

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

-Ryan Parsons-

Today, Christians remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Most thoughts center on salvation, love, and the power of God. These are good and right. The resurrection is, in fact, the greatest moment in human history and eternity. Nothing has changed the trajectory of mankind more, before or since. However, in light of the resurrection, I think there is something significant that we don't want to overlook.

Paul speaks encouragingly to Timothy during his time working diligently in Ephesus.

2 Timothy 2:1-4

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 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. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Timothy is told, in the midst of a difficult situation, that he is a soldier of Christ Jesus. But Timothy isn't alone. Paul in his writings also calls brother Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25) and Archippus (Philemon 1:2) fellow soldiers. Even Paul views himself as a soldier of Christ (2 Corinthians 6:6-8, 10:1-6) wielding weapons containing divine power in both hands. He explains to the Christians in Ephesus that they are to stand firm with the armor of God made of truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

Paul informs Timothy that he was enlisted (engaged for duty in the Lord's army) by Jesus Christ himself. Moreover, as an enlisted soldier, Timothy's only aim should be to please his Lord.

But, if Jesus wasn't raised from the dead, there is no strength *by the grace that is in Christ Jesus to draw* from for the fight.

Because of Jesus, all Christians have been enlisted as soldiers in his forces. Because of the resurrection, we are compelled to fight in the ranks of our Lord's army. Because of his lordship, we are all called to join the stand against this present darkness and the spiritual forces of evil. Because of His power, we are perfectly equipped to be victorious.

Soldiers of Christ Arise!

Keep Studying,
Ryan