John 18:37, "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." The truth in 2 Timothy 2:2-7 reveals the nature of the life of His true followers – absolute devotion. The truth has a sting to it that exposes whether we have failed the litmus test of His word and

lack revelation of the kingdom, of what we're supposed to be building on earth.

The comprehensive gospel is a litmus test with well-defined criteria. If you can understand these criteria then you can see why we in the Twelve Tribes communities live the way we do. Seeking first the kingdom as Matthew 6:33 commands us to do means that we employ all that we have in serving others. No one lives for himself, to make his own living and live in his own house with his own job. No, those with understanding are living totally for others, and all their needs are being met by their brothers and sisters. Living this way is how we can serve Him where He is and therefore be honored by our Father in heaven, as our Master said in John 12:26.

Living this way is what will drive out all His enemies that have darkened this world for 6,000 years. Following the standard of love by obeying the One who enlisted us is what exposes all these dark enemies of God to the light of His life<sup>11</sup> and causes them to flee. This light gives illumination and hope as a beacon to all mankind and a harbinger proclaiming that the end of this age is near.<sup>12</sup> So, let us all who are sincere join together under *this* banner and fight with all our might, for we have His great promises and His great victory to assure us. ☞

<sup>7</sup> Song of Solomon 2:4 <sup>8</sup> Revelation 3:21 <sup>9</sup> 1 John 2:17 <sup>10</sup> 1 John 2:4,6 <sup>11</sup> John 1:4 <sup>12</sup> Luke 1:77-79

# A LOOK INSIDE THE BODY OF CHRIST



## A Look Inside Your Human Body

Last night I watched a video called “Life’s Greatest Miracle.”\* Did you ever imagine that we would one day be able to see inside a woman’s body and witness conception taking place? It was fascinating to even glimpse the miracle of life getting started. I was particularly struck by the very deep ways along which the body functions, how the chemical codes are used by cells to signal processes to begin or to end. It was so much deeper an understanding of the body than what

we had in 1966. Remember the old movie “Fantastic Voyage” about the people in a submarine, who were shrunk down to the size of a cell and shot into the bloodstream of a human being? Apart from it being fantasy, the movie was so limited in how the body was portrayed. It was rather like they were traveling on a subway train and the organs were stations in a vast city. I guess the only way we could perceive the body back then was as a biological New York City.

\*<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/miracle/>

But actually, your body is infinitely more wonderful and complex than any city. Of course, there are the observable functions of the organs, which we readily learn about at school – the heart pumps the blood, the pancreas secretes insulin. We still tend to relate to them as functions within a city – the garbage collectors, the water utility, and so forth. But beneath these observable functions, in ever-deepening layers of complexity, are the underpinnings of the bodily functions – the relationships between the cells. These relationships are harder to define, but they are the key to understanding what makes a body a body.

A living body is more than just an association of cells who have put aside self-interests to work co-operatively for their survival. For one thing, all the cells identify with the body as a whole. There are complex chemical codes identifying each individual cell in its role, but overall the body knows who are its own. For another thing, all the cells live and work for the common good of the body. The cells of the liver, for example, are not waiting for an opportunity to promote their organ or function above the interests and functions of the other cells and organs.

We take this truth as self-evident, but it is a really deep thing to understand. You could say they are not independent or self-seeking because within a body there is no threat, no ambition, and no competition for resources. There is a distribution according to the need, but the head is not dictating every last move over subservient and oppressed cells. All the cells are working in harmony, and the autonomic nervous system acts as

a coordinator. There is no need for oppression when all the parts are willing and surrendered to the head.

A very important feature of the body is that there is a life force that propels all the parts. There is no rebellion that can be tolerated because it would surely lead to death. Once we thought of cancer cells as essentially hostile, as if staging a revolt, but scientists now know that it begins with simple independent action. To put it in human terms, when cells do not come under the pre-ordained plan for their function, but instead independently decide how and when to respond, they are

*A living body is more than just an association of cells who have put aside self-interests to work co-operatively for their survival. For one thing, all the cells identify with the body as a whole. They live and work for the common good of the body.*

essentially changed in their nature. They are called mutant cells. They roam around, no longer serving the body. In human terms we could say they propagate a self-life, serving their own interests. Some cells (triggered by something known only to their mutant selves) become malignant and rebellious (meaning, unable to be controlled by the body), and actively turn against the body, persuading other cells to do the same.

