

The Book of Philippians

Notes: Doug Hamilton

Lesson 9: The Surrender of the Christian Soldier (Philippians 4:1-9)

It was 9:00 AM, September 2, 1945 on a battleship called the *USS Missouri* in a place called Tokyo Bay, Japan, the end of WWII. Millions had died in the ocean, the air and on the ground, in jungles and cities, in homes and public streets. Only about a month prior to that day, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the nation, killing tens of thousands of people instantly. Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese people were done fighting, for there was no way for them to win the war any longer.



Word was sent to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Troops of their surrender. The terms and conditions were written; the time and place were picked. With hundreds of troops aboard the vessel, Hirohito and his minions walked aboard to do the toughest task ever faced by their generation. The Japanese people are a brave and fighting people, but that day would be a complete surrender and ceasing of fighting.



Douglas MacArthur stood at attention as the Emperor, dressed in his commander garb, approached the declaration table. He read and signed the peace document. Reaching out to shake MacArthur's hand, Hirohito did not find an extended arm in return. MacArthur looked at the sword on the Emperor's hip and stated, "Your sword first." With that the Emperor unhooked it and laid it on the table. MacArthur followed up, "And now we have peace."

Lesson:

We have a well known song in our hymnal, "All to Jesus I Surrender". The words of thus are the following:

All to Jesus I surrender; All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender; Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power; Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender; Now I feel the sacred flame.
Oh, the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to His Name!

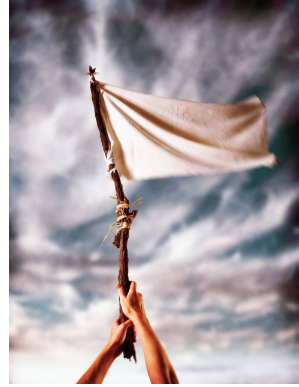
Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all; All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender
all.

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Behind nearly every war the world has ever known, there is a surrender. It might be a white flag at the end of a musket or a formal written document to be signed. Surrender can be a very humiliating experience for a soldier. On the other hand, for the soldier of Christ, surrender is not a HUMILIATING experience, but a HUMBLING experience. This is the challenge that Paul is about to lay at the feet of the Philippian congregation. Surrender is a good thing if it falls under one of these three areas.



1) There is a White Flag of the Personal Surrender

Philippians 4:1-3 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. ³ Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- As covered in the previous lesson, the greatest crown we are in pursuit of is the crown of eternal life with Christ. As much as we look forward to this, there is a wait for this crown of glory until the day of resurrection. Paul, the champion Christian, the soldier/athlete for Christ from the last chapter, referred to the members at Philippi in this chapter as his joy and crown. His labors for and with the Philippians are worn around his mind like a crown, filling his heart with joy.
- Who are Eurodia and Syntyche? Like Lydia, they were likely wealthy women converts in the church at Philippi. Apparently their ministries were crossing over each other and they needed to surrender physical interests for that which was spiritual. They had battles just like you and me, fighting for the progress of the gospel. The word for struggle is that of a military nature, the same of a couple soldiers fighting it out on the battle field. The last thing they needed to do was fight it out with each other. Paul says "Wave that white flag of Personal Surrender, give up on you and surrender it to Jesus for the common good."
- This surrender applies to all Christian soldiers, whether it be Eurodia, Syntyche, Clement and even us today. All who are on God's list, the Book of Life, must be willing to surrender their individualism on behalf of one another.

2) There is a White Flag of an Emotional Surrender

Philippians 4:4-6 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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- Paul tells the Philippians that they must rejoice. They need to see that gentle spirit be known to all whom are around us. upsetting us with all the chaos, wave the white flag of emotional surrender.
- Anxiety is not to be in the lives of the Christian soldiers, but be saturated in prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. We are to turn the cares of the world over to God in our prayers
- He wants us to have a certain peace that only He can provide. It is a peace that goes beyond comprehension, able to calm even the most turbulent crisis. It guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, but only if we surrender to it. Waving the white flag of an emotional surrender to God is a good thing.

3) There is a White Flag of an Mental Surrender

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- Paul asks the Philippians to surrender their minds to God as well. There is a particular mindset of the Christian soldier. As Christians, we are to have a renewing of the mind (Romans 12:1). We are to set our minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth (Col 3:2). We are to surrender our old way of thinking before we can have the new way of thinking. Replace it with...
 - Surrender the deceitful things of life and replace it with the truth.
 - Surrender the dishonorable thought for that which is venerable.
 - Surrender the many wrong thoughts with those based in righteousness.
 - Let go of those impure thoughts and replace it with those that are pure.
 - All those hateful thoughts should be given up on and replaced with what is based in love.
 - Surrender all those bad phrases out of your mind and replace them with the good phrases.
 - Wave the white flag of surrender on all those things that rob you of joy and replace them with excellence and praiseworthy things.
- We must surrender our minds to God if we are ever going to be the soldiers of Christ we need to be. As the mind thinketh, so we are (Proverbs 27:3). The body always follows the mind. Surrender it to God and watch the life change.

Conclusion:

We never surrender our relationship with God by giving up, but giving up on some things are good. Be willing to wave the white flags of a