

**Are you a consecrated, committed Christian?  
II Timothy 2:1-6**

**\*\*An illustration from academics: the example of a *schoolmaster*-be diligent-2:2**

We have taken in the truth. Now, we must transmit it to others. The word “commit” = “to deposit.” Just like we deposit money in the bank to invest it, so we are to deposit truth by investing it in others. Are you a member of the PIO League? The Pass-it-on team. Each of us is responsible to help others become committed, consecrated Christians. Who are you investing **your** life in?

**\*\*An illustration from the army: the example of a *soldier*-be dedicated-2:3-4**

Several years ago, I received an unsolicited letter from a friend of mine who had recently joined the US Army. He thought I'd be interested in a comparison between military life, the Christian life. Here are some of his observations:

- +Strict adherence to the Military Code of Conduct-**
- +Never be a disgrace to the uniform he wears-**
- +Maintain the highest standards of discipline in all areas of one's life-**
- +Uphold proper social standards so that no one will think negatively of the armed forces-**

My friend concluded his letter with these sobering thoughts: “Like Christians, soldiers display various levels of commitment. Some maintain minimum levels of keep their positions; others strive to be the best.”

Paul tells us that Christian soldiers are expected to “endure hardness.” Lit. = “take your share of suffering.” Be willing to suffer for Jesus Christ.

Verse 4 in a nutshell says this: Anything that hinders our service for Jesus Christ and weakens rather than strengthens us must be avoided because they diminish our soldiering. “Warreth” = “to soldier on active duty.” There is never a time when we are not to be on active duty for the Lord. “Entangleth” = “to be entwined” and refers to being caught up in earthly matters to the point that they distract us or divert us from actively serving our Commander in Chief. Don't let such things become a priority!

One author applied it this way: "...the good soldier does not allow himself to end up in bondage to the practicalities of life so that he cannot do what he has been enlisted to do. The moment that the details of living life become our dominant priority, it takes over and eliminates the only priority our life should have."

**\*\*An illustration from athletics: the example of a sportsman-be disciplined-2:5**

How do you rate in matters of self-control, self-discipline? Is living the Christian life worth the devotion, discipline necessary to be committed, consecrated?

Keep this in mind: we don't win the race if we cheat or compromise the rules of the race. Do you know what our biggest obstacle is to a disciplined life? Our self!! Self-will, self-pity, self-confidence, self-importance, self-seeking. By the grace of the HS, we are to...

\*\*Discipline our body-I Cor. 9:24-27

\*\*Disciple our spirit-Prov. 16:32

\*\*Discipline our mind-II Peter 1:5-6

Here are some practical steps to being more disciplined in your life:

\*\***Commit**-make the choice to be more disciplined. It's all a matter of the will.

\*\***Communicate**-ask God to help you make necessary changes.

\*\***Conviction**-develop a set of core Biblical values that you won't compromise, e.g, holiness, integrity, godly character.

**\*\*An illustration from agriculture: the example of a sower-be dependable-2:6-7**

\*\*The schoolmaster teaches us something about being *diligent*-

\*\*The soldier teaches us something about being *dedicated*-

\*\*The sportsman teaches us something about being *disciplined*-

\*\*The sower teaches us about the importance of being *dependable*.

Here's an interesting comparison between the sower, the three other illustrations:

\*\*The schoolmaster finds *encouragement* by inspiring his students-

\*\*The soldier finds *excitement* in the battle-

\*\*The sportsman finds *exhilaration* in competing in the games-

\*\*The sower often works alone...no students to challenge, no soldiers to enlist in the harvest.

Look at your life right now and ask yourself these questions:

\*\*Are you a strong, spiritual, surrendered, Spirit-controlled Christian?

\*\*Do you deny yourself in order to serve the Lord?

\*\*Are you willing to pay the price in order to be diligent, dedicated, disciplined, dependable?

\*\*Are you a consecrated, committed Christian?