

THE GOOD SOLDIER

30/5/10

The bible is full of inspirational topics that are designed to open our minds and hearts to the real opportunities that are available for us. This topic looks at the wonderful parallel that God has drawn between a good soldier and a good Christian. The obvious benefit comes from the ability to relate the words of God to our current life. What is the great enemy that all Christian soldiers need to fight? The main battle is against death... thus good soldiers are the enemies of death and the servants of life. Soldiers understand one very important point... they don't stop fighting until the battle is won!

The first battle is to know your strength and to correctly identify the enemy.

EPH 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. False doctrine, bad soldiers and ignorance are the main enemies of eternal life (God and Christ).

This is how a soldier thinks and acts.

2TIM 2:3 Thou therefore endure **hardness** (troubles and afflictions), as a **good soldier** of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that **warreth** (who fights for the Lord) entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. God comes first in everything because the battle never stops.

5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. To survive the battle against death... a sense of spiritual discipline and a strong sense of spiritual priorities are essential.

2PET 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again **entangled** therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

Bad soldiers won't survive the battle of life and death.

MAT 12:30 He that is not with me is **against me**; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. *If we are not fighting for the Lord, we are fighting for the enemy... there is no middle ground in the battle of life!*

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. Fight the good fight... that is our duty.

1THE 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are **unruly**, comfort the **febleminded**, support the **weak**, be patient toward all *men*. The loners are rebuked, the fearful are supported, the injured are cared for.

Support in battle and support at home.

1COR 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet **have ye not many fathers**: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. *Soldiers are loyal one to another... they don't run off when the battle gets tough. They have a heart that is likened to the good shepherd rather than the hireling (mercenary).*

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

MAR 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. *God cares for our needs as well.*

The final battle is getting closer by the day... it will be a surprise and violent attack... are you ready?

2PET 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a **thief in the night** (sudden and unexpected); in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Who can survive this type of warfare?*

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, What type of soldier is going to survive and win the final battle?**

12 Looking for and **hasting unto** the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? *Good soldiers see the battle and run towards it.*

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. *The final battle is swift and sure and then comes peace... death is halted... the victory is won.*

Fight the good fight... your life is guaranteed by God.

1TIM 6:7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. *Good soldiers walk in the spirit... not the flesh.*

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. *God promises to provide... thus our first priority is Godwards.*

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil (*at the expense of our Christian duty*): which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with **many sorrows**.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. *Put spiritual matters ahead of the rest... give God a chance to fill your life with blessing.*

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. *The victory is already yours... take it!!*