

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: 2 Timothy – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: 2 Timothy 2:3-7 – Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ!

Today’s Message:
“Endure Hardness”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began the key chapter of this book and were reminded of the stewardship entrusted to Timothy. It is a serious thing to be entrusted with the words and work of the Lord. Today, we will be reminded of the reality of the Christian life – **HARDNESS**. In Paul’s last words, the Holy Ghost said that Timothy *must endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ!* Now that is interesting to think about, and it applies to us also. What makes a GOOD soldier? What are the characteristics of a BAD soldier? And what does it mean to **ENDURE** hardness AS a good soldier? This is God’s message to you today...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 2 Timothy 2:3-7

#1. The Soldier – the Christian calling is to be a GOOD soldier of Jesus Christ.

THOU THEREFORE ENDURE HARDNESS

- ✓ The context is *stewardship* of the Gospel and DOCTRINE of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ said the world HATED and HATES Him. **John 7:7; Jas 4:4**
 - The Lord Jesus Christ said the world will **HATE** you. **John 15:19; Mt 5:10**
- ✓ The idea of a harm-free, no-suffering Christian life is not found in the Bible.
 - Jesus Christ said in this world, ye SHALL have tribulation. **John 16:33; Acts 14:22**
 - Paul said afflictions are the **NORMAL** Christian life. **2Tim 1:8; 2:10; 3:11-12; 4:5**
- ✓ The “hardness” will come in every possible way, you must suffer without yielding.
 - *Endure hardness* for the glory of Jesus Christ!
 - *Endure hardness* for God’s church, truth, and mission!
 - *Endure hardness* for your family, for those you love, for future generations!

W1828 “Hardness”
 Difficulty to be accomplished; severe labour, trials or sufferings.

W1828 “Endure”
 To last; to remain; to bear or suffer without yielding.

NOTE The basic expectation for all Christians should be persecution and difficulties.

AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST

- ✓ Characteristics of a GOOD soldier:
 - Obedience, discipline, self-denial, faithfulness, courage, endurance...

Q: Is it possible for a Christian to be a bad soldier?
It is not only possible and logical, but we see it daily!

2023 VISION: Hold the Fort!
Making disciples and caring for souls!

A good soldier...

A soldier...
gives up all rights as a citizen of his representative country. He is, by design, removed from all connection with his present life to be effective.

- Soldiers beside disobedient troops...
- Is separated from family at times...
- Lives in cold, rain, mud, heat...
- Fights when tired... without rest...
- Gets shot at and wounded...
- Hit by enemy and "friendly" fire...
- Experiences defeat and victory...
- Experiences loneliness and fear...
- Exercises to the extreme to prepare...
- Knows how to use his weapons...
- Watches people die...
- Mourns and weeps for those killed in action...
- Completely and thoroughly follows orders...
- Obedient to the higher authority...
- A good soldier is always flexible...
- A good soldier is always ready...

NOTE A soldier is a soldier 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, and 365 days per year.

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.

A soldier...
becomes entangled when he begins to love this world. Are you too busy for God? for prayer? for His word? for His work?

- ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ is the CAPTAIN of our salvation! **Hebrews 2:10; Joshua 5:14-15**
 - Jesus Christ is our **LIFE** – we ought to live to please Him! **Colossians 3:4; Rev 4:11**
 - It is possible to be *entangled with the affairs of this life*. **Mt 13:22; Mk 4:19; Lk 8:14**
 - It is possible to not please our Lord Jesus Christ. **1Cor 7:22-23; 2Cor 5:9; 1Ths 2:4**

NOTE As good soldiers of Jesus Christ, we will please Him when we are involved with His affairs rather than being entangled in the affairs of this life.

#2. The Striver – 2nd picture – endure hardness as one who competes for a PRIZE.

AND IF A MAN ALSO STRIVE FOR MASTERIES... YET IS HE NOT CROWNED, EXCEPT HE STRIVE LAWFULLY

Q: What do you want master for God's glory? If you obey the word of God, He may help you!

W1828 "Striver"
One that strives or contends; one who makes efforts of body or mind. The same analogy was used by Paul in **1Cor 9:24-27**

- ✓ Jesus said, "STRIVE to enter in at THE STRAIT GATE..." **Lk 13:24; Jn 3:5; Rom 10:9-13**
- ✓ We ought to ENDURE HARDNESS more than those for a corruptible crown! **Col 1:29**
- ✓ The Judgment Seat of Christ is for **ETERNAL** rewards! **1Cor 3; Rom 14:10; 2Cor 5:10**
- ✓ An *incorruptible crown* is only given if you *strive lawfully* – BY THE WORD OF GOD!
 - Winning is not everything (e.g. Jeremiah and Jesus Christ). Losing is the test!

NOTE Characteristics: self-denial, self-discipline, training, honesty, exertion, focus.

#3. The Husbandman – 3rd picture – endure hardness as a diligent FARMER.

THE HUSBANDMAN THAT LABOURETH MUST BE FIRST PARTAKER OF THE FRUITS.

3-fold Comparison
1. SOLDIER
No fighting, no victory.
2. ATHLETE
No striving, no mastery.
3. FARMER
No work, no crop.

- ✓ The farmer must be diligent to PLOW the ground and SOW seeds. **Pr 27:23-27**
- ✓ The farmer must be **FIRST** to PARTAKE of the fruit of his labor. **1Cor 9:7; Gal 5:22**

NOTE Characteristics: sweat, hard-work, diligence, consistent, prayer, trust God.

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