



May 12, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

2 Timothy 2:1-13

The purpose of this document is to help us take the word beyond our Sunday gathering and to **think through the practical implications of the Scriptures** and then to be intentional about living the word out.

Answers should be thoughtful and thorough to ensure we are truly DIGGING DEEPER.

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Vintage Church Durham



A Sanctified Soldier

2 Timothy 2:3-7; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Questions Worth Asking

Paul recently charged Timothy to share in suffering for the gospel. After telling Timothy what he should do and why, Paul goes on to provide instructions for how he should share in suffering...as a good soldier. Through the three metaphors Paul uses, we see a thread of thought that paints a rather vivid picture of the way a disciplined follower of Jesus Christ is to live. Disciples of Jesus, sharing in the suffering for the gospel are to have a singular focus on their Savior (soldier), unapologetically follow the commands of Christ (athlete), and remain fully persuaded that their faithfulness will be fruitful. Stated succinctly, disciples are to be devoted, disciplined and decided. Satan doesn't want to see us living as sanctified soldiers of Jesus Christ. The demons' tactics are to distract, deter and/or discourage the disciple from standing firm. We must hold our ground and continue to fight the good fight of faith. Many lives hang in the balance of this cosmic battle and we can't afford to give up ground.

1. What has proven to distract, deter and/or discourage you from living on mission for Jesus?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How are the things you are watching or allowing others to watch on television, listen to on Spotify, scroll through on Instagram, play on game consoles (pick the medium of entertainment) keeping you or them from drawing closer to the Lord?
- How are the thoughts you're entertaining that aren't just, pure, lovely or true discouraging you from living for Jesus? ([Philippians 4:4-9](#))
- How have you been able to structure your life to be intentional about weeding out distractions that have the potential to deter you from the call of discipleship?

2. When were the seasons in your life that you felt most sure in your stance as a good soldier of Jesus Christ?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How (do you feel/did you feel) when you were standing firm in your faith and fighting the good fight?
- What was/is your daily routine in that season of good soldiering, and how did/does it influence your daily decisions/discipleship?
- What do you need to reprioritize in order to reposition yourself so you can reclaim your stance as a good soldier of Jesus Christ?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you destroy distractions of discipleship...

1. List out the things that are distracting you from being a devoted disciple.
2. Be diligent in dealing with the most significant distraction and continue to work on the list over time.
 - a. Don't be afraid or ashamed to see a counselor or psychiatrist to deal with the weighty matters of life.
 - b. Share your list with someone so you can be held accountable.
3. Develop a daily routine of pursuing God's presence so you remain focused on being a good soldier. (i.e. devotional, pray three times a day, read a Psalm before each meal, read the Bible 15 minutes a day, etc.)

Remembering Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 2:8-9; Hebrews 12:3-4

Questions Worth Asking

The idea of a suffering soldier doesn't necessarily conjure up pleasant thoughts in anyone's mind. The idea, however, of a Savior that was willing to suffer for those he was sent to save, does bring a sense of reverential awe to those who have experienced the love of the Lord. The Lord isn't asking his followers to do anything that he hasn't graciously led the charge on. Jesus Christ was the ultimate soldier. He demonstrated devotion, discipline and an unwavering commitment to the Father. He left heaven, took on flesh and humbled himself to the most shameful death...death on a cross. We aren't asked to do the same exact thing that Jesus did, but we are being asked to live with the same mindset as our Leader. When we stop and think about what Jesus did for us, it puts into perspective what we are called to do for him. While that will mean that we experience different trials and trying times, it is paramount for the believer to know that propagating the gospel will always lead to promising outcomes. The word of God can't be stopped no matter what. As we continue to spread the word like good soldiers should, we can do so victoriously even if we are suffering momentarily.

1. What was it about the gospel message that drew you into the love of the Lord?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Where were you when you realized and responded to the Lord calling you into relationship with himself?
- Why did you run from the Lord before or after salvation?
- In what ways did the unrelenting love of the Lord change the way you saw yourself and others?

2. How has the gospel message helped you to change the way you live the life the Lord has entrusted to you?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- In what ways did you change when you came to Jesus?
- How is getting to know Jesus more deeply causing you to address the areas of your life that aren't lining up with what you now know about him?
- What about Jesus' life inspires you to live with a devotion to the Father like he did?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you remember and respond rightly to Jesus...

1. Share your full testimony with someone who hasn't heard what Jesus has saved you from.
2. Ask someone else to share their story of how Christ has saved them.
3. Give up something you enjoy doing this week so you can have more time to read the Bible and pray (ex. cut out screen time). Share what you learned in that time with God with someone you know.

Realizing the Eternal Impact

2 Timothy 2:10-13

Questions Worth Asking

The question isn't, "are we willing to sacrifice?" The question is, "what are we willing to make sacrifices for?" Time and a frame-of-flesh limits us from being able to do everything we may want to do in any given day. We have to be strategic about how to maximize the moments that we have. Whatever the strategy, be it haphazard or thoroughly thought out, we have to say no to something(s) every hour. What we deem to be most important determines where we will and won't focus our limited time. Paul was willing to put all his time in advancing the gospel because he believed the impacts on his life and the life of others was long lasting. He believed his enduring for the gospel on earth would have earthly and eternal implications. Partnering with God positions us to be used by the Lord to present the truth to those whom the Lord is calling to himself. Paul also believed that partnering with God meant ruling with the Lord in the here-and-now and the there-and-then. With that kind of return on investment, it was no wonder Paul was willing to put all his time, treasure and talent in the Savior's stock. And the word of God tells us that Paul isn't disappointed in the return he received. Our earthly investments will impact our eternal increase.

1. Looking at your recent decisions, what things in your life would someone say is important to you?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What are you making sacrifices for and why?
- Why do you think people value man's opinion as much, if not more, than what the word of God says about us?
- What do you need to do in order to see your faith in God be the deciding factor in the things you do?

2. Why is it a struggle to make sacrifices for the Savior and endure hardships for an eternal hope?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How are cultural norms and societal successes impacting the areas you choose to make sacrifices?
- What has shaped the way you view a life of comfort vs. a life of suffering?
- How has suffering added value to the way you matured as a follower of Jesus?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you stay focused on the future hope we have in Jesus...

1. **Read and meditate on [Deuteronomy 28](#) & [Revelation 21:1-8](#).**
2. List out the temporal things you cherish(ed), their current condition, their future worth and their eternal value.
3. Food has become a crutch for many of us; sacrifice a day of eating physical food and fill up on spiritual food (fast).