

## **“Backward, Christian Soldiers” or “Onward, Christian Soldiers”?**

As a critique on the shameful plight of all too many Christians and Churches today, one Believer wrote this scathing adaptation of the famous Christian Hymn, “Onward, Christian Soldiers:”

### **Backward, Christian Soldiers**

“Backward, Christian Soldiers, fleeing from the fight,  
With the Cross of Jesus nearly out of sight.  
Christ our rightful Master, stands against the foe,  
Others have been battling – must we also go?

Like a mighty tortoise, moves this church of God,  
Brothers were we treading where we’ve often trod.  
We are much divided, many bodies we,  
Having different doctrines, not much charity.

Crowns and thorns may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus neutral does remain.  
Gates of hell should never against that Church prevail,  
We have Christ’s own promise, but think that it will fail.

Sit here then ye people, join our useless throng,  
Lend with us your voices, in a feeble song.  
Blessings, ease and comfort, ask from Christ the King,  
With our modern thinking, we won’t do a thing!”

### **Christ, the Messiah, King of Kings’ words –**

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. So then, because you are neither cold nor hot, I will spue you out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor,

and blind, and naked...As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”  
Revelation 3: 15-19.

**Onward, Christian Soldiers –**

“Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before,  
Christ the Royal Master, leads against the foe  
Forward into battle, see His banners go!

At the sign of triumph, Satan’s host doth flee;  
On, then, Christian soldiers, on to victory.  
Hell’s foundations quiver, at the shout of praise;  
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Like a mighty army, moves the Church of God;  
Brothers we are treading where the Saints have trod.  
We are not divided; all one body we:  
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Onward, then, ye people: join our happy throng.  
Blend with ours your voices, in the triumph song:  
Glory, laud and honor, unto Christ and King.  
This through countless ages, men and angels sing.

Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus, going on before.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 31: 6; II Timothy 2: 3.

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