

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

GOOD SOLDIERS

2 Timothy 2:1-4 Jeff Schreve

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:1-4

How can you be a GOOD soldier of Christ Jesus?

1. Understand that you don't have what it takes, but He does.

A. The Christian life is all about grace and faith.

B. We grow strong in grace through prayer and the Word.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

2. Understand that there will be suffering and hardships.

A. The world hates the message of the gospel.

"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." John 3:19-20

B. The world will persecute those who stand up for Jesus.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. 2 Timothy 1:8

3. Understand that your #1 job is to please the Lord.

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:4

A. We please the Lord when He is our passion.

My dear Jesus, my Savior, is so deeply written in my heart, that I feel confident, that if my heart were to be cut open and chopped to pieces, the name of Jesus would be found written on every piece. Ignatius of Antioch, disciple of John

B. We please the Lord when His Kingdom is our priority.

C. We please the Lord when we walk by faith and not fear.

"Courage is the virtue that makes other virtues possible." Winston Churchill

*"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth."— **John Wesley***

Will you determine to be the Lord's good soldier?

MY "GOOD SOLDIER" DECLARATION

1. I will strengthen myself daily in God's grace.
(2 Tim. 2:1, Heb. 4:15-16, 13:9, 2 Tim. 2:15, Matt. 6:33)
2. I will remember that suffering and hardship are to be expected.
(2 Tim. 2:3, Acts 9:16, 2 Tim. 3:12, Jn. 16:33).
3. I will live my life to please my King who loves me.
(2 Tim. 2:4, Heb. 11:6, Eph. 5:8-10, Col. 1:10, Jn. 15:9, 17:23)
4. I will grow in my faith and pass it on to the next generation.
(2 Tim. 2:2, 2 Pet. 3:18, Gal. 5:16-26)
5. I will walk in faith and not in fear.
(2 Tim. 1:7, Heb 13:5-6, Ps. 23:4, Is. 43:1-5)

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Ignatius of Antioch