

Paul Continues To Encourage Timothy To Be A Faithful Minister

Gospel To Be Committed To Faithful Men

2TI 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace [favor] that is in Christ Jesus.

1. "You therefore, my son" - Timothy was not his fleshly son, but one Paul taught and perhaps converted.
 - a. His father was a Greek. (Acts 16:1).
 - b. His Jewish mother and grandmother are mentioned by name in chapter 1. (2 Tim. 1:5).
 - c. Timothy was an outstanding servant [minister] of Christ and a valuable co-worker of Paul that had been nourished by Paul. (Phil. 2:19-24).
2. "be strong in [by] the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
 - a. "be strong" comes from "endunamoo" [ehn doo nah **mah** oh] meaning "to strengthen, to empower." Marshall has "be empowered by the grace in Christ Jesus."
 - b. The preposition "en" [ehn] can be translated "in" or "by."
 - c. It is "in" or "by" Christ's grace that the Christian is empowered. (Phil. 4:13).
 - d. The Christian has the strength for every situation through Christ.
 - e. This does not mean the Christian will not find himself in very difficult situations, but it does mean the Lord Jesus will help us to be able to endure the situation even if it does not turn out good.

2TI 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

1. "And the things which you have heard [personally] from me in the presence of many witnesses,"
 - Lit. "in the presence of" is from "dia" [dee **ah**] meaning "by, through." It may also have the idea of "among, in the midst of."
 - It seems Paul is setting forth that what Timothy heard many others also heard.
 - It was not a secret or private message, but a public message.
- a. Paul had received his message by the revelation of Jesus. (Gal. 1:12).
- b. He wrote the commandments of the Lord. (1 Cor. 14:37).
- c. These instructions were not temporary or spoken in secret, but were to be entrusted to faithful teachers who would pass them on from one generation to the next.

d. This was not done miraculously, but it was done by training faithful men who were committed to the Lord and the learning and proclamation of the gospel.

1) Timothy was not able to pass on miraculous gifts.

2) It is possible he had a miraculous gift. See Notes 2 Tim. 1:6.

e. This was not a changing message because the message does not change. (Jude 3).

JUD 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

f. Preservation of the gospel was a matter of training faithful men who would handle aright the word of truth. It also involved carefully copying the letters written by Paul and others.

g. Today we must faithfully transmit the gospel to each generation.

1) This is done by training trustfully men.

2) This is done by instilling the truth in our youth and others in the church.

3) Apostasy can be just a generation away.

h. It does not take long for an apostasy to develop, but it may take years to correct and in some instances may never be corrected.

i. It is vital that every generation be thoroughly taught to know, love and live the truth.

2. “these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also”

a. This is a reference to the “deposit” that had been entrusted to Timothy. (1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:14).

1TI 6:20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"--

2TI 1:14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

b. These teachings [the deposit] were to be entrusted “to faithful [reliable] men.”

c They were to be entrusted “to faithful men “who will be able to teach others also.”

d You do not want to depend on unfaithful men to faithfully share the pure, unadulterated gospel of Christ.

e. The church should not confer its approval on everyone who expresses a desire to preach, but must insist that such men are faithful.

“A Good Soldier”

2TI 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good [true, loyal] soldier of Christ Jesus.

1. “Suffer hardship with me” - See 2 Tim. 1:8.

- a. It is not easy being a faithful Christian. (Jn. 15:20-23; Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12).
 - b. It is not easy to be a faithful gospel preacher.
 - 1) Faithful preachers meet opposition and often persecution from the world.
 - 2) Faithful preachers most often meet opposition from many of the brethren.
 - 3) Many a faithful gospel preacher has been shamefully treated by his own brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - 4) In fact many a gospel preacher has been fired or punished or both by the brethren for being faithful.
2. “as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” give undivided service to Him.
- a. All Christians are soldiers of Christ Jesus. (Eph. 6:10-18).
 - b. Gospel preachers are also soldiers of Christ Jesus, and must be on the front lines faithfully proclaiming the gospel.
 - c. Preachers must make everything secondary to the work of proclaiming the gospel.
 - d. Many preachers get so busy with “good causes” that they neglect study and giving all diligence to the preaching of the gospel.

2TI 2:4 No soldier in active service entangles [involves] himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

- **Paul compared the servant of the Lord to a “soldier” on several occasions in his writings.**

1CO 9:7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

PHI 2:25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need;

2TI 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2TI 2:4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

PHM 1:2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

1. “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life”
 - a. A soldier knows he will not be very effective and give his best effort if he becomes entangled “in the affairs of everyday life.”
 - b. He must be undivided and devote himself to the proclamation of the gospel.
 - c. Some believe Paul is advising Timothy not to follow his example of “making tents” to support himself as he most often did. Both the Lord and Paul had stressed that it was proper to support preachers. (Lk. 10:7; 1 Cor. 9:3-14).

1) Refusing support might the work to suffer.

2) He had been instructed to devote himself wholly to his work. (1 Tim. 4:15).

1TI 4:15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

d. We cannot be sure this was what was on the mind of Paul, but whatever might hinder or slow down his work should be omitted.

2. “so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier”

a. He wants to “please “the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”

b. As applied to the preacher, “the One who enlisted” is the Lord Jesus Christ.

“An Athlete” Who Wants To Win “The Prize”

2TI 2:5 And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

1. “And also if anyone competes as an athlete” - All athletic contests have rules that must be obeyed.

a. One must exercise self-discipline to be a real competitor.

b. One must also obey the rules to avoid being disqualified.

