

CHEERFUL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE LORD

"And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the Lord".
II Chron. 17:16

This text is the only record that we have of Amasiah. While we see him but for a moment, he lives to all generations in this one sentence. The world never knew him, or if it did it forgot him, but God did not forget this obscure soldier in an obscure kingdom. Here is his epitaph, and this is his memorial to all generations.

I. He was a cheerful volunteer for the Lord.

It is said of him that "he willingly offered himself unto the Lord." He was a ready volunteer:

1. He needed no hunting out
2. He needed no looking after
3. He needed no leader
4. He needed no pressing

II. He was a consistent volunteer for the Lord.

1. He made no reserve as to what he had
2. He made no reserve as to what he did
3. He made no reserve as to when it should be
4. He made no reserve as to how that service should be rendered

III. He was a commendable volunteer for the Lord

1. He did not profess to be a prophet
2. He had a difficult position--that of being a general or captain in an army
It was customary for the general to offer of his spoils to the Lord, but Amasiah offered himself to the Lord, and then he dedicated his things to Him. He entered upon his work in a spirit of religious devotedness and earnestness.
3. He rose to eminence in his vocation
The reason for that was that he did the right thing with alacrity, cheerfulness, earnestness in spirit, and animating eagerness and an abounding joy.
4. He made the service of the Lord his life work--
This service is:--
(1) Reasonable (2) Honorable (3) Remunerative (4) Safe
5. He left an honorable record
God commended him for what he did. How thankful we ought to be that God accepts imperfect service, faltering faith, partial consecration, and a little love.

IV. He was a challenging volunteer for the Lord.

He is a splendid example to challenge others to be cheerful volunteers for the Lord. He is an excellent example:---

1. To the young
2. To those in high positions
3. To those who are rising in the world.

"God loves a cheerful giver;" not only the giver of his money, but of his time, of his strength, of his intellectual resources, of all the forces of his soul, of all the opportunities of his life.