Between the normal cells, there is no vying for position or honor. Each cell is content to belong to the system or function of which it is a part – the heart cells don't break off on a whim to float through the bloodstream and join in the eye in its task of seeing. The cells of the

muscles are content to work in coordination with other muscle tissue cells, under the direction of the nerve impulses, having a simple existence of contracting and returning to normal under the command of the nerve impulses.

Imagine the disorder in the body if cells could come and go as they pleased, or could choose sometimes to respond and other times to hold back. Imagine what would happen if jealousy existed and cells took to saying, "I am part of the brain and infinitely superior to you tendons in the foot"?

Could a body function in that kind of dysfunction? Multiple Sclerosis sufferers will clearly tell you the answer is no. But even they know that their body is their own, despite its rebellion from the Creator's order. Could a collection of cells not even bearing the same chemical code, not working together for the common good, and not occupying the one location even be considered a body?

### **A Look Inside Christ's Body on Earth**

Paul likened the church to a human body in his letter to the Corinthians.<sup>1</sup> The Body of Christ is not a mystical<sup>2</sup> body, but a corporate corporeal<sup>3</sup> body. You can see why he had to write about the integrity of the human body as the way to understand the Body of Christ, for the entire letter refers to the division that was disintegrating the church.<sup>4</sup>

So what is the Body of Christ like? If our understanding of the human body is correct, there would have to be relationships that cause the members to function as one body. The members would all work together in coordination with the head, not taking thought for

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12 <sup>2</sup> *Mystical* — Remote from or beyond human comprehension; baffling human understanding; unknowable; obscure; mysterious.  
<sup>3</sup> *Corporeal* — Of, relating to, or characteristic of the body. Of a material nature; tangible. <sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:10

themselves as they go about their daily works.<sup>5</sup> These are not just independent good deeds, but is their actual work of service in His Body.<sup>6</sup> Their calling, as it says in Ephesians 4:1, is their actual employment or occupation in the Body – the good work they are to be occupied with until Christ’s return.<sup>7</sup> The talents are the natural gifts of each member, empowered by faith and grace, employed to build up the Body in love – a growth that comes from God.<sup>8</sup>

Just as the human body cannot exist without all of its systems (lymphatic, circulatory, digestive) continually functioning, so the Body of Christ cannot exist without apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers.<sup>9</sup> Take teaching, for example. All the members of the Body teach in the capacity in which they are able. Some teach academics to children and others teach the Word to disciples. It is going on all the time, just as the members of your body are at work all the time. The Word is taught every day when they all gather together, morning and evening, to hear God speaking through each member as they are inspired by the Holy Spirit.<sup>10</sup> There is the teaching of the anointing,<sup>11</sup> which takes place in all the different places of the Body. It is as simple and as constant as one brother teaching another our Father’s heart within His statutes as they work together on a job. And new disciples and children are always being raised up to their greatest potential to take on responsibility.

And there is the ministry of the apostles, bringing into obedience all the members of the body through

faith.<sup>12</sup> Without concentric faith and mutual submission to one another out of fear of Messiah,<sup>13</sup> the body would be destroyed by the mutant cells who would go about their independent course. Left unchecked by the Body’s immune system, they who say in effect, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” would denominate themselves into camps of mutual hostility and estrangement. Just as cancer cells take over by making healthy cells mutant, so would the believers be led astray into rebellion.<sup>14</sup>

Apostles and apostolic workers travel throughout the Body, bringing

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the Word and speaking the faith needed to obey the commands of Messiah, dealing with what would cause disease and ill health. Apostles give direction for the members of the Body because they are compelled by the love of Messiah, not lording it over those who are subject to them, but being as a nursing mother, treating with gentleness all those who err.

The gospel is preached as a witness by the corporate life of the Body,<sup>15</sup> which today is just like the Body of Christ was when the Holy Spirit first came in power.<sup>16</sup> This corporate Body is a marvel, a miracle

of the Spirit enabling them who were once being led by ungodly lusts, to live a godly life together in the glory Messiah prayed for in John 17:23.

Of course, the Body speaks the truth of the gospel of the kingdom<sup>17</sup> to itself as well as to those outside, so that they who belong to the Body would not hold any of the world’s goods and harden their heart when they saw their brother in need.<sup>18</sup> Paul wrote about the division that comes when there is neglect in taking care of the needs of our brothers.<sup>19</sup> Messiah taught His own disciples that they would not be able to follow Him unless they gave up all of their possessions.<sup>20</sup> Those who live in the Body of Christ hear that exact same gospel daily so that they could pick up the cross every day and follow Him.<sup>21</sup>

Shepherds are those wonderful men with the heart of King David who lay down their lives for the sheep. In the Body of Christ, the shepherds live with His sheep, not living as hirelings who flee when the wolf comes. They protect the people in their care from being taken advantage of, so that they can be released to give all that they have to show hospitality to strangers, and to pour out their gifts on other people, not just on their own families.

Shepherds stand in the gate to protect the people from danger. They make sure all the sheep are fed, as the Savior commanded those who love Him to do.<sup>22</sup> Shepherds who obey Him tend to His sheep, making sure that their wounds are bound up and the fat sheep don’t take more than their portion.<sup>23</sup> Shepherds work amongst the flock, taking the load. They are the shepherds because they

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 2:10 <sup>6</sup> Ephesians 4:12 <sup>7</sup> Luke 19:13 <sup>8</sup> Ephesians 4:15,16; Colossians 2:19 <sup>9</sup> Ephesians 4:11 <sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:24-26 <sup>11</sup> 1 John 2:27 <sup>12</sup> Romans 1:5 <sup>13</sup> Ephesians 5:21 <sup>14</sup> Jude 12-13 <sup>15</sup> Matthew 24:14 <sup>16</sup> Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37 <sup>17</sup> Hebrews 3:13; Malachi 3:16-18 <sup>18</sup> 1 John 3:16-18 <sup>19</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:25 <sup>20</sup> Luke 14:33 <sup>21</sup> Luke 9:23 <sup>22</sup> John 21:15-17 <sup>23</sup> Ezekiel 34 <sup>24</sup> John 10:15; 13:34



love more than others are yet able to love. They lay down their lives for the sheep,<sup>24</sup> staying up later than anyone else, praying for the people in their care, fixing the furnace late at night, giving away their own shoes if need be. Their love causes others to become shepherds, too, just as the activity of the cells prompts the production of more cells of their own kind. Shepherds show the sheep the heart of our Father by how they don't react to the circumstances. All apostles are shepherds, and evangelists and prophets are always shepherds because this is a basic bodily function.

And the members of the Body exhort one another daily (Hebrews 3:13 is a command) so that no root of bitterness can spring up, leading to mutant cells.<sup>25</sup> And the prophetic word is spoken daily just as Paul said he wished all would prophesy, speaking of that which comforts and edifies.<sup>26</sup> This spoken Word gives the members the vision they need to continue building and to not cast off restraint and not lose heart.<sup>27</sup> They speak of the faith of Abraham, whose seed they are because of their faith in Messiah.<sup>28</sup> They speak of the prophets and the vision for Israel. Every day the Body is fed and nourished by the prophetic spoken Word.<sup>29</sup>

A member of the Body is only able to flourish in an environment

of forgiveness, thanksgiving and praise. Scientists have been working hard to define how this also works in the human body, because they see now that chemicals flood the body according to the attitude of the person. This could be likened to the happy heart of a disciple while working with his brothers and sisters to meet the needs of his brothers



*All these things are the fundamental aspects of being a body, the means by which the Body is the Body and not an association. As its members go about their functions – cleaning, cooking, landscaping, tilling the land, taking care of the animals, making clothes, buying groceries, building houses, repairing cars, taking out the trash, baking bread, typing letters, making soap, teaching children – it is all within the context and location of the Body.*

and sisters. This fills the Body with encouragement. But more than just this, there is the thankfulness for being in salvation, where the daily difficult circumstances faced together by the Body lead to the common salvation of our souls, and praise is offered up every day in the

worship and works of service.

All these things are the fundamental aspects of being a body, the means by which the Body is the Body and not an association. As its members go about their functions – cleaning, cooking, landscaping, tilling the land, taking care of the animals, making clothes, buying groceries, building houses, repairing cars, taking out the trash, baking bread, typing letters, making soap, teaching children – it is all within the context and location of the Body.

