

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

Introduction and Review

- ❑ We have been learning that trials & suffering are a normal & expected aspect of Christian living.
- ❑ We have also been learning that a right & growing relationship with Jesus is the basis of joy in any circumstance of life.
- ❑ Moreover the ultimate goal of every Christian is to grow in relationship with Christ until we get to heaven!
- ❑ Today we'll learn more about the nature of the conflict & resources for the conflict in the trials of Christian living.

I. A Good Soldier of Christ Described (v. 1, 4)

A. Strength (v. 1)

Timothy was facing an extremely difficult time in ministry that was creating discouragement, doubts & fears. He did not need more from God, but needed to use what God had already provided (2Tim. 1:6-7). Christians get strength from grace that saves & keeps us (Eph. 2:8; 2Co. 12:9; 1Co. 15:10) – forgiveness [no guilt, shame, fear] & power.

B. Dedication (v. 4)

A soldier may have a normal civilian life (family, home, career), but he cannot allow personal matters to distract him in battle. His dedication & priority is to the military & his commanding officer – many lives are at risk. The same is true of a Christian in ministry for Christ our Commander (Lk. 14:25-27, 33; 16:13).

II. A Good Soldier of Christ Equipped (Eph. 6:10-18)

A. Equipped for action (v. 10-13)

Every Christian is encouraged to be strong & spiritually equipped to fight our enemy. Our enemy is spiritual, organized, powerful & evil. We must be prepared to win the spiritual battle (2Co. 10:4-5)!

B. Spiritual equipment (v. 14-18)

***Truth** from God is needed to fight against the devil's lies. **Righteousness** (godly living) is needed to fight accusations. **The Gospel** is needed in the fight against the false gospel &*

*deception (Rom. 1:16). **Faith** is needed to trust God when the battle is intense. **Salvation** is needed to fight doubts & assure us that we are at peace with God (Rom. 5:1). **The word of God** is needed as the offensive weapon to progress in battle. **Prayer** is needed for communion, wisdom & power from God.*

III. A Good Soldier of Christ in Action (v. 2-3)

A. Teaching (v. 2)

A good soldier can detect other good soldiers who need to be taught principles & techniques to win the battle. Instructing & training other Christians for ministry is essential in our warfare – making disciples & building up the army of God (Mt. 28:19-20)!

B. Suffering (v. 3)

*A good soldier must decide whether the cause for which he fights is worth the sacrifice & suffering that must be endured. The Christian must likewise resolve that suffering for Christ is worth it (Lk. 14:28): to see sinners saved from eternal destruction, people enjoy life & no longer fear death, Christians blessed in this life & rewarded in heaven, to know that a new heaven & earth awaits us & **God is pleased!***

ILL: US Military has both volunteers & drafted people. I was almost drafted in '69 - '70. I started thinking about sacrifices – education, family, career, pleasure, comforts, etc. The call to serve my country & the cause of serving my country was worth it. I would not volunteer, but I would certainly go if drafted because I had counted the cost & was convinced in my heart that it was worth it.

APPL: The same is true with us spiritually. The military draft is very similar to the call of God to salvation & ministry – not one of us volunteered. We were all draft dodgers (Rom. 3:10-11, 23). But Jesus found us when we were hiding in sin & darkness, radically changed our hearts & called us to salvation, gave us the desire & power to be saved. Then He equipped us for ministry; He gave us the desire & power to sacrifice in ministry. Then He put us into action as good soldiers of Christ Jesus.

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brother or sister if you are a Christian, you are also a soldier. And since you are a soldier, you should want to be a good soldier for Christ Jesus. Therefore **reconsider** everything that Christ has done for you in salvation, **reconsider** how He has equipped you for ministry, **rededicate** yourself to the ministry for which you were called (home, church, employer, school, etc.), and **resolve** that you are willing to sacrifice whatever Christ may demand because it is truly worth it!

If you are not a Christian, I want to assure you today that salvation is worth it. Nothing in this life compares to being saved from punishment for your sins. Nothing compares to being saved & living every day in peace with Jesus. Nothing compare to being saved & going to heaven. But you must trust Jesus for your salvation. You must believe in Him for yourself, no one can believe for you. Will you believe today?

SUBJECT: [A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus](#)

TEXT: [2 Timothy 2:1-4](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [June 26, 2011](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [955](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX3](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)