



IDENTITY

SOLDIERS

IDENTITY - SOLDIERS PART 2

We looked at the passage below last week and what it meant to suffer hardship as a good soldier of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

This week we will look at the words which say, ***'No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life'***.

Once again we have to recognise that Paul is referring to us, when he talks about soldiers. This is why we have Jesus Christ as our armour, because we are in a spiritual battle with our flesh and with powers and principalities of a demonic dimension. We are not to fear these forces of darkness, but we must be aware of them and also be in active service as His followers.

The Scripture says we are not to be entangled in the affairs of everyday life. Jesus testifies that we must seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. The challenge for many is to truly be this and live like this.

Unfortunately, there are still too many in the body of Christ who haven't lost their old life and started living for His kingdom and righteousness as a soldier of Jesus Christ. Many only give their lives to Christ with the expectation that Jesus is going to make their earthly lives better, not realising that this is the very life that needs to be lost, so one can become a soldier who is not entangled in the affairs of an old life.

We are not to be building our own empires asking God to bless our empires. We are to be active soldiers who are being obedient to the Commandments of the One who enlisted them. We are to be single focused in our fellowship with God, running in such a way as to win the prize.

A natural soldier puts all of their affairs of everyday life aside, and their single focus becomes serving their country and following the orders of those they are in authority to. This is to be no different for the church of Jesus Christ, and Paul writes about this significantly in all his letters.

This level of devotion comes from Jesus being the Lord of our lives. This position is way more than Jesus just being our Saviour.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it essential that those who are in the army as soldiers are not entangled in the affairs of every day life?
2. How confronting is this position as a soldier to you and why?
3. What would you describe the 'affairs of every day life', to be?
4. How does one become this soldier for Christ?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight?

A close-up photograph of a New Zealand passport cover. The text 'NEW ZEALAND PASSPORT' and 'URUWHENUA AOTEAROA' is visible in white on the dark green cover. A hand is partially visible on the right side, holding the passport.

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