

Take and Read

From Our Library

The Christian Warrior

By Isaac Ambrose

In this excellent work on spiritual warfare, based on Ephesians 6:12, Ambrose handles three doctrines: 1) All God's people must be warriors. 2) We have powerful and malicious enemies to contend with. 3) We must wrestle and strive against these enemies. He also shows how Satan attacks the Christian at different times and under different conditions in our lives, and how we can be ready to withstand his assaults, highlighting the unique temptations of the various stages of a person's life.

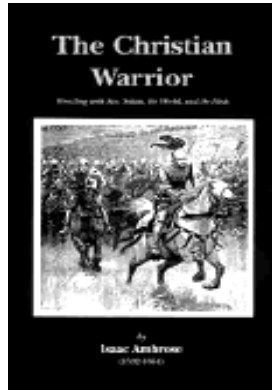
Quote from 'The Christian Warrior'

'As pride is the resemblance of the devil and what brought him to ruin, so humility is the resemblance of Christ, which exalted Him to honours.'

About the Author

Isaac Ambrose (1604–1663/64) was an English Puritan divine and one of the more meditative Puritans. As a writer Ambrose has a vividness and freshness of imagination rarely possessed by any of the other Puritans.

For More Information; contact **Andrè Camilleri**



Quote of the Month

*"Let LOVE replace DUTY
in our Church and in our relations,
and the world will soon be evangelized." (Dwight. L. Moody)*

Calendar of Events

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, August 2009
but let us encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:25*

- Sunday's Church Services — 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
- Tuesday's Women's Meeting — 4th, 18th
- Wednesday's Bible Study — 5th, 19th, 26th
- Thursday's Prayer Meeting — 6th, 20th
- Experience Meeting — Wed. 12th



"More Than Conquerors"

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"...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" - Romans 8:37.

The Pastor's Letter

Dear Brethren,

We are not simply a social group or club, however high its ideal may be. As God's beloved, gathered in the name of His only Son, we as his church are God's most sublime expression of his love, wisdom and covenant faithfulness. We are purchased by divine blood. And although God is everywhere present, in a very special sense the Creator of heaven and earth dwells in his earthly temple, the church, through His Spirit. As disciples of Jesus, the risen Lord, we are definitely the most important organism in existence. Yes, the family is important, and the state has its God-given function, but the church is the only institution that rightly claims a heavenly origin.

Of what is the church composed? Only born-again persons are living members of the church; these may be recognized by their lively faith in the Crucified and Risen Messiah, who therefore worship God in spirit and truth, and seek to love Him by obeying His Word. Every Christian therefore has "a homing instinct," wherever he may be. He longs to be with other sheep in the fold where Christ is known, in practical terms, to be the Head and Chief Shepherd.

Real Christians seek to congregate together for mutual edification, for prayer and worship and the study of the Holy Scriptures, and at the same time seek to spread the gospel of grace to a dying world. In this sense, the church is an organization of members that exist for the sake of non-members. They earnestly desire to reach out for those still outside Christ and therefore without hope, offering them hope and salvation through the One Mediator, Jesus. Such groups, scattered around the world, are cells in the Mystical Body of Christ. Each group is a true church, and a real part of the universal church. The Spirit of truth, sent to convict the world of sin, does his work on earth through such cells.

Now, what is your attitude towards the church? Are you scorning the church by your delinquent absence from its functions? Is your heart eager to meet God in the fellowship of his saints? Or are you despising the Bride of Christ by your undisciplined life-style, taking a hit and miss approach to the fellowship where the Father has placed you? I trust you will take God's work on earth seriously!

Yours in the bonds of His everlasting love.
Paul

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*'He who walks
with the wise
shall be wise:
but a companion of
fools shall perish.'*

Proverbs.13:20

Catechism Corner

Question 49. Which is the fourth commandment?

The fourth commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor they cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

Question 50. What is required in the fourth commandment?

