



DIGGING IN

Protecting a Spiritual Treasure

Instruction	Practical Action

DIGGING DEEPER

Did You Hear the One about the Soldier, the Athlete, and the Farmer?

As you read 2 Timothy 2:1-6, you'll find three types of people mentioned. See what you can discover about these three types of people, and fill in the chart below. Then count on Jesus' insight as you think about how this info applies to you.

	Who's the person mentioned?	What action should the person take?	What's the reward if the person does this well?
2:3-4			
2:5			
2:6			

How does each of these illustrations encourage or instruct you in following Jesus? Write your thoughts beneath each illustration.

1. **The soldier who pleases his commanding officer.**
2. **The athlete who competes according to the rules.**
3. **The hardworking farmer.**

One way to be a hardworking believer who plays by the rules and pleases his commanding officer is this: *Don't be ashamed of the gospel.* Take a minute to think about how your daily actions mesh with your belief in the gospel. Do you shy away from talking about Jesus—or do you seize any opportunities the Lord brings your way? Rate yourself on the scale below. Then come up with three practical things you can do to improve where you are on the scale.

GOSPEL SHAME-O-METER



PRACTICAL THINGS I CAN DO TO IMPROVE:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Take a second to see what Jesus had to say about you being ashamed of him. Look up Mark 8:38, and write down what you learn.

How does your life compare with Paul's three analogies? Check the responses that best describe you. Base your choice on the past 30 days.

Based on your relationship with Jesus and the gospel right now, what kind of soldier are you?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haven't enlisted yet. | <input type="checkbox"/> Out of shape; flunking basic training. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Still in boot camp. | <input type="checkbox"/> Working on Navy SEALs or Green Beret status. |

What kind of spiritual athlete are you?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A couch potato. | <input type="checkbox"/> I work out occasionally. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm in the game, but I don't play by the rules. | <input type="checkbox"/> Going for Olympic gold. |

If you were the farmer that Paul described, what would your crops look like?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I haven't planted a seed yet. | <input type="checkbox"/> I've planted, but my crop is full of weeds. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm seeing a little fruit. | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm expecting a harvest. |

CROSS-CHECKING

Jesus Weighs In

Luke 6:47-49

Luke 8:15

Luke 8:21

John 14:21