

and the devil. With these enemies we never ought to be at peace. From this warfare no man ought ever to seek to be discharged, while he is alive.

Give me your attention for a few minutes, and I will tell you something about *the great battle*.

Every professing Christian is the soldier of Christ. He is bound, as a member of Christ's church, to fight Christ's battle against sin, the world, and the devil. The man that does not do this, breaks his vow; he is a spiritual defaulter; he does not fulfil the engagements made for him. The man that does not do this, is practically renouncing his Christianity. The very fact that he belongs to a church, attends a Christian place of worship, and calls himself a Christian, is a public declaration that he desires to be reckoned a soldier of Jesus Christ.

Armor is provided for the professing Christian, if he will only use it. "Take unto you," says Paul to the Ephesians, "the whole armor of God." "Stand, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness." "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God." "Above all, take the shield of faith." Eph. vi. 13-17. And not least, the professing Christian has the best of leaders, Jesus the captain of salvation, through whom he may be more than conqueror; the best of provisions, the bread and water of life; and the best of pay promised to him, an eternal weight of glory.

All these are ancient things. I will not be drawn off to dwell on them now.

The one point I want to impress on your soul just now is this: that if you want to be saved, you must not only be a soldier, but a victorious soldier. You must not only profess to fight on Christ's side against sin, the world, and the devil, but you must actually fight and overcome.

Now this is one grand distinguishing mark of true Christians. Other men perhaps, like to be numbered in the ranks of Christ's army. Other men may have lazy wishes and languid desires after the crown of glory. But it is the true Christian alone who does the work of a soldier. He alone fairly meets the enemies of his soul, really fights with them, and in that fight overcomes them.

One great lesson I wish you to learn this day is this: that if you would prove you are born again and going to heaven, you must be a victorious soldier of Christ. If you would make it clear that you have any title to Christ's precious promises, you must fight the good fight in Christ's cause, and in that fight you must conquer.