

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 8

2021

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ

In writing to Timothy, the apostle Paul spoke these words of instruction, “*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier*” (2 Timothy 2:3-4). As Paul proclaimed, a good soldier of Jesus Christ must endure hardship. However, a good soldier of Jesus Christ must do much more than just endure hardship. So, let’s look at some other qualities of a good soldier of Jesus Christ, beginning with a good soldier of Jesus Christ...

Must First Enlist.

Before one can become a good soldier of Jesus Christ, one must first enlist. In Matthew 11:28-30, we learn about Jesus inviting all to enlist. He would later go on to say, “*He who is not with Me, is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad*” (Matthew 12:30). So, if you have not yet enlisted as a soldier of Jesus Christ, put on Christ through baptism (Galatians 3:27) and enlist in Him today.

Must Obey Orders.

After one has enlisted as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, they must then be willful doers of His commands. In John 14:15,

Jesus said, “*if you love Me, Keep My commandments.*” You see, a good soldier of Jesus Christ will not just say Lord, Lord, and do not the things He says (Luke 6:46), but will rather a good soldier of Jesus Christ will obey the things that He has commanded. Therefore take heed to these words of Paul, “*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (i.e. by His authority) giving thanks to God the Father through Him*” (Colossians 3:17).

Must Be Armed.

A good soldier of Jesus Christ will put on the whole armor of God, and they will be armed for battle. In Ephesians 6:11-13, Paul penned, “*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*” Remember, a good soldier of Jesus Christ will be fully armed with the whole armor of God, and they will do all to stand against evil.

Must Courageously Fight.

Not only will a good soldier of Jesus Christ be fully armed, but they will likewise courageously fight the good fight of faith. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul, encouraged Timothy to, “*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*” Soldiers, know that a good soldier of Jesus Christ must courageously fight the good fight of faith, and they must continue to lay hold of their hope of eternal life.

Must Pursue Victory.

Another quality of a good soldier of Jesus Christ is they will diligently pursue the victory over sin. You see, victory over sin and death is only found in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57), and a good soldier of Jesus Christ will diligently pursue the victory. In 1 John 5:4, John informed soldiers of Christ that their faith is the victory that has overcome the world, and in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Paul said, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* You see, a good soldier of Jesus Christ, will fight the good fight, they will keep the faith, pursue the victory, and finish the race just as the good soldier, the apostle Paul did.

Now, the question is, what kind of soldier are you?

✍ Brad Phillips

QUESTIONS OF LIFE

Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? These are three great questions of life, and the Bible answers each of them.

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

Many have been made to believe that they descended from the monkey. Some think they came into being as a result of a big bang somewhere deep in outer space. The Bible affirms that man came from God. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Gen. 1:26-27).

WHY AM I HERE?

Some do not seem to understand why they are here. What is our purpose in life? Solomon answers: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl.12:13).

WHERE AM I GOING?

Our life on earth is only temporary (2 Pet. 3:10). But when our life on earth is over, that’s not the end of things! God put within us a spirit that will live on throughout eternity (Zech. 12:1; Mt. 25:46). That spirit will either live on in a place of eternal bliss (Mt. 25:21) or a place of eternal torment (Lk.16:24). How we live on earth will determine where we spend eternity (Mt. 7:13-14). Where are you headed?

We must recognize our purpose in life and prepare ourselves for eternity!

✍ John Edwards

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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