

THE GOOD SOLDIER

2 TIMOTHY 2:3,4

INTRO: The Bible teaches us that as Christians we should be as dedicated to our biblical mission as a soldier is committed to his military mission. Let's observe from 2 Timothy 2:3,4 how that is to be accomplished.

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I. THE ENDURANCE OF THE GOOD SOLDIER

“ENDURE HARDNESS”

Question: What is hardness?

Answer: The word “hardness” means “affliction” or “trouble.” So, to “ENDURE HARDNESS” means to “**BE PATIENT AND WITHSTAND THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF TROUBLE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**” In reality it means: NEVER QUIT, NEVER GIVE UP, AND ALWAYS MAINTAIN A GOOD ATTITUDE THROUGH IT ALL THE TROUBLES OF LIFE!

THE POINT: A GOOD SOLDIER TRAINS IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED TO FACE THE HARDNESS OF THE BATTLE.

A. The Christian must Expect hardness in the Spiritual Battle

NOTE: The Christian faces many obstacles in the spiritual warfare. The main obstacles come through our three enemies: THE WORLD, THE FLESH, and AND THE DEVIL!

1. Spiritual hardness will come according to Jesus – John 16:33
2. Spiritual hardness will come according to Paul – Acts 14:22
3. Spiritual hardness will come according to James – James 1:2
4. Spiritual hardness will come according to Peter – 1 Peter 4:12

B. The Christian must Exercise for the Spiritual Battle

NOTE: **WE MUST TRAIN IF WE ARE GOING TO PREVAIL!**

1. Train through Learning the Word of God.
2. Train through Applying the Word of God.
3. Train through Living the Word of God

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE EXCELLENCE OF THE GOOD SOLDIER

“A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST”

THE POINT: A GOOD SOLDIER IS NEVER MEDIOCRE!

NOTE: The word “GOOD” means “OF GREAT VALUE, VIRTUOUS OR EXCELLENT AND THAT WHICH SURPASSES THE NORM.”

- A. The Person of Excellence – Jesus Christ is our example
- B. The Practice of Excellence – We should serve “beyond the call of duty.”
- C. The Power of Excellence – Brings boldness to do right.
- D. The Prospect of Excellence – To accomplish the mission properly

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE EXCLUSIVENESS OF THE GOOD SOLDIER

“ENTANGLETH HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE.”

THE POINT: A GOOD SOLDIER IS TOTALLY FOCUSED ON HIS MISSION

NOTE: The “affairs of this life” include any person, place, or thing that has the potential of keeping us from fully doing the mission God has called us to do.

A. We Must have a Comprehension of the Mission – Matthew 28:19,20

B. We Must have a Commitment to the Mission – 2 Timothy 4:7

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE EXPECTATION OF THE GOOD SOLDIER

“TO PLEASE HIM WHO HATH CHOSEN HIM.”

THE POINT: A GOOD SOLDIER LISTENES TO NO ONE EXCEPT HIS COMMANDING OFFICER.

NOTE: OUR COMMANDER IS JESUS CHRIST!

A. We must REMEMBER the One Who has chosen Us – John 15:16

B. We must RESPECT the One Who has chosen us – Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: