

# A GOOD SOLDIER

## 2 TIMOTHY

Text: 2 Timothy 2:3

### **2 Timothy 2:3**

<sup>3</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

A good soldier will have certain things that make them a good soldier.

Note:

## **1. A GOOD SOLDIER IS A FOLLOWER (2:3)**

### **2 Timothy 2:3**

<sup>3</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

#### **A. This Implies a Relationship**

In order to become a soldier an individual must join the army. No one No one can be a soldier for the Lord until they first get into the army. This is accomplished only through receiving Jesus as one's Savior.

### **John 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

### **Acts 16:31**

<sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

## **B. This Implies Rank**

There is always someone higher than you. The same is true in the Lord's army.

Every child of God is under ranked under Jesus and is responsible for following Him and His will for their lives.

1 Cor. 6:19-20.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

## **C. This Implies Rules**

To refuse to follow orders is treason!

When we are in the Lord's Army, we have the obligation of obeying His orders even unto the death!

Notice the call of Christ that has not changed.

**Matthew 16:24**

<sup>24</sup> Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

When we refuse to live as the Lord desires, then we have crossed the line from follower to traitor.

**James 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

**2. A GOOD SOLDIER IS A FAITHFUL (2:3-4, 4:7)**

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

**2 Timothy 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

A. Is Seen in His Patience (vs. 3)

Endures hardship and does not quit. The good soldier realizes that there will be troubles along the way and is not detoured by them.

The Christian soldier understands that pain is often part of the Christian experience.

**John 16:33**

<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Remember that the Christian is called upon to face life with extreme patience.

**Hebrews 12:1**

<sup>1</sup> Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

B. Is Seen in His Priorities (vs. 4)

A good soldier seeks to please the Commander.

Notice that the good soldier has no higher goal in life than pleasing His Superior.

The good soldier knows that anything which interferes with his performance in the military must be done away with.

The good soldier wants to please his Superior and does whatever he has to do to get that job done!

Who comes first in your life?

Whatever or whoever it is, that is your god!

Pleasing the Lord ought to be the first priority of every child of God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

<sup>31</sup> Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 6:20**

<sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

C. Is Seen in His Practice (4:7)

The good soldier takes care of the things delivered unto him.

He is determined to do a good job, and he refuses to do anything to bring disgrace and dishonor upon his Superior.

So it is with the Christian soldier.

He wants to live his life in a manner that brings honor to the Lord and not dishonor.

Are you keeping the faith this morning?

**Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

**Colossians 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children, <sup>12</sup> That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

### **3. A GOOD SOLDIER IS FAMILIAR**

There are some things that the good soldier knows. He is familiar with:

A. With the Sound Of The Commander's Voice

For the Christian the way to get more familiar with the Lord's voice is to spend more time listening to it. You do this by getting in the Word. Do you know Him when He speaks?

**John 10:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. <sup>4</sup> And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the

sheep follow him: for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

## B. With the Skill Of Using His Weapons

The good soldier knows that he is engaged in mortal warfare and he knows that the only way to succeed in the fight is to be proficient in the use of spiritual weaponry. You and I would do well to learn the art of spiritual warfare if we intend to succeed for the glory of the Lord.

### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. <sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

## C. With the Strategy Of The Enemy

The good soldier knows that the enemy is ever active and never rests.

The soldier of the Lord knows that the enemy is shrewd and ever attacking, but he also knows the Lord is there to help him.

**Hebrews 13:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

He knows that regardless of the trap, God will make a way of escape for him.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

The good soldier studies the methods of his enemy and learn his weaknesses and these exploits to the fullest extent of his ability. The good Christian soldier needs to be wise to the ways of the devil and he needs to know that the Lord Jesus is greater than any enemy we will ever face.

**1 John 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.



## D. With the Shadows Of His Friends

### **Hebrews 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

The good soldier not only cares about his own welfare, but he also looks out for the welfare of his fellow soldiers, Gal. 6:2.

### **Galatians 6:2**

<sup>2</sup> Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

He learns about them by being around them. There is a need for the soldiers of the Lord to train together.

## **4. A GOOD SOLDIER IS FIGHTER (4:7)**

Paul makes 3 statements in this verse that describe the good soldier.

Notice:

### A. He Is Determined

The good soldier does not retreat in the face of the enemy; he does not run from a fight. Instead, he stands his ground and fights the battle until the battle is over!

## B. He Is Driven

The good soldier realizes that the battle does not run according to his time frame. He knows that another is in charge of the duration of the battle, but the good soldier is driven to finish. The good soldier is in the battle to the finish.

Many Christians are about one disaster and one service away from quitting on the Lord.

I challenge you to keep serving and keep fighting!

## C. He Is Dedicated

The good soldier dedicates himself to keeping his oath. He is determined to live for the Lord regardless of the personal cost. The good soldier keeps the faith, do you? He keeps it by living it, sharing it and defending it all the time. The faith is precious to the good soldier and he does everything in his power to keep it pure and undefiled.

# **5. A GOOD SOLDIER IS A FINISHER (4:7-8)**

## A. He Has Resolve

The good soldier is in it for the long haul. He does not quit at the first hint of trouble. He is a finisher. God

give us Christians with the attitude of finishers. We need some who will stay by the stuff in these days!

### B. He Has a Reason

Why does the good soldier endure hardship, stay in the fight, and follow the Leader selflessly?

The good soldier knows the price that was paid by his Superior to make a place for him in the army.

The good soldier knows his lord loves him and that Jesus died to make a way of salvation for him.

Therefore, he loves the Lord and no price becomes too high for the good soldier to pay.

### C. He Has His Reward

The good soldier finishes his course because he knows that at the end of the war, every deed will be rewarded by the Commander in chief. For those who stay in the battle, there will come a glad day of blessing. They will hear the Lord say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant..."

Close:

Would you classify yourself as a good soldier of the Lord? If you are like me, you probably recognize areas

where you could be a better soldier. If so, then I challenge you to come to the Lord right now and let Him make things as they should be. If you have never joined the army of the Lord, then today would be a good time to make that a reality. When you pass from the scene, will it be said that you were a good soldier of the Lord? It can be! But, that is up to you!