

SERMON STARTERS

Series: **“WHAT IS THE CHURCH?”**

Message # 4 **“THE CHURCH: FELLOWSOLDIERS WARRING TOGETHER”**

Texts: **Phil. 2:25**

**“Yet I suppose it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.”**

**Philemon verse 2**

**“And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house.”**

This study is the fourth installment on the subject, “What Is The Church?” We have briefly looked at some of the “*fellow*” prefixes in the New Testament to answer the question. In the previous three lessons we have looked at: “The Church: Fellowshipippers Worshipping Together”, “The Church: Fellow-laborers Working Together” and “The Church: Fellow-Disciples Walking Together.” In this concluding study we will look at the church as **“Fellow-soldiers Warring Together.”**

Epaphroditus and Archippus were called **“Fellow Soldiers”** by the Apostle Paul. In fact Paul considered himself a soldier of Jesus Christ. He wrote in II Tim. 4:7: *“I have Fought a good fight....”* And he wrote extensively about the Christian soldier in Ephesians chapter six. Just what is involved in this aspect of the church?

**WE SHARE A COMMON CAPTAIN.**

Read Revelation 19:11-16

**WE SHARE IN COMMON COMMANDS.**

Read John 15:14 & 17; Mark 12:30; John 13:34; Acts 10:42; Matt. 28:20; Acts 17:30; Rev. 22:14.

In fact, every admonition to believers is a command to be obeyed.

**WE SHARE A COMMON CHALLENGE.**

Read II Tim. 2:1-4

**WE SHARE A COMMON CONFLICT.**

Read Phil 1:27,28; I Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:13

**WE SHARE A COMMON CONQUEST.**

Read Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57; I Sam. 17:45-47

**CONCLUSION:** *“Fight the good fight!”* (I Tim. 1:18)

**“ONWARD! CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS, MARCHING AS TO WAR”**