Just as the human body teaches us, a cell will entirely work for the well-being of the whole body, the common good. And all the cells are in co-ordination, taking their command from the head, right down to the “least” cell (if any cell could even be described

thus). Indeed, every member is needed. In the human body, there are no superfluous and unnecessary organs, even if doctors can not explain them. How much more so in the Body of Christ when each member was bought at a great cost by Messiah so that he could live for Him who died for him, so that he could

lay down his life for his brothers.<sup>30</sup> For there are no “lone rangers” in the Body of Christ, but every part does his share effectively to cause the growth of the Body for the building up of itself in love.<sup>31</sup>

It really is a wonder. ✠

<sup>25</sup> Hebrews 12:15 <sup>26</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:1,5 <sup>27</sup> Proverbs 29:18 <sup>28</sup> Galatians 3:29 <sup>29</sup> 1 Peter 4:11 <sup>30</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:14-16; John 15:13 <sup>31</sup> Ephesians 4:15

# Things To Do: *in the Body of Christ*

taking care of children

teaching children reading and writing

teaching children manners and respect

building houses

renovating houses

repairing houses

plumbing houses

running electrical



decorating the home

making cushions

sewing clothes

designing patterns

singing songs

dancing together

teaching and learning dances

writing new dances

repairing what needs to be fixed

taking care of the chickens

tending the sheep and the goats

milking goats

shearing sheep

weeding the garden

mowing the lawn

growing vegetables

drying herbs

making tinctures



getting fit

doing aerobics

going swimming

taking brisk walks

going on picnics

enjoying family nights

planning surprises

making special times

canning produce

pressing flowers

making candles

helping each other out

making furniture

cutting lamp shades



celebrating the Sabbath

preparing for Bar Mitzvah

making vows and keeping them

cleaning house

programming computers

making toothpaste

typing documents

learning graphic design

making curtains

turning the hearts of the fathers to the children

driving trucks  
delivering produce  
cleaning yards  
telling stories  
stocking shelves  
greeting customers  
laying irrigation systems



cleaning chimneys  
tuning pianos  
laying bricks  
building stone walls  
installing windows  
little children peeling garlic  
little children chopping carrots  
helping by their mother's side

making ointments  
shoveling snow  
raking leaves  
digging trenches  
cleaning rugs  
detailing cars  
nursing the sick  
plowing fields



painting welcome banners  
doing skits  
brushing boots  
planting flowers  
watching them grow  
writing songs  
teaching music  
recording songs  
learning audio mixing

drawing blueprints  
translating texts  
screen printing  
excavating foundations  
interpreting for the deaf  
demolishing houses  
replacing broken window panes  
repairing furnaces



going to pitch class  
washing windows  
hanging wallpaper  
waiting tables  
going shopping  
looking for bargains  
writing letters  
decorating the envelope

filing tax returns  
dusting cobwebs  
mopping floors  
scrubbing stairs  
pouring concrete  
clearing paths



reading the Intertribal News  
resting on the Sabbath  
playing volleyball  
enjoying fellowship

## Things To Do - In the Body of Christ

making gifts

dedicating children to God

washing dishes

encouraging a brother every day

painting the house

keeping bees

drinking tea



sowing seed

harvesting the crop

pulling weeds

speaking the Gospel

making friends

handing out papers

camping together

paying the bills

doing the books

scrubbing potatoes

washing salad

making bread

living together

preparing guest beds

making welcome baskets



evangelistic outings

bringing the Word to each other

eating smoothies

folding laundry

tiling the bathroom

giving direction to children

working in the café

taking out the trash

writing plays

learning lines

learning lighting

making costumes

going on tour

teaching stage craft

learning logistics



going to the Fish Market early in the morning

cleaning fish all together

grilling the mackerel

serving meals

making alternative energy come to be reality

turning the compost pile

feeding the chickens

transporting everything

making soap

selling bread

making cookies

repairing cars

changing the oil

watering the plants



walking in pairs

making yogurt

eating with chopsticks

enjoying peanut butter balls

mending shoes

taking care of nursing mothers

making pottery

weaving baskets  
emptying the recycling bin  
picking fruit  
harvesting avocados  
pruning trees  
writing articles and illustrating them  
printing papers



building shelves  
having meetings  
breaking bread  
eating wholesome food together  
darning socks  
grandmothers minding children  
teaching stenciling

writing curriculum  
teaching children algebra  
apprenticing youth to a trade  
printing menus  
making friends



making jelly  
honoring policemen  
encouraging one another every day  
speaking the truth  
submitting to one another

making guitars  
learning to play instruments  
carrying loads  
chopping wood  
milking cows  
making cheese



seeing each other as extensions of Messiah  
forgetting the past  
forgiving one another  
surrendering to Messiah  
increasing in faith  
guarding each other's dignity

drinking goats' milk  
making hay  
buying hay  
shoeing horses  
going to the Farmers' Market  
building staircases



listening for the heart  
believing the best  
being diligent  
receiving the least among the brethren  
etc., etc., etc....

trimming hair  
fixing leaks  
growing sprouts  
bringing order  
washing clothes



Whew... It is a true statement:

*still*  
**IT TAKES A  
COMMUNITY**

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?



