

II Timothy 2 – 3 March 2024

“Profitable As A Good Soldier?”

Introduction

*So, if in Chap 1 Paul was teaching us to be ‘proud to live for Jesus’

*Then Chap 2 Paul is teaching us to be ‘profitable as a good soldier’

*Remember Paul is writing from a Roman prison & has gotten quite used to seeing Roman soldiers

Today, we’ll see 7 characteristics of the soldier of Christ – are you acting as a good soldier of Christ?

#1 – Good Soldiers Are Strong (Vs 1-2)

Read Vs 1

1. Be strong in what?
 - a. In the teaching of grace (John 1:17)
 - b. In all the teaching of Paul

2. A soldier of Christ stands strongly in agreement with the Word of God
 - a. Can't do that unless you know it
 - b. Can't know it unless your life takes it in
3. The Bible teaches "trickle down teaching"
 - a. Strength comes 1 at a time as 1 mentors 1
 - b. From "Moody to Graham" account
 - i. SS teacher Edward Kimball helped lead Moody 1854
 - ii. J. Wilbur Chapman was saved by Moody at meeting
 - iii. Billy Sunday was saved at a Chapman meeting
 - iv. Mordecai Ham was saved at Sunday meeting
 - v. Billy Graham was saved at Ham meeting 1936
4. *We need people that strongly affirm God's Word!*
5. You want a church growth formula, here it is

#2 – Good Soldiers Are Steadfast (Vs 3-4)

Read Vs 3

1. 'Endure hardness' is translated as 'endure afflictions' in II Tim 4:5
 - a. Word itself indicated enduring 'lustful evils'

2. “As a good soldier...” – this life isn’t a puzzle or cycle, or experiment...it’s a race and a war
 - a. We have an enemy, purpose, a goal & a God!
3. How do we endure hard affliction
 - a. Read Jam 5:13 – By coming to the Lord

Read Vs 4

1. A Christian warrior is stuck on Jesus, steadfast, dedicated to the singular cause of Christ
2. If a cause, hobby or goal in this world, is taking more of our time or money than the pursuit of Jesus, then we have entangled ourself in this world
3. There’s a phrase for *entangled* in modern English
 - a. Oh his life ‘revolves around..._____’
 - b. What would your best friend say your life revolves around?
4. *We need people that are steadfast, unmovable in their focus on serving the Lord!*

#3 – Good Soldiers Are Strict (Vs 5-10)

Read Vs 5

1. The word here is the Greek for *athlete*
2. An athlete must follow the rules of the contest
3. God's soldier must be disciplined to follow God's good standard of helpful and harmful
 - a. Can't say, "I know this is sinful, but God understands" What!

Read Vs 6-7

1. Remember these things are to be spiritually discerned, it's not about farming or athletics
2. Timothy is producing the fruit of God's Word
 - a. He's to first partake in it himself
 - b. Be strict in the sense of, have a dedicated routine of how you're filling yourself w/ God's Word so you're recharged daily to give it out
 - c. Sea of Galilee is fresh water b/c of its inlet & outlet, Dead Sea is dead b/c there's no outlet

Read Vs 8-10

1. God's Word is powerful, w/o limits, it's worthy of being disciplined about giving it our
2. Why was Paul so strict on himself?
 - a. Not 'for God's sake' – we can't add anything good to God
 - b. Paul did it for the sake of other's salvation
3. Do you believe that sharing the Gospel is truly beneficial to others? It will change your life
4. *We need people that are strict & disciplined*
(this doesn't mean grumpy – ha)

#4 – Good Soldiers Are Secure (Vs 11-13)

Read Vs 11-12

1. There's certainly a spiritual application to this
 - a. When we count ourself dead to this life, we then live for Christ (Rom 6:4-8)
2. But, in context, speaking of physical death here
 - a. Paul is about to die & has suffered

3. Notice twice it says “we shall...”
 - a. He’s preparing them, that even if life gets horrible, you can continue in the security of knowing you have life, you have Jesus
 - b. Read I Pet 2:24 – We will be healed physically & we ARE healed spiritually
 - c. Read Rom 8:18 – Where neither moth nor rust can corrupt

Read Vs 13

1. The emphasis isn’t on us being faithless, but on Him being faithful
2. It’s read like this, ‘*Even if we’re faithless, it doesn’t change God’s nature of being faithful*’
3. Suffering & dying for Christ is just further evidence of our commitment to Him, but it’s not the reason we’re secure in our eternal destiny
 - a. We’re secure b/c He’s faithful (Read John 10:28)
4. *We need people that live w/ the uttermost security*

#5 – Good Soldiers Are Sound In Faith (Vs 14-19)

Read Vs 14-17a

1. Share only sound, solid words
2. Grow up in God's Word unto a sound faith
3. Otherwise, we just argue about subjects that have no end or answer (Read Prov 10:19)
 - a. Since the 1200s they've been arguing, 'how many angels can dance on the head of a pin'
4. Next Paul gives a specific example of babbling

Read Vs 17b-19

1. We've seen that Paul doesn't have a problem naming names
2. Notice that there is a time to not even bother arguing with someone
 - a. We know & stand in truth w/ confidence that God knows we believe the truth & they don't
3. *We need people that concentrate on the sound words of our Lord*

#6 – Good Soldiers Are Sanctified (Vs 20-23)

Read Vs 20-21

1. There are Christians that are messing w/ sin that have entered God's 'great house' but they're vessels of dishonor to do the dishonorable service
2. Notice there's a way to become an honorable vessel – to purge / cleanse self of dishonorable acts
 - a. Psm 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word"

Read Vs 22-23

1. Sometimes the only right way to live holy is to get up & physically move from a bad relationship
 - a. Potiphar's wife came at Joseph & he fled
2. Also, keep yourself w/ other sanctified people
 - a. You should have a small group that you can tell your biggest temptations to
 - b. Relationships are the difference in purity
3. *We need people wanting to be so close to God, they don't care how far from the world they are*

#7 – Good Soldiers Are Servants (Vs 24-26)

Read Vs 24-25a

1. We want to teach people about Jesus, but we do it in a winsome, gentle way
 - a. Just like Jesus (Read Matt 11:29-30)

Read Vs 25b-26

1. This is the reason that we're gentle & kind
 - a. B/c we're not seeking to win the argument, but the arguer
2. Unbelievers aren't kings over their world, but they're captives under Satan's dominion
3. *We need servants that will serve the Gospel in a palatable way to be received*

Conclusion

So, are you allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you into becoming a profitable soldier or the Lord?

1. Are you **strong** in knowing the Word?
2. Are you **steadfast** thru temptations?
3. Are you **strict** as an athlete in training?
4. Are you **secure** in your destiny with Jesus?
5. Are you **sound in faith** not being distracted?
6. Are you **sanctified** apart from the world?
7. Are you a **servant** to friends & enemies alike?

Upon the moment of my death, I want to hear those words...

“Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord”