

The March of Triumph

- **2 Corinthians 2:14-16a** Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.
- The word “triumph” is a word picture denoting the Roman Victory March given in honor of every returning conqueror. It comes from the Greek word “THRIAMBEUO” meaning “a noisy victory procession.”
- To receive a Triumph, a Roman General had to meet three criteria:
 - He had to win a victory over an enemy on foreign soil
 - He had to kill or take captive at least 5000 enemy soldiers
 - He had to gain new territory for the Emperor
- The Triumph March also involved the following:
 - Roman priest burned incense to celebrate the victory
 - The parade included the spoils of battle (especially slaves)
 - The general’s sons walked behind him, sharing in his victory
- As he writes 2 Corinthians, Paul has experienced several trials:
 - He has been criticized for an unavoidable change in plans
 - He has recently disciplined a Corinthians church member
 - He is facing severe opposition to his Apostolic authority
 - He has endured life-threatening persecution throughout Asia
- NT ‘double’ books – a problem between them!
 - 1 & 2 Peter
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Paul couldn’t explain all the detours and disappointments, but he had faith that God was leading him! (“always causeth us to triumph”)

The Roman Triumph March is a word picture of Jesus Christ!

- **He won a victory over an enemy on foreign soil!**
Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

- **He took captive five thousand of the enemy in the book of Acts!**
Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.
- **He gained new territory for the Kingdom of Heaven!**
Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
- **Incense is burning in celebration of His victory!**
Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.
 - Incense meant victory to the Romans and defeat to the captives.
 - Prayer brings victory to the saints and defeat to the devil.
- **His triumph march includes the spoils of Calvary’s battle!**
Colossians 2:14-15 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
 - Word “thriambeuo” in verse 15 – only other time in the NT
 - Not only captives marched in humiliation, but also Satan himself
 - Triumph March continued in the book of Acts ... and today!
- **Jesus has sons walking behind him, sharing in His victory!**
Romans 8:15-17a For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.
 - Sons didn’t fight the battles, but they shared in the Triumph March because they were related to the General by blood!
 - I wasn’t at Calvary, but I have a right to the privileges of a Son!
 - As long as we stay in the Triumph March, there is victory!
 - Bumper Sticker: “I may be slow, but I’m ahead of you.”
- **2 Corinthians 2:14a** Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.

A SOLDIER IN THE ARMY OF GOD

I am a soldier in the army of my God! The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer! The Holy Bible is my code of conduct! Faith, prayer and the word are my weapons of warfare! I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire! I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity! I will either retire in this army at the rapture or die in this Army; but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out! I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable!

If my God needs me, I am there! If He needs me in Sunday School, to teach children, work with youth, help adults or just sit and learn, He can use me, because I am there! I am a soldier! I am not a baby! I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up or pepped up!

I am a soldier! No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me or lure me! I am a soldier! I am not a wimp! I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name and building His kingdom!

No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy or give me handouts! I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for or catered to! I am committed! I cannot have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around! I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside! I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit! When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing! If I end up with nothing, I will still come out even! I will win! My God will supply all my needs!

I am more than a conqueror! I will always triumph! I can do all things through Christ! Devils cannot defeat me! People cannot disillusion me! Weather cannot weary me! Sickness cannot stop me! Battles cannot beat me! Money cannot buy me! Governments cannot silence me and HELL CANNOT HANDLE ME!

I am a soldier! Even death cannot destroy me! For when my commander calls me from this battlefield, He will promote me to a captain and then bring me back to rule this world with Him!

I'm a soldier, in the army
And I'm marching, claiming victory
I will not give up, I will not turn around
I'm a soldier, marching heaven bound.