

The Soldier, Athlete, And Farmer

Promise: God's grace extended in His Word will sustain us in the Faith

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Ruth 1:1-19a; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19
(18th Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 23], 10/13/19)

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. — v. 3

Lead In – If you were to choose some livelihoods to compare with the vocation of being a Christian what would you choose? I am inclined to think that many of us today might liken the life of a disciple to that of a performer, as that of a singer or actor. Or we might think in terms of someone making a difference in the political realm, as in an office holder or an official. Perhaps it would be with a Physician. It would not surprise me if the comparison were with a celebrity. It is instructive for us to observe the walks of life that the Apostle Paul chooses...

I. Paul's Concern for the Nurture of Congregations

- A. Dangers of falling away and of false teaching...
- B. The role of teaching in the Great Commission...
- C. The Office of preaching and teaching...

II. The Acid Test Is Endurance Under Suffering

- A. Paul's insistence about the road we travel...
- B. Paul knew what our Lord Jesus taught...

III. And So Paul Lifts Up Three Occupations

- A. Share as a good soldier of Christ Jesus...
- B. An athlete is not crowned unless...
- C. It is the hard-working farmer...

IV. Be Strengthened By God's Grace

Parting Shot – When Paul speaks of our death with Christ resulting in our living with him, where have we heard this before? *We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that...* (Rom. 6:4-5) The fact that we ARE baptized is how we remain strengthened by God's grace, for when we walk wet in our baptism we continue to be nurtured by God's Word that in baptism been combined with water...

1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

Mat 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1 Tim 4:16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

2 Tim 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

1 Tim 3:2 Therefore an overseer must be ... able to teach,

2 Timothy 2:1-13 ESV

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

¹You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ²and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

1 Pet 3:15 always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

2 Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Mat 7:14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Heb 12:1 ...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

1 Cor 3:7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

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