

Soldiers, Athletes and Farmers

One of the truly great blessings of the New Testament is the simplicity as relates to our understanding of what has been revealed. There are many imperatives (commands) and demands made upon us. Our participation will only be realized as we understand that which is expected of us.

This is especially true as it relates to the concept of Christian service. If we are to understand what is expected of us, we must grasp that which has been revealed expressing God's will in such matters. In 2 Tim. 2:1-7 Paul provides three examples to facilitate the understanding of our call to service. First, he relates that we are soldiers. As such, we must realize that we are in a spiritual battle. Then, he indicates that, as athletes running in competition, we must "play by the rules." God's standard provides the guidelines we must follow. Finally, he indicates that we are farmers. As farmers are privileged to partake of that which they have produced, we are those who partake of that which we attempt to get others to enjoy in their salvation. In attempting to save souls, we are blessed to receive the benefits of the same system to which we call others in obedience to God's will.

We are indeed thankful for the many "word pictures" drawn in the scriptures that are intended to facilitate our understanding. Through such illustrations and depictions we can more easily see that which is demanded of us. In this case, our service to God and His will is demanded. May we step forward and comply with that which we have been called to perform.

Outline: Soldiers, Athletes and Farmers

1. We are to be Soldiers...dedicated to fight the battles that need fighting.
2. As Athletes we must play by the rules.
3. As Farmers we are blessed to partake of that which we encourage others to enjoy.

P.M. – Questions and Answers: 1) Fasting; 2) The Holy Spirit