

PRAISE News

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TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR ORDERS

By Merlin Carothers



Civilians who are employed on a military base often do the same work as soldiers. But soldiers are a separate

class of citizen. The civilian employee can quit. A soldier may dislike the working hours, the pay, the boss, or working conditions, but he must work until his enlistment ends.

The civilian employee can leave if a war starts but not the soldier.

One type of Christian resigns from serving God if the requirements become too demanding. The dedicated disciple serves regardless of discomfort or the requirements placed upon him.

The Bible calls us to be soldiers: *Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus* (II Timothy 2:3). The duties of Christian soldiers are specific. We are called to serve God 100% of our time: *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord* (I Corinthians 15:58).

There is a type of Christian who knows very little about sacrifice. That person claims for himself the right to get up in the morning when he feels like it, and to entertain himself in whatever fashion seems to be appropriate.

Not so with the Christian who has come under the authority of God's Word. He knows that he is called by God to get out of bed in the morning in time to have prayer and Bible study before all other activities:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35).

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word (Psalm 119:147).

The Christian soldier knows that all entertainment must come under the scrutiny of God's Word. What entertainment is acceptable? The Bible has guidelines that are shunned by the person who has not enlisted as a Christian soldier. God's instructions to us are very clear. A good illustration is found in I Corinthians 10:31: *Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*. When this verse was written, there were few entertainments available to the average person, but even eating and drinking came under the rule – do nothing unless it is done for God's glory.

The "employee" type Christian rebels at such severe rules. "Why should I deny myself these harmless pleasures?" But the Christian soldier understands. The way he spends his time is determined by his orders which state, "Whatever you do must be done for God's glory."

And how do we determine what comes under the mantle of "God's glory?" If we are about to engage in some activity, we can pray, read God's Word and then decide! If the activity involves other people, we can invite them to pray with us.

If we follow His will our rewards are many: *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth* (Deuteronomy 28:1).

I enlist you as God's soldier. Please raise your hand and say, "God, all my time belongs to You. I enlist in Your service."

(Reprint from November 1991)



THE REAL LION



By Mary Carothers

God is the creator of all things. He alone can design and bring into being something out of nothing. God creates the original.

On the other hand, Satan is a created being. As such, he cannot create; he can only counterfeit. In other words, he has to fake it.

In I Peter 5:8, the Lord tells us to be alert, vigilant and self-controlled. Why? Because our enemy, the devil is always prowling around – *like a roaring lion* – looking for someone to intimidate and devour.

We need to know that Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (see Revelation 5:5). Jesus is the real thing, the true Lion. The devil is a counterfeit. He acts like a lion, and he even sounds like one, but we know that he is a liar and a deceiver.

Do you know why the lion is called the king of beasts? Not because he is the largest – the rhinoceros is larger. Not because he is stronger – the elephant is stronger. Not even because he is the fastest – the ostrich is faster. The lion is called the king of beasts because of his roar. It is the most fearful and blood-chilling cry in the wild. With it, he causes his prey to be paralyzed with fear.

What Satan counterfeits is the roar. He seeks to intimidate us with his lies and deceptions. He wants to paralyze us with fear – and make us ineffective as Christians. He attempts to destroy our sense of

worth by telling us such things as “Nobody likes (or loves) you. You’re dumb. You’re ugly.” He trembles lest we ever come to know how very precious we are to the Lord. In the same way, he tells unsaved people that they are too bad for God to ever forgive, that they are beyond hope.

But Jesus said that whoever came to Him, He would never cast away (see John 6:37). He wants us to know that His love and forgiveness are greater by far than any sin. By His blood, Jesus has purchased us, and we are gifts to the Father (see Ephesians 1:11&18 TLB). What the Lord tells us in His Word is true, what Satan tell us is a lie. Jesus is The Truth; Satan is the father of lies.

When we abide in Jesus (see John 15), when we hide God’s Word in our hearts (see Proverbs 3), when we obey the Lord (see Job 36:11), walking in the Spirit (see Galatians 5:25), God has told us we would tread upon and trample the counterfeit lion (see Psalm 91). He will give us authority over all the power of the enemy (see Luke 10:19).

