

THE BATTLE LINE

Matthew 12:30a

For two thousand years people have discussed this statement by Jesus. It is a short, to the point message from the Lord, the Master, the Savior, the Captain of our salvation to His own people; “you are either with Me or you are not with Me.” There is no neutral ground with Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:11-12 The bible makes it clear that we are in a warfare and the battle lines have been drawn from the garden of Eden until the final battle at the end of the Kingdom Age. Jesus is on one side and Satan is on the other side. All people of every age must decide which side they are on.

I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 2:3-4 Paul warns us that we are to fight as good soldiers should. He also warns us not to entangle ourselves with the things of this world because it would displease the Lord who has chosen us to be soldiers for Him. Right there is the problem with most believers today!

- Jesus says we are either building, organizing, and teaching or we are destroying.
- Jesus says we are either repairing and helping or allowing decay to set in.
- Jesus says we are advancing His cause or helping to destroy it.
- Jesus says we are either part of the solution or part of the problem.

Matthew 12:30a; Mk.3:14 Notice that Jesus emphasizes “with me”. To be with Him is to know Him and be loyal to Him. When He chose the twelve it was to be with Him in heart, fellowship and spirit.

Exodus 32:26-28 In the O. T. Moses dealt with the same problem as we deal with today. Remember that we are talking about God's people that He brought out of Egypt and miraculously saved.

Joshua 24:14-15 Once again Israel's leadership had to challenge the people to be on the Lord's side and serve Him and obey all His word. As soon as Joshua died the next generation fell into idolatry.

I Kings 18:21 During the time of the prophet Elijah God's people were serving both God and they were also worshipping the false god Baal in order to satisfy the evil political leader king Ahab.

Revelation 3:15-16 Jesus speaks to the church of today, the church that wants to be neutral, not wanting to “get involved with politics” or doesn't preach hard against the evils of the day in order not to hurt anyone's feelings. Are churches that act that way thinking they are really on the Lord's side?

Ephesians 6:13 Those believers that are truly on His side will stand for Him against any and all odds.

Galatians 5:13-26 Paul speaks to both groups of believers then, and now. There are saved believers that are not living for Christ and therefore are not with Him. Believers that are with Him will be living in the fruits of the Spirit and will be loyal to Jesus Christ, His church and His people **-(Gal. 6:10)**.

THE GATHERING

Matthew 12:30 It is no coincidence or mistake that Jesus sets forth in order the believers position first with Him, then the believers service, gathering. Doctrine comes first then duty comes after. Salvation and walking in the Spirit first then service secondly by gathering.

John 15:1-8 A believer that is with Him is one that is abiding in Him. It is those believers that are truly sold out to Christ who will be the ones that gather with Him, that is, will witness and win souls.

Isaiah 11:12; Matthew 23:37; John 1:11 The Lord continued to try and gather the children of Israel to His side for salvation but they stubbornly refused to be with Him or be for Him.

Matthew 12:30b; 13:30; John 10:27; I Corinthians 3:9-17 The gathering and scattering that Jesus talks about refers to actions on the part of a shepherd, a farmer, or a builder. The genuineness of our faith is proven when we help Him gather the sheep, help gather the harvest, and help build carefully on the foundation of Christ in order to please Him and receive our reward when the fire tests our work.

Matthew 12:30b; John 10:12 He makes it clear that when we don't stand with Him, when we don't serve Him in and out of the church, then are not helping to gather, we are helping to scatter.