

2 Timothy 4:6-8 Lesson 14

Advice from a P.O.W.

Day 1: Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 Purpose of a Soldier

1. Look at verse 6. If the sacrifice for our salvation has already been paid (Rom 5:8), what kind of sacrifice are we called to offer? (Rom 12:1) _____

2. So then, explain where good works fit into God's redemptive plan? (Eph 2:8-10). How is this so often misunderstood in "Christendom"? _____

3. The church culture is not so much about "***pouring our lives out***" for the Lord. How is Christianity typically "***marketed***" here in the U.S.? _____

4. Remember, Paul is trying to encourage Timothy to remain faithful by understanding his purpose. Pretend Timothy is a pastor living today, suffering at the hands of his congregation. What counsel would you offer him? Use verses to support your encouragement. _____

5. This is an open letter to all of us. Sum up ***your purpose*** as a soldier for Jesus Christ. (This statement should look similar to the one Paul has just articulated.) Then write a sentence or two explaining ***how*** this purpose fleshes itself out in your daily life. _____

6. Now assume the role of Paul. How would you encourage another person in the body to understand ***their purpose***? _____

Day 2: Read 2 Tim 4:6-8 Performance of a Soldier

1. Because Paul understands that his purpose in life is to be a living sacrifice, he is able to faithfully "***stay in the battle.***" Look at the three phrases he uses to describe his faithfulness. Give an example of what each one might look like in your life.
"***fought the good fight***" - _____

"***finished the course***" - _____

"***kept the faith***" - _____



2. These phrases from verse 7 are an explanation of how Timothy is exhorted to **“fulfill his ministry”** (verse 5). As believers, we are **“all in ministry”**. How would you answer the following questions to someone considering committing their life to Christ?

Is ministry easy? Why or why not? _____

What are the measures of success? _____

How can I learn to respond to difficult situations? _____

What will be my support structure? _____

3. It all starts with taking self off the throne. Paul was able to perform well as a soldier, because of how he viewed himself. What was this viewpoint? (Acts 20:24) _____

4. “Keeping the faith” means not compromising the message, but delivering it correctly. What areas of the Word are being compromised today. What verses in Scripture stand against those compromises? _____

Day 3 Read 2 Tim 4:6-8 Performance of a Soldier

1. What are some excuses for not engaging in ministry? _____

2. Understanding the statement, **“You do what you want to do”**, now translate the above excuses as God hears them. _____

Day 4 Read 2 Tim 4:6-8 Prize of a Soldier

1. What is the **“crown of righteousness”**? Whose righteousness is it? (Jas 1:12, 1 Pet 5:4) _____

2. Part of encouraging Timothy (and us) is seeing that Paul has persevered through the tough times. But who is doing the persevering? (Phil 1:6, 2:12-13) How do you explain this to someone? _____

“Expect great things from God....Attempt great things for God.”
-William Carey