Let’s remember what the Lord tells us in Job 4:10: *The lions may roar and growl, yet the teeth of the great lions are broken.* How was this done? Jesus accomplished this for us on Calvary. Our enemy – the counterfeit lion – has been defeated by the true Lion of the tribe of Judah. Let us therefore go forth as *more than conquerors* in Christ who loves us (see Romans 8:37).

(Reprint from September 1993)



A Special Note from Joann and Bruce Children of Merlin and Mary

We are honored to serve the Lord by continuing the *Foundation of Praise* ministry started by our parents many years ago. We are joined by Sally, Terri and Trevor in our work. With the Lord’s help, and the support of our generous praise partners, we continue to see God working in people’s lives daily through Merlin’s books. Please keep us in your prayers and thank you again for all your support. May God bless you.

PRAISES FOR PRISON TO PRAISE!

Prison to Praise has been changing lives through its powerful message and the inmates love this book.

CHAPLAIN, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, VANCOUVER, WA

I first read *Prison to Praise* in the 80's and it started me on a journey of wholeness that is still on going. What a blessing your family has been in my life.

EILEEN, CO

I just finished reading *Prison to Praise*. Thank you so much for carrying on with this ministry. I do praise God for you and keep you in my prayers.

ANNE, IA

Someone gave me *Prison to Praise* while I was in recovery. I finished it in one day and WOW what a great book. I have been praising God for everything. Thank you so much.

JOEL, MS

Thank you for the generous donation of *Prison to Praise* books. The success of our rehabilitation program relies on the valued support of ministries such as yours.

CHAPLAIN, WOMEN'S FACILITY, CHOWCHILLA, CA

I just finished reading *Prison to Praise* and was blessed by it. It was very timely, and I look forward to learning more about praise and growing in my relationship with the Lord.

TIFFANY, TX

Thank you so much for *Prison to Praise*. I have read it twice and I am now loaning it to my friends.

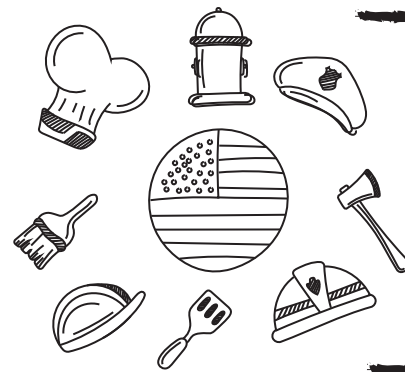
AARON, OR

Prison to Praise and the Lord touched my heart. Thank you for bringing God's message of hope to the world.

KENNETH, NY

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BE SAFE AND ENJOY
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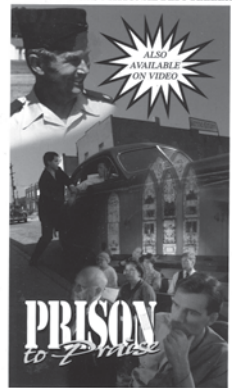
THE FOUNDATION OF PRAISE

HAS RECEIVED GIFTS
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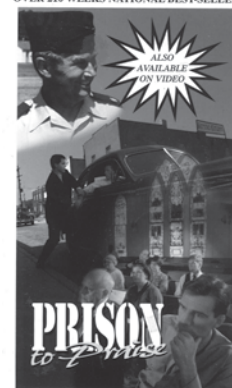
OVER 210 WEEKS NATIONAL BEST-SELLER



MERLIN CAROTHERS

Looking for an Opportunity to Serve the Lord?

OVER 210 WEEKS NATIONAL BEST-SELLER



MERLIN CAROTHERS

You can begin by paying attention to places where people have little to do but wait. Places like doctors and dentists offices, hospitals, waiting rooms, airports, and train and bus stations. You can give them a copy of *Prison to Praise* or leave it there for the next person. Please pray and ask the Lord to guide you to those who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel. God will bless your efforts to share the message of praise with others.

Go into all the World and preach the Good News to every creature (Mark 16:15 NKJ).



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10	1.75	\$50	\$8.00	\$25.50

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