2. “he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules”

a. One must obey the rules of the sport to “win the prize” or for his efforts to be counted.

b. One must obey the rules of the Lord Jesus to “win the prize.” (Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 14:15; 15:14).

c. This is another way to emphasizing the importance of “sound doctrine,” that is, the teachings of the Lord only.

d. “Sound doctrine” must always be preached and practiced.

e. The gospel must never be perverted. (Gal. 1:6-8).

GAL 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

GAL 1:7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

GAL 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.;

“Hard-Working Farmer”

2TI 2:6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops [harvest].

• **Lit. “the laboring farmer it behooves firstly of the fruits to partake”**

1. It has the idea that the “hard-working farmer” should have first claim to the fruits of his work.

2. It may have the same idea as “the laborer is worthy of his wages.” (Lk. 10:7).
3. Paul is admonishing Timothy to be “hard-working.”
 - a. From all we know, Timothy was “hard-working.”
 - b. This is best interpreted to mean he should continue to be “hard-working.”
 - c. There is no evidence he is accusing Timothy of being slack or lazy.
 - d. Timothy must continue to be the opposite of the “sluggard” described in the book of Proverbs. (Prov. 20:4; 24:30, 31).

2TI 2:7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

1. “Consider [give attention to, reflect carefully on] what I say” - Psa. 1:2.
2. “for the Lord will give you understanding in everything”
 - a. How the Lord would do this is not explained, but it does show one could completely understand what the Lord requires.
 - b. See John 8:32; Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15.

2TI 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel,

1. “Remember Jesus Christ” - He will proceed to remind him of some great facts about Jesus.
 2. “risen from the dead” -
 - a. Jesus was raised on the third day. (Matt. 16:21; Jn. 2:19-21; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4).
 - b. This established His Deity. (Rom. 1:4).
- ROM 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
3. “descendant of David” - 2 Sam. 7:12,13; Psa. 89:28; 132:17; Acts 2:30; Matt. 23:31-32; Rom. 1:3; Rev. 5:5.
 - a. The scriptures set forth that Jesus was the illustrious “descendant [offspring] of David.”
 - b. This fact established His humanity, but scriptures reveal He was not humanity only. (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 14:9; Col. 1:15; Col. 2:9).
 4. “according to my gospel” -
 - a. It was called “my gospel” not because it originated with him, but because it was the one and only gospel that he preached.
 - b. The gospel is known by many designations in the New Testament.

“the gospel of God.” (Rom. 1:1; 1 Pet. 4:17).	“gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15).	“my gospel” - (Rom. 2:16)
“the gospel of Christ.” (Gal. 1:7; 1 Cor. 9:12).	“gospel of the kingdom” (Matt. 4:23; 9:35).	“gospel of Jesus Christ”
“gospel of His Son” (Rom. 1:9).	“glorious gospel of the blessed God” (1 Tim. 1:11).	“gospel” (Mk. 13:10; 16:15; Rom. 1:16).

2TI 2:9 for which [gospel] I suffer hardship [harsh treatment] even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

1. “for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal” - 2 Tim. 1:16.

2TI 1:16 The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chains;

- a. Paul was not imprisoned because of a crime.
- b. He was imprisoned at Rome because He faithfully preached “the good news” of Christ everywhere he went.

2. “but the word of God is not imprisoned.”

- a. Even when Paul was in prison, it did not stop the proclamation of “the word of God.”
- b. He continued to faithfully preach the message Christ commissioned him to preach.
- c. We must never be afraid to proclaim God’s word.

2TI 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

1. “For this reason I endure all things” refers back to the gospel [the word of God].

2. “for the sake of those who are chosen”

- a. “Chosen” does not mean they were arbitrarily chosen by God. (Acts 10:34, 35; Rom. 2:11).
- b. They became chosen by virtue of their obedience to the gospel.

2TH 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2TH 2:14 And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. “that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory” - See Matt. 25:46; Tit. 1:2; Rom. 6:23.

2TI 2:11 It is a trustworthy [reliable] statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him;

1. “It is a trustworthy statement” - Paul used this statement several times in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. (1 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11; Tit. 3:8).

1TI 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

1TI 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

1TI 4:9 It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.

2TI 2:11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him;

TIT 3:8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

2. “For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him”

a. “If” is used with the force of “since,” that is “since we died with Him...”

b. The Christian is one who has died to sin as a way of life, and has been buried with Christ in baptism.

ROM 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?

ROM 6:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

ROM 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

ROM 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

c. This death to sin is not absolute. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10; 2:1-2).

2TI 2:12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

1. “If we endure [remain faithful], we shall also reign with Him”

a. Eternal life in the heavenly kingdom is for those who “endure.”

b. The faithful are blessed with eternal life.

2. “ If we deny Him, He also will deny us”

a. The “we” has reference to Christians.

b. Jesus will not acknowledge who are ashamed of Him and refuse to acknowledge Him. (Matt. 10:32, 33; Mk. 8:38; 1 Jn. 4:15).

2TI 2:13 If we are faithless [unreliable], He remains faithful [reliable]; for He cannot deny Himself.

1. “If we are faithless” - Christ is true to His promises even when “we are faithless.”

a. We must guard ourselves from faithlessness by keeping ourselves in “the love of God.” (Jude 21).

b. We must practice the Christian graces and “the fruit of the Spirit.” (2 Pet. 2:5-11; Gal. 5:22,23).

c. We must always watch our conduct and not become over confident. (1 Cor. 10:12; 9:27; Heb. 3:12).

2. “ He remains faithful” - Jesus is always faithful and will never fail us. (Heb. 13:5, 6).

HEB 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

HEB 13:6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

3. "for He cannot deny Himself" - For the Lord to be unfaithful would be to deny His perfect character.
 - a. It is impossible for the Lord to go back on His promises.
 - b. His character is infinitely perfect as is His power.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)