

INTRODUCTION:

1. Good soldiers are important--
to the nation, and to Christianity.
2. Soldiers should try to do what is required of them.
3. Our text gives us three requirements for good soldiering.

I. EVERY GOOD SOLDIER MUST ENDURE HARDNESS.

1. Endurance is important to a soldier
 - a. Roman athletes practiced with weights on them.
 - b. Roman soldiers were drafted young,
for long training
 - c. Soldiers now are well trained for endurance.
2. Endurance is important for a soldier of Christ.
 - a. Endurance in chastening, Heb. 12:7-17
 - b. Endurance during afflictions, 2 Tim 4:5
 - c. Endurance against temptation, I Cor. 10:13;
James 1:2
3. Endurance may be learned and practiced, 2 Tim 3:14,15
 - a. By Continuing in obedience to God, v. 14
 - b. By continuing in the holy scriptures, v. 15.

II. EVERY SOLDIER MUST UNDERGO SEPARATION

1. Good soldiers cannot retain civilian habits
 - a. A soldier is separated from his home and family
 - b. A soldier is separated to his country.
2. Good soldiers of Christ must undergo separation
 - a. Cannot serve two masters--God and mammon,
Matt. 6:24
 - b. Cannot be entangled with affairs of this life
I Cor 9:25-27
3. Good soldiers undergo separation by means of:
 - a. Consecration to Christ, v. 1 of Rom. 12
 - b. Transformation of life, v. 2 of Rom. 12.

← 4. The "Gallant Pelham"

III. EVERY SOLDIER MUST PRACTICE LOYALTY

1. Good soldiers must be loyal to their country
2. Good soldiers of Christ must be loyal to Him, v. 4.
(Cannot be like Demas, 2 Tim. 4:10)

3. Good soldiers can be loyal by having 3 things:

a. A personal Christian experience

(Jn. 4:42, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves; and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

b. A faith that works, Heb. 11:6; Jas 2:17,18.

c. A genuine prayer & devotional life, Phil 4:6,7

CONCLUSION: Good soldiering demands three requirements: Endurance, Separation, and Loyalty.

Good soldiering also has its reward: the crown of righteousness: 2 Tim. 4:7-8.

May we, like Paul, fulfill these requirements so well that we can say at last, "I have fought the good fight." Those who fight a good fight win the shining crown of victory.

We are told that in France the graves of soldiers are marked by simple little wooden crosses.

The women of France volunteer to take care of those graves.

And the way a woman signifies the acceptance of her responsibility for keeping one grave site clean is that she writes on a little cross, "I accept" and signs her name.

And that is the way you indicate your willingness to receive into your heart the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for your sins, and your commitment to follow Him.

You must go to the cross of Jesus, open your heart and say,

"Lord, I accept, I accept."

Will you do it right now, if you have never done it before?