

**A Message From a
Veteran to His
Fellow Soldiers
2Timothy 2:1-4**



Observations

Having Celebrated Veteran's Day Last Week, It Has Been Said:

- **It's the veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press**
- **It's the veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech**
- **It's the veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote**
- **It's the veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion**

All Veterans Gave Some and Some Gave Their All!

(WW2, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, Gulf War)

Paul Was a Veteran: A Person With a Lot of Experience
in a Particular Field
He Used Military Analogies to Describe
Our Christian Struggle

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong, in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No man (a soldier) that warreth entangleth himself in the affairs of this life (civilian affairs), that he might please him (commanding officer) who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

2 Timothy 2:1-4

Paul Uses Military Analogies to Explain Our Christian Responsibilities

#1 Be Strong

- He's not talking about physical strength (though it's good)
- He's not talking about academic strength (though it's good to acquire as many degrees as God allows)

Neither of These are Requirements in the Army of the Lord

Be Strong in the Grace That is in Christ Jesus!

- **Grace is defined as the unmerited favor of God**
 - You aren't worthy of it
 - You can't accumulate points to deserve more of it

Observations

- **A soldier gets stronger physically and mentally as his/her challenges mount (weights, distances, calculations)**
- **As our difficulties increase in life; we have a need to grow stronger in that which is good, our faith stronger, our resolve stronger, our relationship with Christ**
 - **Through every battle we face**
 - **Through every trial that comes along**
 - **Through every temptation that crosses our path**
- **Like every military soldier needs the support and backing of the U.S. Government; as Christian soldiers, we need the support and backing of Christ (His grace), and it is there for the asking! Hebrews 4:15-16, Jeremiah 10:23**

#2 A Christian Soldier Must Be Committed

Commit - To give over to another for care, or protection, to pass something on

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

- **When you read 1st and 2nd Timothy, you can see all of the advice Paul writes to Timothy like a father would a son (my father, not my mother, wrote letters of hope to me)**
- **The examples seen and instructions witnessed, pass them on, commit them (Rededication to Christ can be passed on)**
- **Many great soldiers, men and women, have passed on their knowledge of the Scriptures and their faith, and we should!**
- **Hebrews 11 is “a treasury list,” of God’s committed soldiers and their examples of faith to follow**

#3 Paul Says That Endurance is Necessary

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”(suffer patiently, Hebrews 5:8-9)

- Nobody ever said that the armed services was easy
- Some veterans spent days with no food or water, tortured, physical fighting (combat), Prisoners of War
- Paul, as a veteran, writes about his experience as a veteran
2 Corinthians 11:24-27
- As soldiers of the cross you may have to endure what you would rather not face (isolation, ostracism, lose influence, lose status, lose jobs, lose relationships, not loose enough, too straight, too moral)

#4 Stay Focused

- Paul's second letter to Timothy is penned while he, the veteran, is in prison and in it records one of the saddest stories of a fallen soldier in the entire Bible, 2 Timothy 4:10

“for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world (because he loved the world so much).”

- There was something in the world that “distracted” Demas and caused him to lose his protected status as an army veteran and he voluntarily left his post (assignment) Eph. 4:1-3
- Generally, you don't expect veterans to make “boot camp” mistakes, but they can (we can get entangled, 2 Peter 2:20-22)
- There are generally 3 reasons we choose to go A.W.O.L.
(Lust of the flesh, Lust of the Eyes, Pride of Life,
1 John 2:15-17-what appeals to our flesh, our eyes, our hearts)

Distractions Can Keep You From Focusing On What's Important

Paul Says That We Remain Focused To Please Our Commander in Chief

***“No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.”
2 Timothy 2:4***

When Something Else Becomes More Important to us than our main objective, we can get into serious trouble, Hebrews 12:1-2



Observations

Sometimes We're Just Trying to Please Too Many People and We Lose Focus on Christ

Paul says, "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10"



Therefore, as Good Christian Soldiers

#1 Be Strong

#2 Be Committed

#3 Be Willing to Endure Difficulties

#4 Stay Focused

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Believe the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Repent of Sins	Acts 17:30
Confess Christ	Acts 8:37
Be Baptized	Acts 8:38