

## **"UNDER ORDERS"**

2 Tim 2:3-4

*Making changes/filling churches. Great difficulties caused by men who do not have the understanding here: Under orders.*

### **I. BEING ENLISTED**

A. Paul follows a very common word picture of believers in NT: Soldiers

1. NT is filled with military language/military commands: War/warfare/warrest/fight/charge

a. *1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit unto you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on you, that by them you might war a good warfare;*

2. No doubt these flowed out of life: Seeing soldiers around and being chained to soldiers

a. *Would ask questions/hear them talk/tell stories: That's just like the Christian life!*

3. A soldier is one who is carrying out the will of their commanders

a. *Roman soldier: Carrying out the will of Rome – the will of Caesar*

1. *2 Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

a. One who is encamped – on campaign!

4. Our lives must be involved in extending God's rule on the earth

a. *Luke 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.*

### **II. UNDER ORDERS**

A. A soldier is one who is "under orders" A person who submits their will to the orders of their commanders

1. I owe my life to God: *1 Cor 6:19-20 ...you are not your own, you were bought with a price...*

2. God is wiser than I am: He knows the need/he knows me/He knows the future

a. God's decisions can be trusted

B. God has rights over my life: He can ask anything of me – because he is actually giving orders!

1. He makes choices about my life – and then lets me know about the choices

a. *Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...*

b. *Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

1. *He didn't ask us/doesn't give a preference questionnaire: What would you like to do...?*

2. This is the idea of Kingdom: The Kingdom of God/heaven

a. **This covers every area of our lives:** *Time/money/calling/involvement/changes...*

b. **This is for the rest of our lives:** Will never come a day when this is not true

3. This will not always be what we prefer – might not always be pleasant

a. *2 Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

### **III. PLEASING OUR COMMANDER**

A. Our duty is to obey orders from our commander

1. They may come direct from God – or they may come through his officers - pastors

a. *2 Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

2. We always live for the will of the King

a. *John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*

b. *Acts 9:6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

3. The problem comes when stop living our lives under orders

a. *The word pagan came from word paganus = civilian; A non-Christian lives for their own will*

1. Believers/disciples who won't do what God tells them; Who don't order their life around orders!

2. *2 Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life...unable to fulfill orders*

b. *Church changes: Too hot/cold. What's the salary/benefit package? My wife unhappy here. Benefits*

4. The greatest ability is availability:

a. *Whatever you need.* b. *The answer is yes.*

B. What is at stake is pleasing God

1. *2 Timothy 2:4 ...that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

a. Ultimate: Reward in heaven b. Now: Dimension of blessing and discipleship