

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ

*Preached By
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Open your Bible to second Timothy chapter two verse one. It reads “*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*”. The Greek word used here for **strong** literally means to be strengthened or empowered. We are to be empowered by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. When we look ahead to verse three in this chapter we will have a clearer understanding why Paul’s starting point is with grace that empowers and grace that strengthens.

So let us look at verse three. It reads, “*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*”. In this verse, Paul is instructing us to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ; Soldiers of Christ that endure hardness. Circle the word **endure hardness**. The Greek word is Kakopatheo, K-A-K-O-P-A-T-H-E-O. Kakopatheo means to suffer hardships, to suffer afflictions, to understand that trouble is coming and we are to endure no matter what comes our way.

I will be the first one to confess, this is not the kind of program or activity that I would be thrilled to sign up for. I’m not to sure that I know any honest Christian that is going to race down to the Soldiers for Jesus recruiting office so that they can sign up for some hardness. If they were anything like me, they would walk or run as fast as they can in the opposite direction. Who in their right mind wakes up every morning seeking out hardness?

Now we can see why we would not be much of a soldier in Christ’s army without the grace that the Lord provides that strengthens and empowers us to see us through the hardships, afflictions, and troubles throughout our Christian journey. I thank him daily for His grace that strengthens me. Not only does He give us strength, but also if you read in Ephesians 6 starting in verse 10, He gives us a spiritual suit. A spiritual armor specifically designed for each one of us that we wear when we go into battle, day in and day out. We don’t go empty-handed folks the Lord supplies us with enough grace so that we can make it through each day.

Let’s move on to verse four in the same chapter; I am in II Timothy chapter

two now in verse four “*no man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who hath chosen Him to be a soldier*”. No man that warreth and entangles himself with the affairs of this life; things that occupy our time, things that occupy our daily activities, things that interfere with our calling because we are chosen as the scripture says to be a soldier of Jesus Christ. Each and every one of us, no matter what capacity God has called you to be a soldier, is assigned with a commission. The Lord expects all of us to carry out what He has assigned us to do.

However, Satan will throw everything at us to entangle us in the affairs of this life. We always need to keep the Lord number one in our priorities; everything else will come after that. Why is it a must? So we may please Him who hath chosen us. You don't elect to become a Soldier of Jesus Christ, He chooses you. He chooses you to be a soldier, a soldier in his army, in Jesus Christ's army and not just an average soldier. Not just a soldier that gets by, but also a good soldier actively involved in what God has called and chosen you to accomplish.

Why did he call us to be soldiers? Well, I want you to circle the last word in verse four, **soldier**. Lets read the verse again “*no man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier*”. The Greek word there makes it very clear what type of soldier. A soldier in the Greek in this verse means; one who enlists into active service other soldiers. One who enlists others into an active service in the same service that you have been called and chosen to participate in. Satan is not going to like us invading in his territory. We are fighting against Satan's soldiers that are trying to keep others from receiving the salvation that was gifted to us. We are called to be a good Soldier of Jesus Christ and good soldiers involve enlisting into active service other soldiers. That is what that last word soldiers in the Greek means; to be actively involved enlisting others into the service of being a good Soldier of Jesus Christ and it serves a purpose.

You move on to verse 9 in the same chapter - chapter two verse nine in II Timothy. It reads, “*Wherein I suffer trouble,*” circle those two words; **suffer trouble**. Once again the Greek there is Kakopatheo. Kakopatheo. What was Kakopatheo? Just a quick reminder; one who suffers hardships, one who suffers afflictions, one who is going to have many troubles come their way because they are a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Satan does not want you to be a part of God's army and he is going to throw everything at you to

encourage you to go AWOL in Jesus Christ's army that He is building to carry out his purposes. Satan doesn't want you a part of that. But Paul states, wherein I suffer trouble. Paul was not immune to troubles. He once again uses the word Kakopatheo in verse 9, " *wherein I suffer trouble as an evil doer;*" Now Paul was not an evil doer and we all know that but, that is how he was perceived. Perceived as an evil doer because he preached the gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ and for that he was thrown into prison.

Here in verse nine " *even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.*" Now you can throw Paul or anyone else into prison but your not going to stop what the Lord wants to achieve. You can imprison human flesh but you cannot imprison the power of God and the desire he has through human instruments to get that Word out to others and there is a reason for it. Like I said earlier, verse ten " *Therefore I endure all things for elect's sakes that they may also obtain the salvation to which is Christ Jesus with eternal glory*".

Lets look at that verse a little closer " *Therefore I endure*". **Endure** there in the Greek is Hupamaneo. What Paul is saying here is; I endure bravely and calmly all things, for who's sake, for the elect's sake. In other words: I suffer all these hardships, all the troubles, and all the afflictions being in prison so that the word of God can reach others. So the word of God can reach others for the elect's sake that they may also obtain the salvation. The wonderful gift of salvation that gives us eternal life which is in Christ Jesus. With eternal glory Paul knew that once he started his commission, Satan would come at him with everything that he could; including prison, including hardships, and afflictions. Paul also said, I endure it bravely and calmly for the elect's sake because it was Paul's passion and it also needs to be all of our passion. That others may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus.

That is the reason why we have to endure and the reason why we have to go through the Kakopatheo but we don't have to go it alone God strengthen us with his grace, grace that is a free gift from God because he knows we are going to need it. We are going to need it folks. Just look at Paul, once you are lined up with God's plan for your life; you are going to need His grace. You are going to need every bit of it because you are, just as I am, going to suffer hardships, troubles, and afflictions as a soldier; a good Soldier of Jesus Christ but it is worth it. It's worth to share with others so they can also obtain the salvation, which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. Now that's a

plan that every Soldier of Jesus Christ should rejoice that they are a part of, so others can obtain the salvation, which is in Christ Jesus.

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