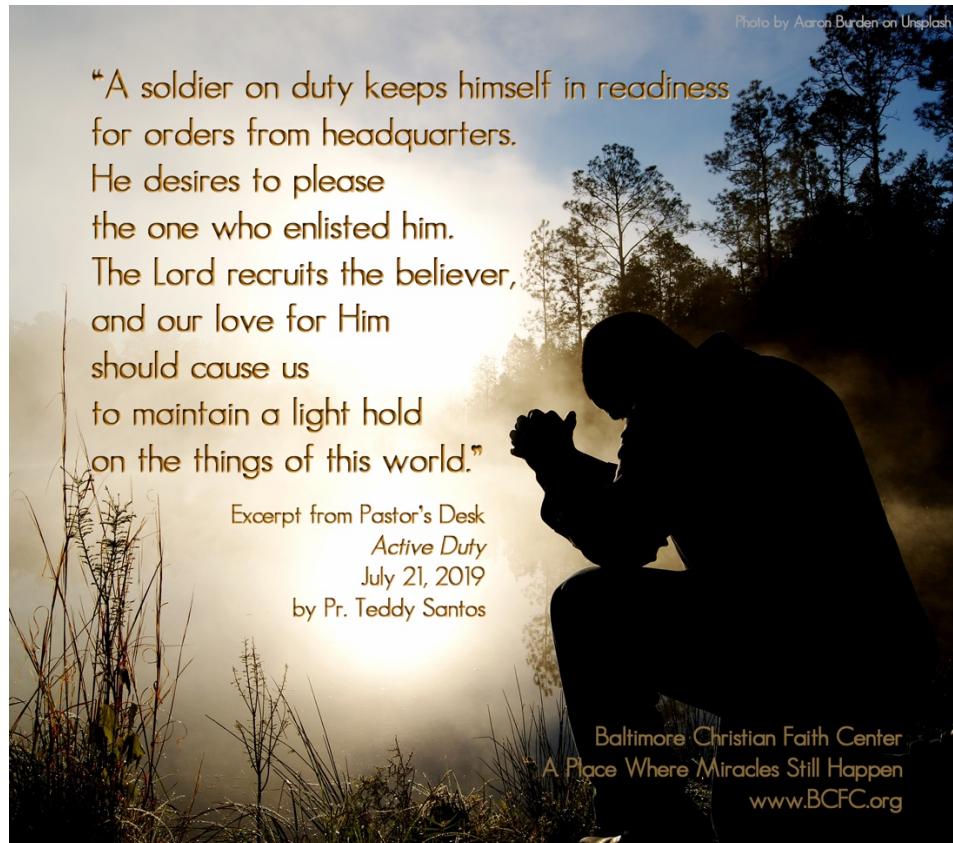


# On Active Duty

## Pastor's Desk – July 21, 2019



2 Timothy 2:1-4 **So, my son, be strong in the grace that Christ Jesus gives. Everything that you have heard me teach in public you should, in turn, entrust to reliable men, who will be able to pass it on to others. Put up with your share of hardship as a loyal soldier in Christ's army. Remember that no soldier on active service gets himself entangled in business, or he will not please his commanding officer.**

The soldier described in this verse is one who is on active duty. Not only so, but he is in the thick of the combat. No soldier in such grim circumstances entangles himself with the affairs of this life.

Paul shows us that a soldier's primary responsibility is to please the one who enlisted him in this service. He makes it clear that our primary responsibility, our loyalty, is to Jesus Christ—who is the one who enlisted us. To Him alone, to His orders and commands do we comply.

Does this mean that those who are in the Lord's service should never engage in secular occupations as well? Certainly not! Paul himself worked as a tentmaker while he was preaching the gospel and planting churches. He testified that his own hands ministered to his necessities.

The emphasis is on the word “entangles”. The soldier must not allow ordinary affairs of life to become the main object of existence. For instance, he must not make acquiring food and clothing the main aim of life. Instead, Christ's services must always occupy the prominent place, while the things of this life are kept in the background.

A soldier on duty keeps himself in readiness for orders from headquarters. He desires to please the one who enlisted him. The Lord recruits the believer, and our love for Him should cause us to maintain a light hold on the things of this world. Thus as a reminder:

**Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*.

In His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos