

## *A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ*

**2 Timothy 2:3**

“Thou therefore, endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (KJV)

In this passage of scripture the Apostle Paul, from a Roman prison, wrote his second letter to his beloved Timothy, his friend, a son in the spirit, and Pastor of the Church at Ephesus. Paul wrote to encourage Timothy in his ministry. In chapter two, verse three Paul encourages Timothy to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ, and gives him advice on personal conduct and relationships. Although this message was written to Timothy back in AD 67 it is a call to action for believer's today. God is looking for faithful soldiers. Paul tells Timothy to endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. In other words, bear your share of suffering, like a good soldier and not be caught up with the cares of this life. A good soldier faithfully stands watch over that which they have been given charge. What has God charged you to watch over?

To be a good soldier of Jesus Christ requires three skills. Christians must be proficient, patient, and passionate about the affairs of God. A good soldier must be **proficient**...that means competent or highly skilled in what they do, living holy for God or what they use, the Holy Bible. A good soldier surrenders their will completely over to their master to become proficient in the ways of their master. Have we, as Christians given our will over to God?

Secondly, a good soldier must be **patient**. Patience means being able to wait on God without murmuring and complaining. Patience also means being able to wait out your enemies. A good soldier can lie still, in an incredibly small space, for hours at a time watching, waiting and observing. They never complain, nor abandon their post until properly relieved. We often want relief or to see change right away when we are uncomfortable or pressed. If we wait on God, **Psalm 37:9** says... but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. The Bible says, wait on God and be of good courage!

Finally, to be a good soldier, we must be **passionate**. When we are passionate about something everyone one knows it. Whatever that passion is we just cannot keep it to ourselves. The Apostle Paul is our example: he was all about persecuting Christians and wreaking havoc in the church at Jerusalem. After his conversion, he was just as hard charging about spreading the Gospel of Jesus. What are you passionate about when it comes to the cause of Christ? Christians should be passionate about showing love, and spreading the word of God to all people. The goal of being a good soldier should be the goal of all of God's children. Amen.

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