

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy



2 Timothy — Chapter 2

¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 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. ⁵ Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO A MISSIONARY STILL IN THE FIELD (2:1-13):

- What does it mean to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”?
 - What sort of things had Timothy heard from Paul?
 - Why was it important to entrust these things to faithful men who would be able to teach others?
 - What sorts of situations is Paul anticipating for the church later in this same letter?
 - What meaning is here for us?
- What is the meaning of Paul’s metaphor of being a soldier?
 - Why do soldiers bear with suffering in war?
 - What is the meaning for us?
 - What are “entanglements”?
 - What’s wrong with entanglements?
- What’s the meaning of Paul’s metaphor of an athlete?
 - What are the rules for us?
- What’s the meaning behind the parable / metaphor of the hard working farmer?
 - What is the reward Paul is talking about?
 - If Timothy should “consider” it, should we?

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. ¹⁰ For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. ¹¹ It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

¹² If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.

- What is Paul's reason for telling Timothy to remember Jesus?
 - Had Jesus also suffered?
 - Had Jesus gotten entangled?
 - Had Jesus also "competed" according to the rules?
 - Had Jesus received a reward?
 - How had this motivated Paul?
 - How had he suffered?
 - Who are the "chosen"?
 - What was Paul's goal for the chosen?
- What is this trustworthy statement?
 - Where did it come from?
 - What does it teach?
 - ...about endurance?
 - ...about denial?
 - ...about faithfulness

REMIND THEM...

- Who is the "them" of this passage?
- What does it mean to "charge"?
- What does it mean to "wrangle about words"?
 - What does Paul say about the usefulness of it?
 - What is the usual result?
 - Does this apply to us today?
 - Do people do this today?

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

²⁰ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified,

PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

- What is a workman?
 - How does "workman" apply to ministry?
 - What does "be diligent" mean in this passage?
 - What would it mean to present yourself "approved"?
 - What would be shameful workmanship?
 - What does it mean to accurately handle the word of truth?
 - How does this apply to us?
- What would "worldly and empty chatter" include in this context?
 - What is the result?
 - What is Paul warning about, when he refers to this as something that will spread like gangrene?
 - Had Hymenaeus and Philetus engaged in this "worldly and empty chatter"?
 - Where had it led them?
 - What were they saying?
 - What had this done to some Christians?
- What is this "firm foundation"?
 - What is the idea of the "seal" in v. 19?
 - What do these seals mean?

THE PARABLE OF VESSELS OF HONOR AND DISHONOR (VV. 20,21)...

- What does Paul mean by "honor" in this parable?
- What does Paul mean by "dishonor" in this parable?
- What is the meaning of Paul's parable here?
- Is v.22 an application of the parable to Timothy?
- The Lord's servant must...

useful to the Master,
prepared for every good
work. ²² Now flee from
youthful lusts and pursue
righteousness, faith, love and
peace, with those who call
on the Lord from a pure
heart. ²³ But refuse foolish
and ignorant speculations,
knowing that they produce
quarrels. ²⁴ The Lord's bond-
servant must not be
quarrelsome, but be kind to
all, able to teach, patient
when wronged, ²⁵ with
gentleness correcting those
who are in opposition, if
perhaps God may grant them
repentance leading to the
knowledge of the truth, ²⁶
and they may come to their
senses and escape from the
snare of the devil, having
been held captive by him to
do his will.

- Not be **quarrelsome**
- But **kind** to all
- Able to **teach**
- **Patient** when wronged
- Correcting **gently** those who oppose
 - Why?
- What application does this have to us today?
 - What happens when we become quarrelsome?
 - What does it mean "able to teach"? Its opposite?
 - What happens when we are unkind, impatient, and rough with religious opponents?
 - What is the goal of teaching and correcting?