

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

All Give All

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Theme: Soldier on and give all for the strength and reward of Christ.

Introduction: In war, the soldier knows the feeling of fear as the threat to his life is real and present. Scripture often uses the imagery of warfare to describe the Christian life; and though it is not usually referring to physical battle, it is referring to a genuine battle nonetheless. The call to follow Jesus is the call to fight in a battle that might cost us everything (including our lives), but Jesus is worth it. The Christian is called to battle the world, the flesh, and the devil for as long as we live on this earth.

Paul offers 3 things to stir up our courage as good soldiers for Christ:

1. Legacy (1-2)

The end of ch. 1 reminds us of those who have deserted the cause of Christ. The church will always have those who prove unfaithful.

Paul calls Timothy instead to pursue strength in the Lord, strength which comes from the grace of Christ.

Paul also calls him to equip and raise up other faithful men so the gospel carries forward into the future.

We should be grateful for older saints who have proved faithful and are themselves investing in the future.

2. Reward (3-6)

Paul gives 3 pictures: a) soldiers who are single-minded in their service; b) athletes who are disciplined in their devotion; and, c) hard-working farmers who are laboring for the harvest. Faithful Christians emulate those examples.

Jesus is Lord, which means we must live in submission to him and his will, and in that way we will seek his reward.

3. Understanding (7)

Paul commands Timothy to think over what he has been taught. He is to give it careful consideration, trusting the Lord to provide understanding.

We must take our fears to the Lord so that we can persevere in faith and bring him glory.

No matter our situation, the battle is the Lord's. We look to him for salvation.

We must battle with faith, trusting in the Lord's unfailing provision for his people.

Questions:

1. How are you fighting evil? Have you given up the battle in any way?

2. How do you need God's grace to strengthen and sustain you? How are you pursuing it?

3. How is the Lord using you to pass the gospel to future generations?