

Soldiers, Athletes, and Farmers

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 2:3-13.

B. The business of Christians of every age is to guard the truth.

C. There are ways in which the Christian must guard the truth.

II. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The only way one can keep his life strong is by a relationship with the living God.

III. Truth is to be passed on to others.

IV. One is to set himself to lead a Christian lifestyle, which will require the dedication of a soldier, the discipline of an athlete and diligence of a farmer.

A. The soldier.

1. The dedication of a soldier involves shared suffering. Christians are not called to the comforts that are around us.

2. The soldier must be single minded.

a. The single objective is to please the Lord.

b. The objective is to manifest the character of Christ in everything.

c. The motive is loving, not only one of duty.

B. An athlete.

1. The athlete disciplines himself.

2. A Christian is called to say no to the temptations around him.

C. A farmer.

1. The Christian works for God.

2. It takes diligent labor to be faithful.

V. Encouragements that accompany Christian service.

A. The Scriptures will explain life as one meditates upon them. One will begin to live realistically.

B. The presence of a resurrected Lord brings a source of strength.

C. The Word of God is not fettered.

D. Our work will help others to reap an award.

E. The certainty we have of a crown that awaits.

1. Christianity, however, is not simply about getting what one wants.

2. Our life is a testing ground to determine whether we really are Christians or not.

Application questions:

1. Why do you think suffering is important to the Christian lifestyle? Should a believer seek out opportunities to suffer? Explain.

2. What are some good ways the Christian can discipline himself?

3. How can you be more diligent in your work? What encouragements in your work do you find to be the most helpful?
