

## **Soldiers of Jesus Christ! (Proclaim Notes)**

Memorial Day Sunday

Text: 2 Ti.2:3-4 Date: 5-24-20 Service: SBC a.m.

### **I. A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST “ENDURES HARDSHIP”**

2 Tim.2:3 - “You therefore must *endure hardship* as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Jn.15:18-20 - “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.... If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”

### **II. A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST DOESN'T “ENTANGLE HIMSELF”**

2 Tim.2:4a - “No one engaged in warfare *entangles himself* with the affairs of this life...”

Lk.9:57-62 - As Jesus and His disciples “57...journeyed on the road someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” 59 Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” 61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Acts 20:24 – “I do not “count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

### **III. A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST “PLEASES” HIS “ENLISTING” COMMANDER**

2 Tim.2:4b - “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who *enlisted* him as a soldier.”

Mt.6:24 - “For he will either hate the one and love the other or else be loyal to the one and despise the other.”

1 Thess.1-2:4 - “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, *not as pleasing men, but God* who tests our hearts.”

1 Thess.4:1 - “Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us *how you ought to walk and to please God*”

Heb.11:5 - “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; *for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*”

Gal.1:10, - “If I still please men, I would **not** be a bond-servant of Christ”

2 Cor.5:9 - “we will make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”

## Closing Comments

“Am I a **Soldier of the Cross?**” wrote **Isaac Watts** during the years of persecution many experienced as English Dissenters against the apostate Anglican Church of England.

These dissenters had split from the official, state Anglican Church because of apostasy and heresies.

Stalwarts such as **Isaac Watts** became resolute and fearless in their proclamation and defense of the gospel. “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?” was written in 1724 following a sermon by Watts titled “Holy Fortitude or Remedies Against Fears.”

The words of his hymn are still a challenge for us today. Let me read the words of this great hymn.

- 1) Am I a soldier of the cross, A follow’r of the Lamb?  
And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His name?
- 2) Must I be carried to the skies, On flow’ry beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize, And sailed through bloody seas?
- 3) Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?
- 4) Sure I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord;  
I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word.

- 5) Thy saints in all this glorious war, Shall conquer, though they die;  
They see the triumph from afar, By faith's discerning eye.
- 6) When that illustrious day shall rise, And all Thy armies shine  
In robes of vict'ry through the skies, The glory shall be Thine.

For the **Christian soldier** there is a day coming when they will be rewarded and honored for their loyal service. Meanwhile, we “fight the good fight of faith” as “good soldiers of Jesus Christ!”

For **soon our fondest hope will be** realized when we hear our Commander-in-Chief say, “21...Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”