

Intro

NLT = 2 Timothy 2:3-4

3 Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

~ Paul used many analogies to picture the Christian life. We want to focus on Paul's instructions to Timothy about being a soldier. With the Roman army ruling the world at that time there would have been Roman soldiers everywhere and it was easy for Paul to liken the Christian life to that of a soldier

- Paul mentioned others as fellow soldiers
 - 1 Phil 2:25 - Epaphroditus
 - 2 Philemon 2 – Archippus
- Paul told Timothy to war a good warfare (1 tim 1:18)
- Paul gives the picture of a soldier's armor and weaponry in Eph 6:10-18
- Paul also said that these weapons we use warfare aren't carnal but are mighty through God (2 Cor 10:3-5)
- So then we also are soldiers and ask what is required for us to be good soldiers of the Lord in his army?

~ Soldiers on active duty expect hardship. Battling the enemy on the front lines, the soldier lives in harsh conditions—damp weather, poor food, uncomfortable sleep, dirt and filth, inadequate shelter, and exhaustion. The further one retreats from the front lines, however, the more frequent and trivial become the complaints. Those involved in the struggles of survival and the exhaustion of combat rarely complain about the food—they are simply happy to eat. (Holman NT)

~ In the same way, Christians who determine to live holy, obedient lives before God place themselves on the front lines of spiritual warfare. They encounter attacks of Satan, suffer scorn and rejection, and often deny themselves many comforts. (Holman NT)

Outline – A Good Soldier Has:

~ His Mandate = Endure hardness (Endurance)

~ His Method = Not distracted (Undistracted)

~ His Motivation = To please his commander (Pleasing)

Mandate (V3)

Endure hardness (Endurance)

- Timothy is do something that characterizes a good soldier, not a lazy, sloppy, apathetic one
- Paul tells Timothy what a good soldier look like – he endures hardness
- Here Timothy is to endure afflictions with Paul
- When we look at the most elite soldiers they must endure the most physically and demanding training
- In Band of Brothers the 101st easy company had a Lieutenant named Sobel who prepared his company for the p physical hardships they would encounter on D-Day. They were in elite physical shape and Lieutenant Sobel made them train and do marches and maneuvers at night. So much that they were almost more comfortable in night maneuvers than day maneuvers. He wasn't a combat leader and the men didn't want to go into combat with them but he prepared them for the hardships of combat
- Endure hardness (one word (sunkakopattheo) appears 4 times and means to undergo hardship with Paul
- 3 of those 4 occurrences appear here in 2 Timothy (2 Tim 2:3, 9; 4:5)

Enduring hardness is a theme in 2 Timothy

- 2 Tim 1:8 enduring while partaking in the afflictions of the gospel with Paul
- 2 Tim 2:9 Paul suffered trouble as an evildoer
- 2 Tim 2:10 Paul endured all things for the elects sake
- 2 Tim 2:12 If we suffer with him we shall reign with him
- 2 Tim 3:11 Timothy was aware of Paul's persecutions and afflictions at Iconium, which Paul endured
- 2 Tim 4:5 As a pastor Timothy is to endure afflictions

- ~ We are going to encounter hardship in our walk with Christ if we're seeking to live a spiritual life for Christ that matters. Paul knows Timothy is seeking to live for Christ so therefore as a soldier he'll encounter hardships
- ~ Some of Timothy's hardships were his own temperament, false doctrine, people despising him because of his youth, strong personalities in the church, the challenges of pastoral ministry, spiritual warfare,
- ~ Enduring hardship requires devotion. Performing as a good soldier requires total commitment (Holman NT)

Methods (V4)

1 Not distracted (Undistracted)

- ~ Undistracted soldier= doesn't look his focus
- ~ *NLT = Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.* doesn't entangle himself in the affairs of this life
 - Warreth (4754 strateuomai) to lead in a military campaign
 - *1 Tim 1:17, 18 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare*
 - Entangles himself (1707 empleko) entwine,
 - The word entangled - it comes from a term used of sheep that get their wool caught in thorns. Such a word picture graphically illustrates what occurs when believers wander off from commitment to Jesus Christ. Unless we keep vigilant watch on our thinking and spirit, we will become snagged on the thorns of popular philosophy and current social values. We must be on constant duty, guarding our commitment and our desires.
 - *2 Pet 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again **entangled** therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*
 - Affairs (4230 pragmateia) transactions ((only used here))
 - business, occupation, only here in N.T.
 - Here the contrast is that a soldier's duty is bound up in that of his commander and he has no other business occupations or careers because his duty is to please his commander
 - There was no moonlighting
 - See this fully illustrated from the Rules of War among the Romans, by Grotius, "in loc." Roman soldiers were not allowed to marry, or to engage in any husbandry or trade; and they were forbidden to act as tutors to any person, or curators to any man's estate, or proctors in the cause of other men. The general principle was, that they were excluded from those relations, agencies, and engagements, which it was thought would divert their minds from that which was to be the sole object of pursuit.
 - Life (979 bios) present state of existence

Barclay on the soldier's service

- (i) The soldier's service must be a concentrated service.
- (ii) The soldier is conditioned to obedience.
- (iii) The soldier is conditioned to sacrifice.
- (iv) The soldier is conditioned to loyalty.

Motivation (V4)

- ~ His Motivation = To please his commander (Pleasing)
- ~ To strive to please, to accommodate one's self to the opinions desires and interests of others
- ~ Jesus Christ is the one who enrolled us. When I enlisted I sat with a lady who processed all my paperwork. I didn't sit with the president, a general, or a colonel. I never saw that lady again
- ~ But the one who enrolled me Jesus is my shepherd, savior and he's with me and I want to please him
- ~ We want to please him and the way we do so is by not intertwining ourselves with the world

Jesus as a pleasing Son and what we learn from him

1 When Jesus was baptized we see one of the few times the Father spoke from heaven and he said, "this is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased." (Matt 3:17)

- Obedience was that which pleased the Father

2 Jesus is the servant in Matt 12:18 that Isaiah predicted would come in Isaiah 42:1. Matt 12:18 says Christ is the Father's beloved in whom the Father is well pleased

- Servanthood

3 Matt 17:5 At the transfiguration when Peter suggested they should make a tabernacle for Moses, Elijah and Jesus

the Father spoke and said this is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased, listen to him.

- Taking up the cross

4 In the parable of the talents the two servants who had multiplied their talents were told by their Lord, "well done, you good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things and now I will make you a ruler over many things." Matt 25:21,23)

- Faithfulness

~ Do we need to take up obedience, being a servant, taking up the cross or faithfulness?

Conclusion

~ What is the context of Paul asking Timothy to share in hardships with him? It's a ministry context. It's the gospel

~ We endure for the sake of the gospel

~ All of Paul's sufferings were related to his gospel ministry

~ What does the gospel mean to you? Paul said he wasn't ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it's the power of God unto salvation

~ We might be daily living our lives but are we living for the sake of the gospel? How much priority do we give to the gospel as soldiers of Jesus Christ?

~ We're a good soldier of Jesus and in turn a good soldier of the gospel good news

~ Make sure we understand what the good news is...Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the dead

~ We also must remain unflinching in our devotion to Christ and his kingdom: to please [our] commanding officer. Then, when hardship comes, we can endure.

~ As soldiers of Christ we have a spiritual enemy that wants to destroy, distract and discourage us

~ Our aim is to please the our savior