

GOOD SOLDIERS

by

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Specific Objective:

To get the people to rally around the Word of God, and the man of God and put the pedal to the metal in service to God before His soon return.

Text:

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. (KJV)

Introduction:

My friends, if you are a Christian here today then you are in a war. You are a soldier of Jesus Christ. The day you got saved you enlisted in the Lord's army. The benefits of being a soldier in this army is that all your needs will be taken care of, A Life insurance policy that can't be beat, and a retirement plan unsurpassed by anything man could ever imagine. For service in this army you can be a bad (try to get out of the fight) soldier, an average (do the minimum you are required to just get by), or you can be a good (enduring hardship on the front line) soldier. I think, that since it is God's army the very minimum we should strive to be, is GOOD SOLDIERS!

1. A Good soldier has a mission. (Commission)

A) To preach and teach all nations the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (KJV)

B) To show others the way of salvation.

Mark 16:15-16

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (KJV)

C) To distribute Bible's (the Word of God).

Mark 13:10

¹⁰ And the gospel must first be published among all nations. (KJV)

ILLUSTRATION:

When I was in the navy, from the time of boot camp until the time I was discharged, they always had a plan for me. Every day they had a PLAN Of the DAY. When I made a WestPac the ship I was serving on had a mission. I didn't know the complete logistics of the mission but I knew that we were going to IRAN to get the hostages back and then home. I knew specifically what my job was and the entire crew worked together to complete the mission. Without a mission we would just be sailing around the Pacific Ocean aimlessly.

2. A Good Soldier Knows and follows the chain of command.

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (KJV)

A) Jesus Christ is the Captain.

Hebrews 2:10

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. (KJV)

B) Pastor is the lieutenant.

- 1) We need leadership to see the big picture.
- 2) We need leadership to train and equip the troops.
- 3) We need leadership to direct the battle.

Illustration:

Where do you think the people of Israel would be without the leadership of Moses in the Wilderness? God was there in the wilderness leading the children of Israel by a pillar of fire and smoke. The Captain was there but He ordains leaders (shepherds) over His flocks.

As a leader, the boss sees the big picture that his employees don't see. One is not greater than the other, each has a different responsibility and a different job in order to accomplish the mission.

3) Good soldiers endure hardships.

2 Timothy 2:3

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

A) *By using the right equipment.*

Ephesians 6:14-17

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: (KJV)

B) *By being faithful.*

1 Corinthians 4:2

² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (KJV)

C) *By always being prepared.*

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (KJV)

Conclusion:

Will you be a good soldier? Follow orders? Be faithful? Fight? Be prepared? You are in the Lord's army How will you serve?

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: (KJV)