



Today's Message

Date: March 3, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Serving Christ as a Good Soldier*

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:3–10 (ESV)

³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Introduction: In 2 Timothy 2:3-4, Paul urged Timothy to “share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” He explained that the good soldier has a singular aim: to please his commanding officer. That perspective emerges in today's sermon text. The opening verses (3-4a) explain the attitudes that motivated Paul. The rest of the text describes his full commitment to serving in the biblical mission. From him we learn:

Today's take-home truth: We work hard for the mission, faithful in every circumstance, because serving Christ is our first priority.

- I. Servants of Christ walk carefully before others . . . 3a**
- II. because they care about the ministry. 3b**
- III. Therefore, their faithfulness is evident for all to see. 4-10**
 - A. They endure through inevitable difficulties. 4-5
 - 1. Difficulties from internal problems 4
 - 2. Difficulties from external persecutions 5a
 - 3. Difficulties from personal priorities 5b
 - B. They rely on appropriate resources. 6-7
 - 1. Godly character 6a
 - 2. Spiritual tools 6b-7a
 - 3. Divine weapons. 7b
 - C. They maintain a proper perspective. 8-10
 - 1. They remember that reputations are in God's hands. 8-9a
 - 2. They remember that life and death are in God's hands. 9b
 - 3. They remember that results are in God's hands. 10