

Spiritual Commissary

2 Timothy 2:2-4 KJV “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 Jesus Christ. 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.”

Hello brothers in Christ, PRAY and grab your Bible.

Well, I hope you all are doing well and trusting that God is in control even when things aren't going the way we want them to. I hope you all are praying and studying non-stop. Well, last week we were going to cover 2 Timothy 2:1-4 but we never got past verse one. So this week let's pray and dive in and see if we can get through verse 4 today. Now verse 2 Paul is reminding Timothy of the training he received from Paul and the many fruits he witnessed. A reminder to Timothy that what he taught him was Gospel truth and probably done so in front of the church, probably Luke, Silas, and others also.

Now here is where Paul starts using some strong analogies, that I love. Verse 3, ***“Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”*** YES, in fact, that's what we pray and strive for. Is that God will raise up some Strong Christian Warriors from among you. The Roman Empire was one of the largest and longest-lasting in history. A big reason is that their soldiers were some of the most successful in history too. Paul knew quite well, as anyone should know beyond a doubt, that the reason for the achievement of these records was being disciplined along with rigorous training. Not just training, but the soldiers were selected before even being trained. If God has sent the Holy Spirit to move in your heart to admit you are a sinner and the need to seek Christ, then you have been “selected” or better yet “chosen”(John 6:44). I feel that to be one of the biggest weaknesses in us within the body of Christ today, is our lack of self-discipline and willingness to train. Then we wonder why God is not moving mightily through us to reach more lost souls.

After the Romans selected recruits, for many reasons we won't get into here, they would begin a four-month training trial. What we might call a four-month-long “Boot Camp” in today's times. Those who failed in this training would be rejected, and those who completed the training would then swear a military oath and become official legionaries. With God, we are all going to fail at times, or fall short. Unlike the Romans, God rejects none with a sincere heart and pure motives

who have sworn allegiance to Christ. While I have the utmost respect for our Military and thank God for them. How much greater honor and important a mission, to be a Soldier of Christ! The first and most important skill they were taught was marching. I have no doubts this is also one of the most important things new believers or Christians who may have backslid into sin and are repenting must learn and not waiver from as well, marching. That we may not understand or see God's plans for our lives or future here, but that we have decided to follow Jesus. That we are going to "March with God" and other Strong Christian Warriors NO MATTER WHAT, and not look back. Even when things make no sense, look impossible, or are even quite painful as many of our storms and trials will be. We #KGCOG Keep Going Children Of God marching home.

Training in marching also taught them unity. They moved in unison as one massive unit and could execute strategic formations quickly and effectively. We each have different unique to us God-given talents, skills, and gifts God has given us to use for His Glory and purpose. We should be marching in unity with discipline and readiness to be ready at our post for whatever task He sets before us, no matter how impossible the mission looks, or whatever it costs us, to be used for His will. Sadly Satan never rests in trying to stop God's plan for redeeming mankind and uses everything in this world to distract us, and we eat it up like candy. The successful victors keep marching in fellowship and union with other believers NO MATTER WHAT (**Heb. 10:25**), in fact, that passage in Hebrews says not only do it but **"and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** If we can't see the day approaching of Christ returning then we definitely need to increase our prayer and Bible Study.

Every week they would march 20 Roman miles in just 5 hours while carrying a heavy 65 lb load. How much more an honor to be called as a soldier of Christ? We must be willing and ready to march with Christ every day, not just once or twice a week at some service or meeting. This means marching carrying heavy loads from life and the trials and troubles it can bring. Unlike Roman soldiers, if you were unable to carry the load you were kicked out. With God, born again in Christ, we have the Holy Spirit, and other believers to carry our loads for us, or help us when we cant. Christ NEVER kicks us out, He picks us up, forgives us, and says KEEP GOING (**Luke 15:4-7**). No Roman would be considered battle-ready if they could not successfully complete marching drills. Soldiers of the Cross must have this same mentality. We are in a constant war with Satan and self. We must continue marching with Christ if we expect to survive the battles. The key difference is the Roman soldiers were required to do this by their own physical and mental strength. We in Christ are unable to make it through the battles we face with our own strength and wisdom. We will fail every time eventually, or face Satan who is much more powerful than we are. Yet that's when God works His best and Glorifies Himself through our weakness. There is no amount of suffering here too great to walk away from God's calling. If we could get a glimpse of Heaven and our glorified eternal bodies in the presence of Christ, we would be unstoppable and should be anyway just in the faith of these promises. Like Paul writing to Timothy from the hole on death row. Paul knows he is about to be killed for following Christ

as Nero is ruling at this time and violently persecuting Christians in some of the most horrible ways imaginable. Yet instead of complaining, or being overtaken by fear, distracted by all the pain, suffering, and sadness, telling Timothy and the others to run and hide and flee for their lives. Paul is telling Timothy to stand firm in what He has been taught and to be disciplined and dedicated even more so than the very Roman soldiers and Empire that is about to kill Paul. Paul is about to be killed and writes his last letter lighting a Holy Spirit fire in Timothy, see why we never march alone brothers. This kind of discipline, dedication, and training are non-negotiable if we are sincere about bringing honor and Glory to God. The Word of God is our sword and shield(**Heb. 4:12, Psalm 28:7**) as well as many more things for us. We don't have to make plans, or even know what lies ahead, the faster we get this serious about following Christ and just pray and search the Scriptures daily. The faster we will learn to not even bother with the majority of the things we worry about and waste our time with now. We will just live each moment for God always ready to go wherever He leads us and our faith will increase each day as we see God turning bad uncomfortable situations into victories. We will learn to stop complaining in the storms knowing that when we get through it and see God's reason and results we will be so blown away, we will start praying for the next storm, instead of "God get me out of this storm". That's what I'm talking about!

Verse 4, ***"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."*** AMEN, we are in a war, brothers. If your family isn't soldiers for Christ, then march alone. If that female isn't a soldier, forget about her, and march on. If your friends aren't soldiers, lose them, and march on. When you get this serious you will quickly realize our army is much smaller than you think. A whole lot of people out here yelling Jesus, yet spending all their time watching grown men play games, or watching silly movies, or listening to music that distracts us from God, arguing over politics, trying to give our opinions on the world's problems and how to fix them. Find any of those things in Scripture for me? Doing everything the world is doing, instead of being willing to give up EVERYTHING and FOLLOW CHRIST. I'm going ALL IN, how about you brothers? It's hard to live Spiritually minded 24/7/365 no doubt, remember discipline and training and prayer, and read that Bible. Sure I will make mistakes, and fall short, and mess up, but nothing is ever gonna make me give up again, I'm His! Thank God you are too, we are blessed. KEEP MARCHING!

Much love my brothers in Christ, you all STAY in my prayers,
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