

Following Jesus When Life Is Hard

(2 Corinthians 11:22-31)

- Introduction:
1. I'm convinced that many in the church today are weak.
 2. Far from being "soldiers" on a battlefield, they are cowering deserters at the least little resistance.
 3. In this lesson, I want to encourage you to be strong and courageous, and to follow Jesus when it's hard.

I. **Misconceptions About Christianity**

- A. Some people think that when they become a Christian, their problems will end.
- B. The Bible nowhere teaches this.
- C. On the contrary, becoming a disciple of Jesus guarantees you'll have problems (John 15:18-20).
- D. Consider Noah (Genesis 6:8), Mary (Luke 1:42), Paul (Acts 9:15-16).

II. **We Need To Toughen Up**

- A. (2 Timothy 2:3) Endure hardship as a good soldier.
- B. Paul (2 Corinthians 11:22-31).
- C. (Hebrews 11:32-38).
- D. (2 Maccabees 7) Jewish mother and 7 sons.
- C. Ills. Roman execution of families.
- D. What do we face today?
 1. Laughed at? Ridiculed? Gossip? Excluded? Feelings hurt?
- E. SO WHAT?!!!
- F. (Hebrews 12:4).
- G. Ills. Go to Heaven and speak to a group of martyrs.