

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

TEXT:

2 Timothy 2:3:
*Thou therefore endure hardness,
as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

**100% PURE
GOD-FEARING
† † †
CHRISTIAN
SOLDIER**

Introduction:

The Lord Jesus is the Captain of our Salvation, and He trains His soldiers for spiritual warfare.

Hebrews 2:10: *For it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings.*

WE are to fight the good fight of faith according to:

1 Timothy 6:12: *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

When the Apostle Paul came to the close of his ministry, he said:

2 Timothy 4:7: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

Our Lord will not train His soldiers by letting them lie on featherbeds or in flowery beds of ease. **We are not soldiers on dress parade, for we are still in warfare against the forces of satan.**

2 Corinthians 10:4: *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)*

I. What are the Characteristics (Qualifications) of a Good Soldier?

A. A Good Soldier is to be Properly Equipped.

Ephesians 6:11-17:

11 Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 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.

13 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.



14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the Breastplate of Righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace;

16 Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

2 Corinthians 10:4: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

Peter mistook our Lord's meaning of weaponry in our spiritual warfare. He tried to use a carnal weapon — a sword — and cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant. But Jesus told him to put that one up, for we do not fight the Lord's battles that way.



Matthew 26:51-52:

51 And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the High Priest's, and smote off his ear.

52 Then said Jesus unto him, "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

God provided for us Spiritual Armor and tells us to "PUT IT ON" in:

Ephesians 6:11: Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

And He tells us: take unto you the whole (complete) Armor of God. God provided it, and we must acquire it from Him and appropriate it.

Ephesians 6:13: 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.

[We are to have on these six specified pieces of heavenly provisions of Armor, namely:](#)

1. ***The Helmet of Salvation***
2. ***The Breastplate of Righteousness***
3. ***The loins girt about with Truth***
4. ***The feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, above all***
5. ***The Shield of Faith must be taken***
6. ***The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God***



There you have them, each part to protect us from head to toe. The meaning of these items we will discuss later.

B. A Good Soldier must not go it on his own charges -- he is to obey his own Captain. As soldiers of the Lord, He will call us to those who are bound by demons that they might received deliverance from the chains of sin and satan.

1 Corinthians 9:7: Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

C. A Good Soldier will endure hardness.

2 Timothy 2:3: Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.



Soldiers must be persevering. They endure persecution, discouragements and distresses without murmuring. They endure temptations, always looking for God's way to escape that they may be able to bear them.

1 Corinthians 10:13: 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.

Flee fornication;



1 Corinthians 6:18: Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

2 Timothy 2:22: Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

D. A Good Soldier does not entangle himself with the affairs of this life.

He must sever himself from the cares of this life, the pleasures of sin and the riches of this world.

2 Timothy 2:4: 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.

E. A Good Soldier fights to win over the enemy.



2 Corinthians 2:14: Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place.

Isaiah 58:6: Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

F. A Good Soldier has full confidence in his Commander.

1 John 5:14: And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His Will, He heareth us:



II. WE ARE “CHOSEN” TO BE SOLDIERS.

2 Timothy 2:4: 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.

Not everyone is fit to be a soldier — bodily defects may hinder. Likewise, moral and spirit defects can hinder from being a good soldier of Jesus Christ. David was a good soldier for the Lord until he allowed the idle moments to bring him into the direct line of temptation. So long as he was fighting the Lord’s battles, he was winning. When he took a leave of absence, he lost out

through the lusts of the flesh and brought shame to his name and the cause of Christ besides.

Ephesians 1:14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His Glory.

Revelation 17:14: These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

III. The Good Soldiers are rewarded with many honors.

Revelation 21:7: He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.

Revelation 2:26: And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Revelation 3:5: He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

Revelation 3:12: Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the Name of My God, and the Name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new Name.



THE SEVEN-FOLD CHARACTER OF EVERY BELIEVER

Text: 2 Timothy Chapter 2

Introduction: Each believer is presented under seven different characters.

1. In verse 1, the Believer is presented as a son who is exhorted to be strong in the grace that is in Jesus Christ. Grace goes with sonship.

2 Timothy 2:1: Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2. In verses 3-4, the Believer is presented as a soldier

2 Timothy 2:3-4:

³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

⁴ 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.

3. In verse 5, the Believer is presented as an athlete who obeys the rules of the game of sports

2 Timothy 2:5: And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.



4. In verse 6, the Believer is presented as a husbandman who is a faithful laborer, who should reap and receive the benefits of his laborers

2 Timothy 2:6: The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

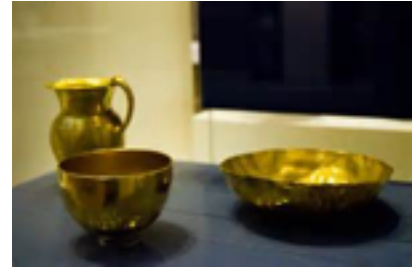
5. In verse 15, the Believer is presented as a workman who does not need to be ashamed.

2 Timothy 2:15: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

6. In verse 20-21, the Believer is presented as a vessel unto honor, or one to dishonor.

2 Timothy 2:20-21:

²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor.



²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

- 7. In verse 24, the Believer is presented as a servant who does not strive, or fight, or argue; but is gentle to all people; capable of teaching, patient, and meekly instructs those in spiritual conflicts**

2 Timothy 2:24: And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient . . .

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