

2 Timothy 2:3-4

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ

When I was a young boy – going to Sunday School with my mom! – Sang this song I really liked

A) It had hand motions and everything – really fun!

B) I am not going to sing it – you know I don't do that well – **but I will tell you the words** –

1) And I will even show you the motions

I may never **MARCH** in the infantry
RIDE in the Cavalry / **SHOOT** the artillery
I may never **SOAR** over the enemy – but I'm in the Lord's army! **YES SIR**

C) I loved that song – something inside the little kid in me who like playing army men – light on fire

1) **GI JOE – WHOLE COLLECTION**

D) I liked the idea – I am in the Lord's army, me! Soldier for Jesus –

E) I had no idea what that meant – but I liked how it sounded

So did Paul – I don't know if they had army men – little Roman soldiers in his day – GI Octavious

A) But the metaphor of the Soldier was one that Paul LOVED!

AA) He told Timothy to “fight the good fight” (1 Timothy 1:18).

B) He called Archippus, who hosted a church in his home, a “fellow soldier” (Philemon 2).

1) He likewise called Epaphroditus the gentle messenger to the church at Philippi, a “fellow soldier” (Phil. 2:25).

C) In Ephesians 6 Paul described the Armor of God using each article of the soldier's armament as his object lesson for spiritual warfare

1) 2 Corinthians 10:3 The weapons of our warfare! .

Here in Ch.2 Paul is encouraging Timothy to live a strong Christian life- Again he uses the analogy of a Soldier.

2 Tim 2:3-5

3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Paul was well acquainted with the ways of the Roman Soldier!

A) When Claudius in Acts 23) ordered Paul to go to Caesarea for a government trial, **two hundred soldiers, two hundred spearmen, and seventy horsemen** from the Roman army formed his personal escort!

B) In Rome – under house arrest, Paul was guarded by a Roman soldier night and day for 2 whole years.

1) Paul was also chained to a soldier even as he wrote these words!

C) **SO Paul understood how good soldiers behaved, and how they obeyed the commanding officer.**

Consider for a moment what Paul might have learned! Facts about Roman Soldiers
Excerpt from *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon

A) **The patriotism of the Romans made them almost undefeatable.**

B) Upon entering the army, soldiers took a solemn oath

1. **Never to desert was their standard,** (The standard was a golden eagle, an object of fondest devotion.)

2. Submit his own will to the commands of the leaders,

3. Sacrifice his life for the safety of the Emperor and the Empire.

C) **Soldiers were inspired by pay which was excellent.**

D)The soldiers were also inspired by fear.

1. It was impossible for cowardice or disobedience to escape the severest punishment.

2. Centurions were authorized to chastise soldiers with blows.

3. Generals were authorized to chastise with death.

E) It was an inflexible maxim that the soldiers should dread their officers more than the enemy.

That dread produced in them!

1. Firmness
2. Discipline. They were easily managed, obedient, easily taught, and willing to learn;

Valor alone was not enough. Military exercises were vital and continuous.

1. These were held morning and evening.
2. Even if a soldier was older, he still did his exercises daily.
3. Sheds were erected in the winter for exercises.
4. Weapons used in the exercises were double the weight of those used in actual warfare.
5. The only difference in activity or circumstances during peace and war was the presence of blood on the battlefields.

The Romans were great Tacticians -They cultivated the science of tactics. { Perfected their moves.

The Jewish Historian Josephus wrote:

All their camp duties are performed with the same discipline, the same regard for security: the procuring of wood, food-supplies, and water, as required—each party has its allotted task; nothing is done without a word of command. The same precision is maintained on the battlefield; nothing is done unadvisedly or left to chance. (Josephus: Wars of the Jews: 3. 72-107)

Paul witnessed firsthand the discipline and the devotion of the Roman Soldier and drew a parallel for the Christian life.

A) Interesting: Paul calls Timothy to be a good Soldier of Jesus Christ!

Aa) Tells me it is possible to be a Bad one!

B) Asked some friends in the Military – what are the Characteristics of a good Soldier. 2 /25 yrs each

- 1) He does His Job without grumbling or complaining {Honor, Courage, Commitment
- 2) He is focused – not distracted by other things
- 3) He is Loyal – He wants to please his commanding officer

C) Paul basically says the same thing!

- 1) Endures hardship the right way.

2) Not entangled

3) Wants to please his Commander and Chief.

Consider Paul's words today: Glean some insights from my friends.

A) First thing Paul tells Timothy is to endure Hardship as a good Soldier of Jesus Christ

B) 2 Timothy 2:3 could also be translated "endure affliction together," "take your share of suffering," or "take your share of rough treatment. "

C) I Asked my friends – what are some of the hardships a Soldier faces today?

1) You probably will not be surprised by their answers

#1 Hardship: Separation from family.

A) Always on call - Moments notice – gone – away from loved ones - That by far is the hardest thing!

B) Some mentioned the conditions –

1) Iraq – Chemical suits – 140 degrees /110 in shade

C) Battle – Being a Target

D) Loss of Life – Huge

1) Seeing friends get wounded!

But each one of them talked about how their training plays a big part in their enduring – the right way.

