

1 February 1993, Evening Sacrifice Brazil

The Athlete, Farmer, and Soldier

2 Tim 2:4-6 — For a soldier, there are things he can and cannot do. He doesn't get involved in civilian affairs.

A soldier, athlete, and farmer. These are our three examples. Paul was telling Timothy how to be competent (able) to teach others. He was talking about men who will not be disqualified in any way but be able to pass it on to others. If people in the community involved themselves in civilian affairs, Paul knew they would be disqualified.

People in Alexander's army or armies back then were totally involved in the army. They were not involved in any way involved in civilian affairs. No athlete can run unless he runs according to the rules (1 Cor 9:24).

The Holy Spirit is not able to convict another person through you if you are not set apart and pure. He wants a people that are set apart, not involved in any way with the world system. (John 7:17,18)

There are three examples:

The soldier who wants to please his commander. Our new commander is YAHSHUA.

An athlete who follows the rules of the game.

The farmer who works hard. A farmer never is one who doesn't work hard. If you know a farmer who doesn't work hard, he's not a farmer. If he is a farmer, the only thing on his mind is producing those crops.

In a house there are vessels of noble and ignoble use. If you want to be a vessel for honor what do you have to do? Cleanse ourselves from everything that keeps us from being the best athlete, or farmer, or soldier. The only motive to be a farmer or athlete is to be the best and the only motive to be a soldier is to win the war. I had a coach for who we practically killed ourselves to win the game. But we have a war to win now, not just a game. As the outcome, the enemy will be thrown into the abyss.

2 Tim 2:15 — We want to be approved. Can you imagine a workman who works in vain? We want to be approved, work with all that we have, all our heart and strength. If you are a coach, you'll get your team to do the best. Be diligent. What is the best, most precious possession that a man has? Diligence. Whatever you are involved in, do your best.

An athlete will be disqualified if he doesn't follow the rules. So will we also. A farmer won't win his crops if he's not diligent. In a war, diligence is a matter of life and death. If not he loses his country, his children, his wife.

When I played football I would be ashamed if I had not applied all diligence. A farmer is ashamed if his crops fail because of a lack of diligence. Don't even think about getting involved here if you don't plan on applying all diligence.

In Alexander's army he would say, " Soldier, change your name or change your behavior." It was called Alexander's Army. Don't call yourself part of Alexander's army if you don't change your behavior. He was a leader and people wanted to please him. Can you imagine if our Father got a hold of him? Instead our Father has to get His will done through social rejects like us. Not many were wise, intelligent, etc. But he confounds the world through "fools".

2 Tim 2:15— We are not going to be a workman who needs to be ashamed.

There will be a lot of hardships (verse 12). Paul knew hardships. We must endure with him through hardships. Is it necessary to have hardships. So that you won't be disillusioned, let me tell you that you must endure hardship to enter the kingdom. Paul encouraged the disciples by saying Acts 14:22.

If we go through hardships, it's not because He left us. He is not going to leave us. It's a lie. We must go through this. Anyone can make it if it's all easy or if they are always receiving applause. Athletes — have to exercise self control in all things.

Farmers — working in the hot sun, diligently. What if we aren't diligent in presenting ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice? We won't understand the word. A prophet, especially, has to be diligent to present themselves. How many countless people have misunderstood the word? So many people have been up on top of mountains waiting for Jesus to come back.

Don't get involved with the world. You can't be a banker, or photographer or work for IBM anymore.

That army and great King who is coming are much better than Alexander's army. Luke 14:33 — Does it say that some can and some can't? No one can be my disciple unless he is totally involved in the kingdom. Eternal life is total involvement in the kingdom. Eternal life promises persecutions and hardships. If you want to keep your life, you can until you die. Eternal life lasts a long time. This present life is not so long.

There are two kings.

king of good;

king of evil.

To follow our King, you can't have anything to do with the king of evil. Our Master is the King of good. YAHSHUA is good. God is good. No one can have eternal life unless he does what YAHSHUA says. The evil king Satan is ruling now, but YAHSHUA will take over as soon as He has a people prepared.