

Well might Paul exhort Timothy to 'be inwardly strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.' As a soldier in the Christian army, he is engaged in spiritual warfare, a conflict more dangerous and more important by far than any in which the kings of the earth engage.

Timothy was Paul's true child in the faith; as a member of the now rapidly diminishing band of Apostles, Paul was intensely anxious that when he should be himself taken away from the Church, his son Timothy might be found prepared to go forward valiantly leading the hosts of the Lord against their spiritual foes.

Paul's ideal of the Christian Ministry is most lofty, but who dares say that it is too high. He declares that the man who is called to this office is so bound to Christ, who has called him, that he must be entirely consecrated to His service, facing danger and death itself and giving all his time and energy to the duties of his great office.

Our theme is *The Christian Soldier*.

I. Called.

II. Consecrated.

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1. *There was a preparation.* Very interesting are the notices which we have of that pious household in which Timothy had been brought up, "unfeigned faith dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and in thy mother Eunice,

and I am persuaded in thee also"; "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures," etc. Here we have a beautiful picture of the home of a young believer of the first Christian century. The believing mother determined the character of the home, and the divinely inspired volume was accepted as the most suitable book to place in the hands of children in order that they may be "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Timothy's youth appears to have been singularly pure and exemplary.

2. *The circumstances of his call.* Probably when Paul on his first missionary journey, visited the semi-barbarous province of Lycaonia, and was cruelly stoned, Timothy became a follower of Christ. When the apostle in the course of his second journey, again visited this province, Timothy had already obtained a good degree, and was "well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium." Paul was anxious that this young disciple should become his companion and fellow-laborer in the vineyard of the Lord. At the very beginning of the missionary activity of Paul the Holy Spirit said "Separate me Paul and Barnabas for the work, whereunto I have called them." Nor was the approval and command of the Spirit wanting to the appointment of Timothy. In 1 Timothy 1:18 Paul says: "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, ac-