

THE GOSPEL PREACHER'S LOT IN LIFE

Paul told Timothy to "endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist (II Tim. 4:5). He also said "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3). In these statement Paul is telling Timothy that as he goes forth to do the work of an evangelist he will be called upon to suffer such hardships as a soldier is called upon to endure. As a soldier goes forth to fight for his country he must suffer many things. He is taken from his family and friends, is exposed to the elements of the weather many times, and on occasions he may be destitute of food. In the field of battle he is compelled to endure all that the human body can bear, many times the fight he must put up is into death. All this is done on inadequate pay. If a soldier is willing to do this for his country and the reward it will give him, how much more should a soldier of the cross be willing to endure hardship for his Saviour's sake and the sake of lost men!

The work of an evangelist is not a place of ease, and no man should come into this work thinking he will just enjoy himself and be able to escape suffering and hardship. The man who is not prepared to lead the life of a soldier, welcoming hardship and trial as his lot in life as he does this great work, will make a poor soldier of the cross. He will only add to the burdens of the other soldiers!

Let us look briefly at some of the afflictions first century preachers endured. They suffered shame for his name (Actgs 5:41); were gnashed on by people with their teeth (Acts 7: 54); stoned (Acts 7:58; 14:19); accused of being trouble-makers (Acts 16:20; 17:6); were stood against by the multitude (Acts 16:22); put in prison (Acts 16:24); killed with a sword (Acts 12:5); mocked (Acts 17:32); judged of man's judgment (I Cor. 4:3); some men did them much evil (II Tim. 4:14); and when they needed strength most from the brethren, they were forsaken (II Tim. 4:16).

Dear brother, if you are not ready for some of this kind of treatment, you are not ready to do the work of an evangelist!

~Donald Townsley