

11-11-07

## Soldiers for Christ

### 2 Timothy 2:1-3

We honor veterans who have served our country today. Veterans have given their lives and time in the effort to keep the freedom we enjoy today. We would be cold and selfish to forget the lives and years others have given for us. I want us to think about other veterans, and I want us to “join” with them to keep the true source of freedom alive in our country. Paul tells Timothy to *Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus*. That is our responsibility also.

**Be Strong in grace v.1.** Today we are required to be strong. We face an enemy that is as real as terrorists. We Christians are under attack from Satan and the evil influences of the world. Our nation is rocking from those who would remove God from all aspects of our society. Money and personal pleasure is the goal of those who would lead us to turn from the loving God who has blessed all of us in the past. You and I are pressed to be strong in the *grace that is in Christ Jesus*.

**Trust reliable people v. 2.** This sounds almost political. Paul tells us to pass on the teachings about Christ which Timothy had heard Paul teach. He says to *entrust to reliable men* who will *teach others*. Here is where we come into the process. We start by being strong in the grace of Christ Jesus. Then we pass on to reliable people who will spread the teachings of the Bible.

**Be a good soldier of Christ Jesus v. 3.** Soldiers take commands. Spiritual battles are won by soldiers also. We have ignored the commands of our Lord to share the gospel. Some have abandoned the fight to stand up for moral and “good” living. Many have forsaken the church and its teachings. You and I must regain our faith in Jesus and live like a soldier under command. Some remember when WWII was over. We celebrated and felt the victory. We need to fight a good fight for our faith and then celebrate God’s grace to us.

## Sermon Text 2 Timothy 2:1-3

1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.  
NIV

### 2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

#### IT IS THE SOLDIER

It is the soldier, not the preacher, who gives us freedom of religion.

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who gives us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who gives us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the protestor, who gives us freedom to assemble.

It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier, not the politician, who gives us the right to vote.

It is the soldier, who not only salutes the Flag, but serves under the Flag, fighting for the country that Flag represents. Veterans Day is a time our nation sets aside to honor the difference a soldier makes.

#### Veterans

**In 2006 there were 23.7 million veterans in the United States.**

**1.7 million Of these was a female. Of those over the age of 65 in 2006 there were 9.2 million. On the other end of the age spectrum there were 1.9 that were younger than 35.**