

A SOLDIER'S ORDERS

Key Scriptures:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

⁹Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. -2 Timothy 4:1-11, 16-18

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. -John 8:34

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:12-13

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, -Philippians 1:29

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. -Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV

Sermon Points:

By spiritually wandering away we become MIA.

- **Will you have a Metal of honor?**
- **When we love our sin. We become a POW.**
- **Who do you have?**
- **The Lord has a search and rescue mission for us.**



VERTICAL.CHURCH

Conversation starter. Start light and fun conversation in your group about the series topic.

- Describe the last time you were lost and what happened. (i.e. I once drove by Sea World five times trying to get to the beach)

Contemplate. Ask questions to get your group thinking about these principles.

- Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. What do you think is meant by, "Being poured out as a drink offering," and what is his departure? He talks about a fight and a race, why do you think he connects that with keeping the faith?

Contribute. Ask questions that create personal openness in your group.

- Read John 15:12-13. In what ways are you laying down your life for those you love? (i.e. meeting with people when you have little time but they need it, serving at church, giving when it hurts, or sharing Jesus with someone)

Cry out to God. Pray intensely for your group on the topic.

Father, change our hearts so we love people like You have loved us. We want to love completely as Jesus showed us when He gave His life for us. Thank you for loving us, amen.

Commit to change. What's a new area to grow with the Lord?

- I will do an act of kindness this week to someone that I'm close to.
- I will do an act of kindness for someone I barely know.
- I will show love to someone I don't know.