

Cruise Ship or Battle Ship?

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” – Ephesians 6:12

If you had to choose between being a passenger on a cruise ship or a sailor on a battleship, which would you select? I’m confident most would choose the cruise ship since its purpose is essentially to pursue pleasure. Few, when given this choice, would decide to serve as a sailor on a battleship because of the hard work and potential risk of losing one’s life in combat. A cruise ship is not designed for battle but for pleasure and relaxation. A cruise is a time to “get away.” I can imagine that a typical day for a sailor on a battleship would be exceedingly different than an average day for a passenger on a cruise ship. On a cruise ship, you can sleep as late as you want, eat whenever you desire, and basically do whatever you want since you have no responsibility. But, for a sailor, your day would likely be filled with duties to tend to at appointed times. Each sailor has an assigned job (or jobs) and is fully expected to carry out his intended service. Otherwise, things won’t go very smoothly, and the whole ship may fail its purpose. This is the nature of a military ship, and properly executed service becomes even more critical during combat. What does this have to do with God’s word? As a Christian, are you on a cruise ship or a battleship? Christians should be on the Lord’s “battleship,” if you will. The Scriptures depict that we are to be in battle spiritually against evil; we are to be faithful soldiers for the Lord and His kingdom! The apostle Paul writes to his son in the faith in 1 Tim. 6:12, “Fight the good fight of faith...” In 2 Tim. 2:3, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” Is the church to be a cruise ship or a battleship? We know the answer, but does it accurately describe our present condition? Every Christian (or crew member) has a place to fit in and a task to accomplish. We are not tourists aboard God’s vessel! We must find our place and fit in. We are here to fight the good fight of faith and endure hardship laboring for the Lord!

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