God’s Veteran “Faithful Through The Fight” Galatians 6”14-18

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. We ask that You quiet the noise of the world around us and help each person in this group to hear clearly what You want to speak to them today. Give us the courage to be honest with one another and with ourselves. May Your truth guide every word spoken in this room, and may we leave here not just informed but transformed. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Summary

In this sermon, the message uses Paul's declaration in Galatians 6:17, where Paul says he bears the marks of Jesus in His body, as a launching point to challenge the congregation to recognize that every Christian is called to be a soldier in a spiritual battle, not a passive civilian. Drawing on the cultural and political landscape, the message confronts the church's silence and inconsistency, arguing that the ignorance of the church has allowed unbiblical values to take root in society. He calls believers to stand firmly on the truth of God's Word, even when it costs them relationships, reputation, or comfort.

Key Verses

Galatians 6:17	Philippians 3:4-9	2 Timothy 3:12	2 Cor. 12:9-10
Galatians 6:1-2	Romans 6:3-4	1 Cor. 6:19-20	John 14:6

Questions

1. The message drew a distinction between being a 'soldier' and a 'civilian' in the kingdom of God. How would you honestly describe your own spiritual posture right now, and what does that look like in your daily life?
2. Paul says in Galatians 6:17 that he bears the marks of Jesus in His body. What do you think it looks like practically for a believer today to bear marks for Christ, and have you experienced any of those marks personally?
3. The message quoted Francis Schaeffer, saying the ignorance of the church is worse for culture than the decadence of the world. Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
4. In Philippians 3, Paul counts all of his impressive credentials as loss for the sake of knowing Christ. What are some things in your own life that you might be tempted to boast in rather than boasting only in Christ?
5. Romans 6:3-4 describes baptism as being buried with Christ so that we can walk in newness of life. How does understanding that your life now belongs to Christ change the way you approach everyday decisions?
6. Second Timothy 3:12 says that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Have you ever softened or hidden your faith to avoid conflict or opposition? What was the result?

7. The message used the image of a soldier who is wounded on the battlefield and needs fellow soldiers to come to his aid. Can you think of a time when someone in the church came alongside you during a difficult season, or a time when you wish someone had?
8. The message challenged the group to stop boasting in political parties or earthly platforms and to boast only in the cross of Christ. What would it look like for your social media presence, your conversations, and your daily choices to reflect that kind of singular focus on Christ?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you have been acting more like a civilian than a soldier. It might be a conversation you have been avoiding, a truth you have been unwilling to speak, or a habit that does not reflect that you belong to Christ. Take one concrete step to align that area with the Word of God. Additionally, reach out to one person in your church community who may be wounded or struggling and intentionally encourage them. Leave no one behind on the battlefield.

Key Takeaways

- Every Christian is called to be a soldier in the kingdom of God. There are no passive civilians. The victory belongs to Christ, but we are still called to engage faithfully in the spiritual battle around us.
- The ignorance of the church is one of the greatest threats to culture. When believers do not know or apply the Word of God, they make choices that are contrary to His truth, and the consequences ripple throughout society.
- Our only boast is in the cross of Christ. Paul counted all of his personal achievements as loss compared to knowing Jesus. We must stop placing our identity and confidence in political parties, personal accomplishments, or earthly platforms.
- Because we have been bought with the blood of Christ and buried with Him in baptism, our lives are no longer our own. Every decision we make should reflect that we belong to Him completely.
- Those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution and bear marks for their faith. The church must rally around one another when members are wounded, fulfilling the law of Christ by bearing one another's burdens.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that does not change. We confess that we have not always lived as soldiers in Your kingdom. We have been silent when we should have spoken, passive when we should have acted, and divided when we should have stood united. Forgive us, Father. Remind us daily that we have been bought with a price, that our lives belong to You, and that our only boast is in Your cross. Give us the courage to bear the marks of following You and give us the love to rally around our brothers and sisters when they are wounded. May we be a people who stand on Your truth, not our own comfort. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.