

Endure Hardness

Intro: We are engaged in a _____! Ephesians 6:10-12

Effective combatants must be tough. In ministry, there will be hardships, betrayals, failures, heart aches and heart breaks. There are times of lack and times of hurt. We must endure hardness as good soldiers.

1. Be _____ in your service to God! Vs 3

- **Get this down:** Paul describes us as a Soldier because we engaged in a _____

It is a fully engaged _____ battle. **Eph 6:10-12**

- In this war, you have _____ literal foes.

1. _____ – The world is your most _____ foe, because this world's

system _____ a true _____ of Christ! **John 15:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:12**

Not all that _____ in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but all that _____ in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution.

That means it is going to take a willingness to suffer on our part.

The word rendered “hardness” also occurs in Chapter 4:5 as “endure _____”

- Do not develop enmity toward the *individuals* in the world!

They are the _____ we fight the in the spiritual battle. **Hebrews 12:2-3; John 3:16**

- A soldier suffers different environmental factors.

- NOTE: If there are good soldiers, then there are also... _____.

2. _____ - The flesh is your most _____ and consistent foe. **1 Peter 2:11**

- Your flesh is the second enemy of Christ. It will do anything to destroy your walk with Christ. Your flesh wants to take you out of proper service to Christ.

Why? Because your flesh _____ so much! **Ephesians 5:29; James 4:1-3**

- The key to victory over the flesh? _____. **Romans 7:24-25**

*Note the specific instructions on how to win over the flesh. **Romans 8:13***

You must _____ the flesh as the _____ of your life! **Col 3:1-10**

This is a critical combat skill. The flesh is to be mortified daily – crucified with Christ.

3. _____ - **1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:10-12**

The devil has many devices at his disposal that aid him in derailing faithful service to Christ.

2 Cor 2:11

He will use everything at his disposal to destroy you.

2. Be _____ to God. Vs 4

Satan works to ensnare the believer to keep them from serving the Lord properly.

Begin the process of un-entangling yourself from Satan's web of the affairs of this life!

We must show up and engage in service to Jesus. **Vs 4b** “*who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*”

Compare **Ephesians 1:4; John 15:16**

God will take care of you. Sign up and trust your life to His care!

1 Corinthians 9:7; 2 Corinthians 10:3