The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word, expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to Himself. (Lev.19:30; Deut.5:12)

Question 51. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days, (Lev.23:3) and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, (Ps.92:1,2; Isa. 58:13, 14) except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. (Matt.12:11,12)

Remember and Learn

REMEMBER the *rags and ropes* with which Jeremiah was drawn up from the pit (Jer 38:11-13) and the *basket* in which Paul was let down from the walls of Damascus (Acts 9:25); **and LEARN** not to despise *small things*, knowing that often God chooses to use simple and little means to bring us the comfort and deliverance we need.



Sayings of: Matthew Henry. (1662-1714)

- Serving God with our little is the way to make it more.
- "Hard words break no bones." No; but they sometimes break a heart.
- It is easier to build temples than to be temples for God.
- None are sent empty away from Christ, except those that come to Him full of themselves.
- When (for a good reason) we cannot go to the house of the Lord, we can go to the Lord of the house.
- Though God permits His people to fall into sin, He will not let them lie still in it.
- Sins leave a stain upon the soul, a stain of guilt and pollution. Nothing can erase this stain but the blood of Christ.
- There may still be idols in the heart even where there are none in the sanctuary.



Experimental Christianity

9 Spiritual Traits Worth Cultivating.

(Gleaned from Mary Winslow's Letters.)

We see an urgent need for more committed Christian men and women; individual lives fully consecrated to God; people faithfully living each day as 'light and salt of the earth'; men and women who have not embraced the world and who are not afraid to 'be different' and who are decided to make no compromise with the evil ways so popular and rife amongst us. Mary Winslow's life and letters are a rich treasury of experimental and practical religion, and also of a living, vital Christianity which is so lacking in the lives of present day Christians.

The following nine spiritual characteristics of her life are being set before you both as an example and also as a help in your daily efforts to 'Be Holy as He who has called you is Holy.'

1. Have an intimate, daily life of communion with Christ. "Keep close to Jesus," she advises, "and you have nothing to fear from within and without." How miserably we err when we give God the daily leftovers of our thoughts, time and energy! What a difference to living in close communion and loving fellowship with our Precious Lord and All-Sufficient Saviour!
2. Trust in God and distrust yourself. She writes, "I would caution you from my own experience, never to sit down and reason what you should do in this or that perplexity, but go at once to the Lord with it, distrusting your own heart – which is deceitful above all things (Jer.17:9) – but trusting Him, which you may safely do." Wise counsel much appreciated by the humble, but abhorred and rejected by the proud, self-righteous and self-satisfied soul.
3. Be patient in adversity and thankful in prosperity. She says, "I believe that every doctrine, as well as every word of God, is only effectually profitable as it is worked out by the trying providence of God in the soul's deep experience. A thousand times have I thanked the Lord for all my trials and afflictions." What a difference from many Christians of today, who on the contrary flee from everything that discomforts them, and who consider all their trials and afflictions as a curse to be avoided at all cost, wanting only ease in all things, all the time.
4. Desire intensely to observe spiritual exercises of faith in yourself and in others, and be sorrowful over the lack of such exercises. "Slumbering saints and dead sinners compose most of the congregations," she complains. Oh, for Christians who are seriously committed 'to working out their salvation in fear and trembling.' (Phil.2:12)
5. Detest unbelief and struggle fervently in prayer against it. "How much of needless care and anxiety does unbelief add for the believer in this wilderness world!" Shall we allow ourselves to doubt our Heavenly Father? Let us pray that unbelief is eradicated from our daily experience, and replaced by a peaceful trust in our Almighty God who loves us.
6. Be determined to live by faith and not by sight. (2 Cor.5:7) "These are two buckets – the life of sense, and the life of faith: when one goes up, the other goes down. I am persuaded, the more we live by faith the holier and the happier we are." Lord increase our faith!
7. Have an uncompromising attachment to God's Word. Her son Octavius affirms "The all-controlling principle of her life was the profound homage with which her whole soul and life bowed to the supreme authority of God's revealed Word."
8. Long to hear Christ richly and fully preached, in our life, witnessing and in our meetings.
9. Wrestle at the throne of grace, and plead the promises of God in prayer. "All night I continued in prayer," she wrote on one occasion. Do not neglect to meet God in daily prayer.

Dear reader, do you desire the above? We hope you do! Therefore, persevere by God's grace to cultivate each of them for your own benefit, the good of men and the glory of God!