*Some time ago when I was in college, I was searching for something meaningful in life. I wasn't finding it in school. I had been primed all my life to go to college and then on to "life," whatever that meant. Somehow, being one more cog in the machine didn't appeal to me. I wanted true friends and I wanted to do something with my life that really made a difference. I was experiencing neither.*

*A few years earlier in high school, I was at a concert in much of the same state of mind as I would be several years later – lonely and searching for something.*

*When I left the concert someone must have handed me a little paper. It was from some people who lived in a community. This was very interesting to me since I was looking for something like this. However, in the busyness of my life, I put it into my closet and forgot about it.*

*As the years went by, I would see them at many of the events that I went to. They were beginning to capture my interest. One day a friend and I happened to park right behind their big maroon-and-cream-colored bus. On the back it read, "We Know the Way, We'll Bring You Home." I thought to myself, "That's what I want, a real home." As we were sitting there, I asked my friend if he knew anything about them. He answered, "Yeah, they are some community that follows God."*

When he said this, my heart leapt inside. That was what I was looking for – a community where people loved the God of the Bible. So I asked him, "Do they believe in Jesus?"

"No way," was his reply, "they follow some guru called 'Yahshua.'"

"Yahshua," I thought to myself, "who is that?" I was disappointed, to say the least. These people seemed so nice, but if they didn't follow the Son of God then I didn't want to have anything to do with them. If there was one thing I didn't need to get involved with, it was some strange religion. So I decided to steer clear of them.

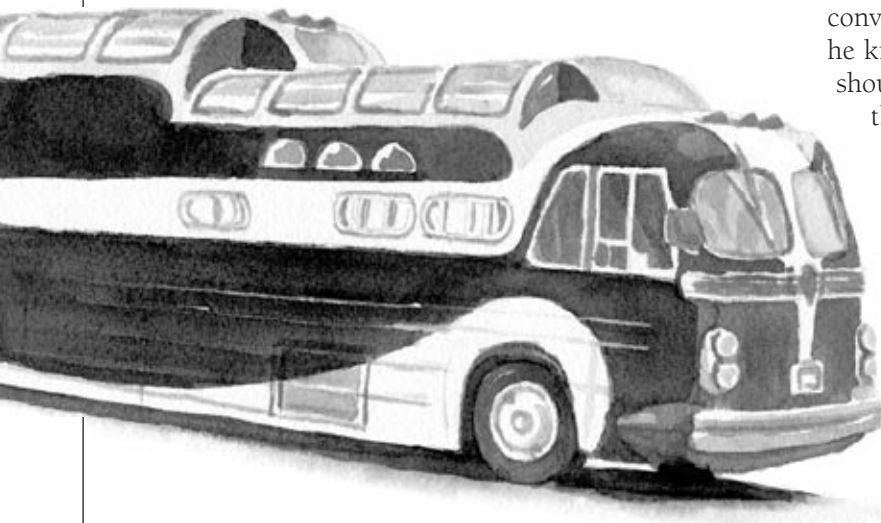
Eventually, there I was in college, still very lonely and still searching. Some friends had invited me to several concerts that would be happening that summer. I decided to go with them. At one of the first shows, I saw that same bus and I was instantly intrigued again. Something about these people seemed so special, but, I had to remind myself, they didn't follow the Son of God. It had been a couple of years since I had first come in contact with them. I had gone my way, searching for something real, but had found nothing.

At one of those shows, I was walking through the parking lot and saw a good friend of mine. Oddly enough, he was sitting very near that bus. He was talking with someone and I sat down to join the conversation. After a few minutes, I asked him if he knew anything about that bus. He told me that I should talk to the other man, because he was part of the community that was traveling on the bus.

I was excited, since I had never actually talked to anyone from the bus; I had just heard things about them. The things I had heard about them following "Yahshua" had kept me away for almost two years. But I was full of questions about the community and what they believed. My first question was, of course, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

To my surprise, the man said, "Of course we do. Our entire life revolves around Him and His teachings!"

