

Being a Soldier for Christ
Veterans Day 2018
11/11/2018 Sunday AM

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:3, Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 6:10-20

Introduction

- Today, we honor our nation's veterans for their service to our country.
- In that same spirit, I would like us to discuss this morning **Being a Soldier for Christ**.
- Never before in the history of the world has it been more important for people to answer the call of duty to our Savior.
- Accepting the free gift of salvation enlists you into God's army, however we must then act.
- Serving God, means that we must be able to move beyond the title of a Christian, and begin to operate as a one.
- There is a lot of people that claim the title, but few who live the life.

2 Timothy 2:3

³Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

- Just like soldiers in service to our country, soldiers of Christ also endure hardships.
- This is why more people claim the title, than actually live the life of a Christian. It isn't always easy.
- Paul was writing this letter to Timothy who was just getting his start in ministry.
- He wanted to make sure Timothy understood from the start what service to Jesus meant.
- Being a soldier for Christ will mean that at times, you will have to endure through many hardships that affect you personally and within the ministry area that you serve as well.
- A "good soldier" endures through hardships as they focus on the mission.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- In these verses, Jesus himself gave us our commission:
 - We are to "make disciples of all nations,"
 - "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
 - "and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- That is our mission, and Jesus clearly lays it out for us what we should be focusing on in service to him.
- The Great Commission does not command us to go out and "save" people or make converts of people.
- It specifically says, "make disciples" which starts with conversion, but goes much further.
- Baptizing is the symbol of conversion, then Jesus says, "and teaching them to obey everything..."
- Making disciples for Christ can be compared to what our nation's military does in other countries.
- One of the main tasks our soldiers have abroad is helping to train other nation's soldiers so that they can learn to protect themselves.
- That is what we are supposed to be doing as soldiers for Christ when we are making disciples.
- We are supposed to be "teaching them to obey everything [Christ] commanded."
- It is simple, we should be teaching them to OBEY the Bible.
- A disciple is someone who has been trained to the point that they can then go and train others.
- Focusing on discipleship is something that requires a lot of time, effort, and energy.
- You will often be met by many obstacles; however Christ has well equipped us for the task at hand, all we have to do is be willing.

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

- In our mission to proclaim the Gospel, we will be fought on all sides. We must understand it is a battle.
- No soldier enters into battle without the proper equipment and gear.
- **V. 10** – Paul reminds the people where their source of strength comes from. He says, “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”
- As soldiers for Christ, we must always remember who we are fighting for, and how infinite his strength is.
- **Vv. 11-12** – In these verses Paul reminds the people of who the real enemy is.
- As soldiers for Christ we are to take our “stand against the devil’s schemes.”
- Our struggle is not against human beings, “but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
- **V. 13** – Here Paul tells every soldier to “put on the full armor of God.” Why? “so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”
- This verse is simply saying we must prepare for the battles if we intend to endure them.



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- Paul ends with these words, “¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”
- Shouldn't that also be the prayer that we pray for us all?