



IDENTITY

SOLDIERS

IDENTITY - SOLDIERS PART 2 (SECOND LANGUAGE)

Last week we looked at the verses below. We looked at what it means to suffer hard times 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. (NASB)

Or in other words;

2 Timothy 2:3-4 Be patient through pain and suffering with me, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Any soldier who fights in a war does not become too busy with the things of everyday life. He only wants to fight well to please his captain.

This week we will look at the words that say, ***'Any soldier who fights in a war does not become too busy with the things of everyday life.'***

We need to know that when Paul talks about soldiers, he means us. We need Jesus Christ as our armour because we are in a spiritual battle with our flesh and with demonic powers. We should not be afraid of these forces of darkness. However, we must be aware of them. We must also actively serve Christ and be His followers.

The verse says that we should not become too busy with the things of everyday life. Jesus says that we must seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (we must be morally good and follow His laws). This is a big challenge for most people.

Unfortunately, there are many people in the body of Christ who have not lost their own lives. They have not started living for His kingdom and His righteousness as a soldier of Jesus Christ. Many people give their lives to Christ so that Jesus can make their lives on earth better. They do not realise that they need to lose this life so that they can become a soldier. A soldier is not busy with the things of an old life.

We should not try to build our own kingdom and then ask God to bless our kingdom. We need to be active soldiers and obey the Commandments of the captain (Jesus Christ). We need to have one focus in our relationship with God. We must run in a way that we will win the prize.

A good soldier puts the things of everyday life to the side (the soldier acts as though those things are not important). The soldier's one focus is to serve their country and follow the orders of their captain or commanding officer. This should be no different for the church of Jesus Christ. Paul writes about this important idea in all his letters.

We can only be this devoted (have such strong love and loyalty) if we have Jesus as the Lord of our lives. This position (state of being) is a lot greater than just having Jesus as our Saviour.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so important that soldiers do not become too busy with the things of everyday life?
2. How challenging is this position of a soldier to you? Why?



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3. What do you think are some of the things of everyday life?
4. How can you become this soldier for Christ?

ACTION POINT: What do we need to do to show what we have learned from our reading and discussion tonight?