I could hardly believe it!



He went on to explain to me that while most people call the Son of God *Jesus*, they preferred His original Hebrew name – *Yahshua*. He told me that it actually meant “*God’s Salvation*.”

The more he talked the more everything began to make sense to me. I had grown up in a society that had caused me to question everything, but somehow I never questioned what had been handed down to me at church. I thought that because these people didn’t say *Jesus*, although they were full of love and kindness, they must be bad. But what I found out was that *Jesus* wasn’t even the Savior’s name!

So now, as you have guessed, I am a part of this people who follow the Son of God, and I would like to share with you the amazing things I have learned about His name.

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, *Miriam* (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly *Miriam* and *Yoceph* (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them – *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, “...and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins.” But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own,<sup>1</sup> but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means Yahweh’s Salvation,<sup>2</sup> which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, “...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [*Yahweh’s Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins.”

If you look in an old King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, KJV)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4: 8, KJV)*

However, if you look in any modern Bible, including more recently printed King James Bibles, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of

Moses’ successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name *Yahshua*. *Joshua* of the Old Testament had the same name as the One called *Jesus* in the New Testament, for *Joshua* was the prophetic forerunner of the Son of God, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The fact is, the name of God’s Son was not even pronounced as “*Jesus*” in English until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, simply because there was no “*J*” sound or letter in English until then.<sup>3</sup> The modern letter “*J*” developed from the letter “*I*” which began to be written with a “tail” when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard “*J*” sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial “*I*” in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced “in the Hebrew tongue” by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn’t hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.<sup>4</sup>

I’d much rather call the Son of God, my Savior, by His true name – the name His own mother, *Miriam*, and foster father, *Yoceph*, and all of His Jewish friends called Him. Not only have I found out what His true name is, but His true Body on earth as well. I am so thankful to have finally found true rest with the true Savior. Please take the time to read the other articles in this paper. You are always welcome to come visit us in any of our communities. Our addresses are on the back of this paper. ❁

*Michael*



<sup>1</sup> Some authorities say that *Iesous* is derived from an earlier form meaning “healing Zeus,” the supreme god of ancient Greek mythology.

<sup>2</sup> **Yah** is the personal name of God, and **shua** is from a Hebrew root word that means “to save.” God identified Himself to Moses as **YAH** (meaning “I AM”) in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 (“whose name is Yah”), and as most familiar in the word *Halleluyah* (“Praise Yah”). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father’s name, “the name which You have given Me” (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father’s name would be incorporated into the Son’s name, *Yahshua*.

<sup>3</sup> *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507. <sup>4</sup> Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12

**EDAH** — The word for community in Hebrew is **edah**, which also means beehive. This word portrays the way a group of people or hive of bees live and work together with a common identity. Bees live a selfless life of devotion to the bee kingdom. They have no concern for themselves but only for the hive and the constant production of honey. So it is with those who are in the communities of God.

### Like a Swarm

Have you ever watched a beehive? It is fascinating seeing thousands of little bees working together to produce honey. As you come near the hive, you can hear an exciting buzz as they go about the many tasks necessary to keep the hive alive. The workers are responsible to collect nectar and guard the hive. The young bees keep the hive in good condition, feed the larvae, and support in other household chores. There is never a dull moment in the busy life of a little bee.

This is much like the life that we have. No matter what we do, we love to do it together. Daily we gather to thank our Master for His salvation, and to hear Him speak to us through one another. This gathering keeps alive a genuine love and care for each other. As we work, we take advantage of the daily situations, guarding ourselves from the selfishness and pride that would come in to separate us and take away our love. Our children are a vital part of our life. We not only educate them, but we work with them to accomplish the simple tasks necessary to maintain a family life. Our life is not a dull routine of chores, but is full of the warmth that comes from the sweet fellowship of friends speaking their hearts to one another, celebrating the Sabbath every week, and participating in weddings and festivals.

But there are a few things that differ in our life from that of a beehive. One is that we are not driven by instinct or controlled by something separate from our own will. Each of us is here because we chose to leave behind our own separate lives to increase the life of this hive. Our life is not enclosed like the hive of a bee, nor do we have a stinger to harm any uninvited guests. We welcome anyone to experience our life with us. Please come and see what it is like to be part of a beehive of people expressing the warmth and love of our Creator. 🌸

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AND SOME OF OUR PEOPLE IN SOME OF OUR COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.



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