

**SUNDAY SERVICE, 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2011**  
**CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Text 2 Timothy 2: 1-6**

*1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 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. {among: or, by} 3 Thou therefore **endure hardness**, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 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. 5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not **crowned**, except he strive lawfully. 6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The two letters addressed to Timothy by Paul basically address the warnings concerning false doctrine propagated by apostates and instructions to Timothy on how to prepare to deal with this inevitable occurrence in the church of Jesus Christ (cf. Mt 13:33; Lu 13:20; Rev 3: 14-21).

He uses three illustrations (Soldier, Athlete & Farmer) from which we can pick instructions that can help us to “run the race of faith obtain” if obeyed. All the three explain different but inextricably connected facets of the same truth. To afford ourselves opportunity to gain more from this portion of the scripture, we will look at each one them. However, in this first message of three we will look at the SOLDIER.

From our main passage, Paul starts of by instructing Timothy to be **strong**. A charge that we can see being given to Joshua in Joshua Chapter One – Four times (Joshua 1:6; 7; 9; 18). Joshua gives us a picture not only of a leader but a fighter/soldier. Many battles were lined for him and against the armies of Israel that he was leading. The enemies were real and the battle was real. Therefore, Joshua needed to be strong and courageous with respect to the goal– and that to win the battle and overcome the enemy. The same charge Paul gave the believers at Ephesus (Eph 6:10) with respect to warfare. The enemies of our faith (Satan,

World & the Flesh) are real. However, an encouraging thought is that God does not enlist us as soldiers with the intention that we fail and get defeated. He would love to see us as overcomers. In Revelation, God lays out for us precious overcomers promises (Rev 2:7; 11; 17; 26 3: 5; 12; 21 & 21:7 7). The word overcome means “to subdue (literally or figuratively):--conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory”. This entails warfare – there has to be some type of opposition for this word to find its place.

### **Back to our 2 Timothy Scripture**

Looking at this portion of scripture and from other sections of the complete word of God (Bible) we can get a fuller picture of this illustration with respect to warfare and the purpose of it. Today we will pay attention to at least four disciplines that a good soldier is expected to exhibit i.e these can also be viewed as disciplines that the commandant would expect of his soldiers that he has enlisted in the force to show evidence of or demonstrate.

- i. A good soldier should expect and endure hardships
- ii. A good Soldier lives a separated life.
- iii. A good soldier has one concern/ambition – pleasing his master.
- iv. A good Soldier uses his Weapons Responsibly.

### **1. A GOOD SOLDIER SHOULD EXPECT & ENDURE HARDSHIPS**

*Verse 3. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

Endure hardness = Greek=kakopatheo = *kak-op-ath-eh'-o* – compound word that means “to undergo hardship, endure afflictions, suffer trouble. This word is seen in two other places in this letter (cf 2 Tim 2:8-9; 2Tim 4:5) with the same connotation.

In “2Ti 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: 9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound”, Paul encourages Timothy using his own experience. .... “I suffer trouble”. This happens to Paul because of embracing the truth and faithfully preaching that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead for a purpose. The resurrection of Jesus is pivotal to our faith. His resurrection goes further to guarantee his return (cf 1 Co 15:12-). Right now Jesus is doing the priestly ministry for the believers waiting for the

appropriate time for Him to rule and reign in the age to come. His rule was prophesied to David

*2Sa 7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.* Faithful believers will rule with Him. This is our hope.

His resurrection is a strong motivation for us in warfare. *1Co 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.*

This was a central theme in what Paul preached and he suffered for it.

*2Ti 2:2 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.*

Timothy was aware of the gospel that Paul was suffering for and the same he is being encouraged to present to others (teach others) who in turn will teach others. This will attract suffering but he is to endure it.

In "*2Ti 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry*", Paul is exhorting Timothy to continue preaching and endure hardships (kakopatheo). He encourages him to carry out fully, complete the assignment i.e make full proof. He is encouraging him to remain faithful regardless.

Paul was never surprised that he was suffering as he was. He was expecting it from the word go. *Ac 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.*

*Ac 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me 24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God*

At conversion he is registered for some and he knew it

Likewise as good soldiers we should not expect it to be different. (1 Peter 4: 12-13 cf Phil 2:5-8) points out for us

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Ro 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Ro 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us

### Jesus drew the attention of this subject to his disciples

Matthew 5: 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile (to defame, i.e. rail at, chide, taunt, sneer at, scold, reproach) you, and persecute (make you suffer) you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad (jump for joy): for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. KJV (Emphasis Mine).

### The reason of rejoicing is the reward not suffering. Why?

Ac 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven** for you 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time 6 Wherein ye **greatly rejoice**, though now for **a season**, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations

### How should a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ respond?

**1. Endure** - Greek = hupomeno, (*hoop-om-en'-o*)

**hupo** - under, i.e. of place or time. In the comparative, it retains the same general applications, especially of inferior position or condition, and specially, covertly or moderately.

**meno** - a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):--abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry)

Therefore endure = to stay under (behind), i.e. remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere:--abide, endure, (take) patient (-ly), suffer, tarry behind.

*1Pe 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. {acceptable: or, thank}. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps*

**2. Rejoicing/be exceedingly glad.** Be cheerful, leap for joy. This places us at a higher plane. We are walking in revelation. Why? Explain

### **3. What do we do with instruments God uses for our suffering?**

Many times God allows people very close to us (family, spouse, children, employer, close brother or sister etc) to mete out untold suffering. How should we respond?

*Mt 5:44 But I say unto you, **Love** (agapao) your enemies, **bless** them that curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and **pray** for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

*Lu 6:28 **Bless** them that curse you, and **pray** for them which despitefully use you.*

*Ro 12: 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

*Ro 12:14 **Bless** them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

*Ro 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord*

*1Co 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the*

*world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. 14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you*

I have known folks who want to go even immediately. Want to revenge, teach them a lesson, curse them etc. This cannot be our approach; otherwise what do we do with these scriptures loaded with instructions/commands to the contrary

#### **4. Commit the keeping of your soul to God**

*1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator*

Commit the keeping = paratithemi= to place alongside, i.e. present (food, truth); by implication, to deposit (as a trust or for protection):--allege, commend, commit (the keeping of), put forth, set before.

*Lu 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend (paratithemi) my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost*

*Ac 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend (paratithemi) you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

*1Pe 2:23 **Who**, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

#### **We can come to this conclusion; a believer should view suffering/hardships as**

- i. A necessity to keeps our hope (to rule and reign with Christ in coming age) alive. It is a sense a surety for our reward – the inheritance
- ii. Description of a marks of a true disciple of Jesus Christ
- iii. Motivation to totally put our trust in God.

#### **What help have we got?**

##### **Deliverance will come from Him**

*2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished*

1Co 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

**We will enjoy His Grace to go through**

2Co 12:7 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

8 *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

9 *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

10 *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

**Ministry of His Angels**

Ac 12:7 *And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*

8 *And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.*

9 *And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.*

Heb 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

**A GOOD SOLDIER LIVES A SEPARATED LIFE.**

2Ti 2:4 *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.*

- Entangles = Greek = Empleko= to entwine, i.e. (figuratively) involve with:--entangle (in, self with).

- Affairs (plagmateia) – transactions, occupied with, to busy oneself with, to trade.

.Note: Soldiers among the Romans were not permitted to engage in husbandry, merchandise, mechanical employments, OR any thing that would be inconsistent with their assignment.

Not to be entangled with the affairs of this life would blur his focus on that which is goal of a good soldier – to overcome the enemy and please his master. He instructs him to blend in. Paul is instructing Timothy not to entertain civility.

“*Affairs of this life*” seen in the context of the hope set out ahead for us in the age to come (- which is the central theme in this letter), only serves to choke the seed which ultimately leads unfruitfulness.

*Lu 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

It is building with wood, hay and stubble – works that will definitely be consumed. This will lead a believer being disapproved at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

*2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.(KJV)*

*1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. {it shall be: Gr. it is}*

Barrenness will not please the master and can only lead to disapproval and consequences will result.

This can be viewed as gleaning in another field *Ru 2:8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:*

**A GOOD SOLDIER HAS ONE AMBITION – PLEASING HIS MASTER.**

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

A good soldier of Jesus Christ has only one focus ambition – that of pleasing his master. Focus can be distracted by many things. Matthew 6: 24-33. Jesus is speaking to His Disciples not non-believers.

**Mt 6:24** *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

**No one can serve two masters. It is impossible to serve two masters.**

Man is a serving being. Man is a worshipping being. Mammon should be seen in a broader sense to represent whatever man substitutes God with to worship. [cf God –Mammon]

**Mt 6:25** *Therefore (for this reason – what reason –v 24) I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

Thought - Greek = merimnao, - *mer-im-nah'*-o means “to be anxious about:--(be, have) care(-ful), take thought” . It is not just a simple flash of idea or notion but a deep concern (getting troubled) over a matter that does consume our energy, that which solicits action

Jesus here is addressing matters of anxiety. Anxiety really blurs up our focus

**Mt 6:26** *Behold/consider (emblepo - to observe fixedly, to discern clearly) the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Mt 6:27* *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

In verse 27 Jesus presents the vanity of anxiety. It is unproductive to get anxious

**What causes of anxiety in our context?**

We can get an answer in verse 30. *Mt 6:30* *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

Jesus queries their faith. Anxiety comes about because of faith. What is faith and how does it come?

**Ro 10:17.** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*

**Results of anxiety**

## **Failure to please God**

*Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*

## **Distracts**

Lu 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

## **Leads to Sin**

*1 Samuel 13: 8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. {salute: Heb. bless} 11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; 12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. {made...: Heb. intreated the face} 13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever*

Saul because of anxiety landed into a trap of the enemy. Left his position and tried to enter into Samuels's position. A shift happens. Samuel referred to his faithless act as **foolishness**. Foolishness is the opposite of Wisdom

## **Solutions to Anxiety**

- i. Obey the command (Be careful for nothing)
- ii. Pray
  - a. Php 4:6 *Be careful (merimnao) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

- b. Ps 37:5 Commit thy (roll) way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. **You only roll that which you can't lift**
- c. 1Pe 5:7 Casting (throw) all your care (**merimnao** - anxiety) upon him; for he careth (melo -interested) for you.
- iii. Stick with Gods priority – Mat 6:33
  - a. Seek first the Kingdom of God
  - b. Seek also His righteousness