A) Called it a **CONDITIONED RESPONSE!**

B) Not that it is ROBOTIC – they still have feelings and emotions –

1) Still deal with fear – but it is their training that enables them to overcome fear – do their Job

C) The heart of the good Soldier – He keeps going – Perseveres

Once, in the old wars, an English drummer-boy was taken prisoner by the French.

They amused themselves by making the lad play on his instrument, and presently one asked him to sound the retreat.

D) The drummer answered proudly that he had never learned that song!

E) It was the boast of Napoleon's soldiers — the guard dies, but never yields!

1) We Christians are called to be faithful unto death, and Jesus promises us a crown of life.

**The Lord puts us thru a Spiritual boot camp
Learn a conditioned response!**

A) His word is our weapon – TRIED & PROVEN

B) The weapon of Prayer

C) Dependency upon the Power of the Holy Spirit.

D) Conditioned response – Recognize the battle not ignorant of the schemes of the Devil

1) Stand firm – Clothed in the Armor

#1 He suffers hardship the right way!

#2 He is focused! No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life.

A) Paul's perspective here is wartime – engaged Not peace time.

B) He is focused – Not distracted or entangled.

1) Can't afford to be distracted, matter of life and death / His or of those around him.

C) Its often hard for us as Christians in the United States of America to remember we are at war.

1) We live in a society that, while philosophically hostile to Christianity, has not been hostile legally or politically

C) Unlike other countries in the world where the battle lines are more clearly drawn.

1) There Christians have often been required to make extreme sacrifices in every area of life.

D) Here heroism for Christ's cause is not thrust upon us, so we can forget we are warriors.

Though our warfare may not seem evident, the battle is all around us. 2 Division

1) Battles in Society:

Unbelief {Tolerance

Against Demonic forces – Strongholds – Demons over nations and cities

Humanistic philosophies –

D) It is easy for the Christian to just want to

Check out – on this – what is the use

1) Hide – give up –

2nd Personal hardships –

Against temptation

Against sin {Sin in our members – Wrestle with the flesh

Against Worldliness {Standards of Morality

The Good Soldier doesn't allow himself to get entangled.

A) The Greek word translated "entangled" is Empleko it means "to interweave."

B) Soldier in Battle is not tangled up in the affairs of this life.

C) Soldier in Iraq selling cell phones out of the back of his Jeep or Setting up a lemonade stand
Success in the world is not his passion

D) Do His Job – make it out alive – Get Home

1) The good Soldier is single minded – focused

E) The position of the soldier demands detachment from all that would hinder his wholehearted obedience to the call of His commander.

Liddell and Scott write that empleko was used in secular writing meaning...

"to entwine one's hand in another's clothes, so as to hold him."

Empleko pictures a soldier's sword becoming so entangled in his cloak that he is unable to defend himself in battle!

Empleko was also used of weaving or braiding the hair.

A) This picture reminds us of Samson, a strong soldier, who lost his power because he got entangled with Delilah! Worldly women

B) Lot LOOKED at Sodom ([Gen13:10](#)), then pitched his tent "TOWARD Sodom"

A) Reminded him of Egypt – World – Lost his focus

B) Wasn't long before Lot was living in Sodom

1) Entangled in it !

C) Sodom was having its way with Lot and his family!

James would call a soldier who entangles himself "a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." (Js1:8)

As Warren Wiersbe quipped

"If the men and women in the armed forces treated their orders with the same carelessness the average Christian treats God's Word—they would probably all be court martialed!"

Sometimes we forget why we are here

**A) Talking with a friend the other day – Business
Hard to not get entangled**

**B) Side tracked – More Business – Success –
1) Accolades – Acceptance**

Soldiers on a rescue mission:

**A) Friends said: You can't get entangled or
distracted, it means life and death – yours or those
around you**

**B) When we get distracted – it is also a life and
death thing – those around us who need rescued**

C) Don't lose sight of why we are here.

D) Not entangled – affairs of this life.

E) Parable of the Sower – Thorns – Deceitfulness of
Riches and the Cares of this life.

**# 3 The Good Soldier is Loyal - , that he may please
him who enlisted him as a soldier.**

Acts 20 "I do not consider my life as dear to myself,
in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry
which I received from the Lord Jesus

The greatest joy of a Christian will be to hear, "Well
done, good and faithful soldier"...

MacArthur adds that

"a spiritual Christian does not simply do minimum
duty for his Lord, Christ Jesus, but serves Him with
everything he is and has."

Audie Murphy was an unlikely hero. Weighing in at
only 112 pounds and with the face of a child, Audie
was 18 years old when he went overseas during
World War II. Nothing about him suggested a hero in

the making. Yet when called upon by his
commanding officers to do the duty of a soldier,
Murphy held nothing back. By war's end, the quiet
boy from Texas had fought with extraordinary
bravery and saved the lives of countless fellow
soldiers. He returned home to an adoring public, was
awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and
received at least 36 other medals—more than anyone
else in U.S. history, all because nothing meant more
to him as a soldier than the will of his commanding
officer.

For the Roman soldier his motivation was fear of his
superior – Our Motivation is love
Christ went to battle for us – Won the war –

More than Conquerors thru Him who loved us!

**Join the Lord's Army – The Benefits are
Wonderful!**