

Onward, Christian Soldiers

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before:
Christ the royal Master leads against the foe; forward into battle,
See his banners go. Refrain

2. At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory:
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise. Refrain

3. Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod,
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity. Refrain

4. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. Refrain

5. Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King:
This through countless ages men and angels sing. Refrain

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Taking Gathered Worship

Home



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of February 11, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

Scripture instructs us to be bold. In **Acts 4** we witness the boldness of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin. After receiving threats from the Sanhedrin Peter and John were released. Stephen now stands before that same body. Stephen was equally eloquent, boldly proclaiming the gospel. This time the Sanhedrin responded in violent opposition. With anger, they stoned Stephen to death. However, there was no supposition on the part of Peter, John or Stephen about the result of their boldness. They were living up to their call as followers of Christ, leaving the results to God.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Throughout the week we encourage you to use the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 2/11 **Read** : Opposition can be defined as a **hostility, resistance** or **contradiction** towards that which is being presented. **John 15:20** and **17:14** explains why spiritual opposition exists and what the results will be. The presence of God's word in our life has placed us in opposition to the world. This form of outside opposition is often **hostile** in nature.

Pray For an understanding of the reasons why we are opposed by those outside the church.

Monday, 2/12 **Read**: It is important to understand why we are opposed from outside the church. It is equally important to understand how we should respond to our opposition. Read **Matthew 5:43-45**. This attitude towards our opposition is what sets the Christian apart.

Pray For a biblical love of those who oppose you.

Tuesday, 2/13 **Read**: However, opposition does not always come from the outside. There are times when opposition arises from within ourselves. Look at **Romans 7:21-23** for a peek at that source of opposition. This internal conflict arises from a **resistance** to God's word and a submission to our sinful nature.

Pray: You will be able to see the ways in which your own internal struggle with the flesh is weakening your ability to fight the good fight.

Wednesday, 2/14 **Read**: There is a third source of opposition. That which comes from within the church community. Differences in understanding or personal preferences can lead to opposition. Re-read **Philippians 2:1-4**. Reconsider what these verses reveal about internal opposition and how the resulting disunity **contradicts** our profession of Christ. Also consider how looking out for the interests of others reveals a biblical love for our fellow Christian.

Pray: That you will be peaceable and loving as you endeavor to maintain the spiritual purity of the church.

Thursday, 2/15 **Read**: Loving our enemies and loving one another. This approach to dealing with opposition is a strong witness to our Christian faith. **Matthew 5:43-45** commands us to love our enemies. Now look at what **I John 3:23** says about loving one another.

Pray That love will be the centerpiece of our relations with everyone.

Friday, 2/16 **Read**: Dealing with opposition is just one of many struggles in the Christian life. **Acts 20:24** reveals the grand purpose for all that we do in faith. We are given the task of "testifying to gospel of God's grace".

Pray: For perseverance in our struggle with opposition. That we will work towards completing the tasks God had given us.

Saturday, 2/17 **Read**: What a privilege God has given us as fellow members of His household, as His chosen people. Study **Ephesians 2:19** and **I Peter 2:9-10**. Consider what this status means.

Pray: That you will take hold of your heavenly citizenship and eagerly approach the tasks that God sets before you.