

## 2 Timothy 2:1-13

### Being Strong, Teaching Others, Enduring, Considering, and Remembering.

Michael Silva / Aug 20, 2017

#### Opening: Joke

- A little boy was overheard talking to himself as he strutted through the backyard, wearing his baseball cap and toting a ball and bat...
  - "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he announced.
- Then, he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed.
  - "Strike One!" he yelled.
- Undaunted, he picked up the ball and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!"
- He tossed the ball into the air. When it came down he swung again and missed.
  - "Strike Two!" he cried.
- The boy then paused a moment to examine his bat and ball carefully.
- He spit on his hands and rubbed them together.
- He straightened his cap and said once more, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!"
- Again, he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed.
  - "Strike Three!"
- "Wow!" he exclaimed. "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world."
  - Today Paul uses an athlete to illustrate part of the Christian life in Christ.

#### Transition/Intro:

1. We are continuing our study in 2 Timothy, the last letter Paul wrote before being put to death for his faith.
  - a) This letter is more intimate and personal than all Paul's other's letters.
2. Key Themes:
  - a) Faithfulness despite suffering.
  - b) Holding fast to the Scriptures.
  - c) Preaching the Gospel.
  - d) Fulfilling your ministry.

Let's read our passage: 2 Timothy 2:1-13 (NKJV)<sup>i</sup> And Pray...

1. In today's passage Paul emphasizes five things: being strong, teaching others, enduring, considering, and remembering.

a) Within this discussion, Paul also uses a soldier, athlete and a farmer to illustrate his point.

**2 Timothy 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

1. Strong in what? **grace!**

a) **Not works.** We **teach** toward works. We are **taught** to be strong in works

i) We get **stickers** and **stars** in school. **Good grades** for good performance.

ii) We get pay raises and promotions for hard work on the job.

b) But Paul tells us that instead of all these things, we are to be **strong in grace!**

i) And specifically, **the grace that is in Christ Jesus**, the free gift of God.

2. But this is not something you do on your own. God is the one who gives us strength.

a) **Isaiah 40:29–31** <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, <sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

3. Making It Personal: Are you strong in the grace?

a) Is your relationship with God strong today, **not** because you spent hours in prayer, gave a really large gift in the offering plate, or because you got to church early to set-up...

i) No, are you strong simply because of grace?

ii) **1 Corinthians 1:27** But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

b) Resting in God's grace is what gives you the strength to do all He is calling you to do.

**2 Timothy 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

1. Being strong in the grace should result in teaching others, who can in turn also teach others about the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
  - a) Paul is telling Timothy to teach future teachers.
  - b) The grace of God is too big for one person. It's meant to be shared!
  - c) And Paul's also giving Timothy permission to plagiarize.
  - d) Paul says, take what you've heard from me and pass it along.
2. Paul was concerned about the future.
  - a) It's like carrying on a family business.
    - i) What the father establishes, he passes on to his sons and daughters.
    - ii) What Paul the spiritual father has established, he's passing on to his spiritual son, Timothy.
    - iii) Timothy, in turn is to also pass this on to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
  - b) Family business is a distribution business. We are not manufactures. We are taking what we have received and passing it along.
3. We should **not** keep our ministry all to ourselves, but pass it on.
  - a) This pattern is to continue and grow...
  - b) But we need the grace of God to do the business of God.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

1. What are some of the hardships of a soldier?
  - a) Today, you lose your individual identity, they shave your head, take away your personal cloths and you get a uniform.
  - b) Physical demands, Mental demands, Emotional demands.
  - c) Cold, wet, dirty, hungry, tired, in pain, lonely, scared...
    - i) But you continue on.

2. The word *entangles* means weaves.
  - a) The *affairs of this life* are **not** weaved into the fabric of his life as a soldier.
  - b) The good soldier doesn't tell his officers, "Sorry, I'm not available tonight, I've got a date." Or "Sorry, I'm busy this weekend, we are re-landscaping the front of our house."
    - i) No, those are the simple *affairs of this life*. And the good soldier sets those things aside for a season in order to serve.
    - ii) But there are also the sinful *affairs of this life*.
      - (1) Gluttony, selfishness, laziness... And the good soldier stays far from those things because they tear down what God wants us to build up.
3. **Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

**2 Timothy 2:5** <sup>5</sup> And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

1. Who's the winner in a race? The one who crosses the line first.
  - a) But you **can't** cut across the field; you must stay in your lane.
  - b) You **can't** knock others down.
  - c) You **can't** use devices that help you go faster, it must be individual effort.
2. We have liberty in Christ, but we can't just make up our own rules.
  - a) We must *compete according to the rules*.
  - b) The rules are found in the Word of God.
3. But athletes also spend a tremendous amount of time preparing...
  - a) For weeks, months, and even years athletes condition their bodies, watch what they eat, ensure they are getting enough sleep.
4. Making It Personal: Are you preparing and competing according to the rules, like an athlete?
  - a) Are you following His rules or have you made up your own house rules?
  - b) In the Christian race for the gospel, we don't compete according to house rules, but His rules.

**2 Timothy 2:6-7**                   <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

1. What type of farmer is described? The hardworking farmer.
  - a) Like the farmer, we **shouldn't** be **lazy** in our **service** of the Lord.
    - i) We **shouldn't** be **lazy** in the **lives** we live, for God's glory.
  - b) **1 Corinthians 15:10**                   **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**
2. But the **hardworking farmer** must also be patient as well for he has to **wait** for the crops to come.
  - a) Jeremiah writes in **Lamentations 3:25-26**                   <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. <sup>26</sup> It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.
3. Paul also writes, the farmer **must be first to partake of the crops**.
  - a) Commenting on that David **Guzik** said, "When Timothy had spiritual food to give to the congregation, he must eat of it first. If he isn't being fed from the Word of God, he can't really feed others."
4. The exhortation to **Consider** what Paul says with the examples of the soldier, athlete and farmer all point to one overarching character trait... **Perseverance**.
  - a) Timothy is to think about how each example could apply to his own life...
    - i) The Soldier must persevere in order to win the battle
    - ii) The Athlete must persevere in order to win the race
    - iii) The Farmer must persevere in order to see the fruits of his crop.
  - b) We are all called to persevere in our faith for God's glory.
    - i) It's well be said that, "It's always too soon to quit."
5. Making It Personal: Do you too, like Timothy, need to take some time to **consider** the soldier, athlete, and the farmer and where your own perseverance in in relation to these three examples?

**2 Timothy 2:8-9**                   <sup>8</sup> Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

1. Paul instructs Timothy to **Remember...** **not** because Timothy had forgotten, but because **Jesus Christ** is to stay at the **forefront** of his and our minds, ALWAYS!

- a) Jesus is the ultimate example of perseverance and sacrifice.
  - b) While we make it our aim to be a good soldier, competitive athlete, and a hardworking farmer for Christ.
  - c) We do all those things with Christ's sacrifice and hope of His resurrection in the forefronts of our minds.
2. Because Paul believed in the resurrection and spread that message he suffered *trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains...*
- a) He was in prison awaiting a death sentence.
  - b) But despite his chains, Paul declares, *but the word of God is not chained.*
  - c) Our limitations do **not** limit God in what He wants to and will do in and through our lives.

**2 Timothy 2:10** <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1. Paul is willing to suffer that others might be saved.

**A HYMN...** **2 Timothy 2:11** <sup>11</sup> This is a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*.

1. The Christian Paradox: Die to self to live an abundant life in Christ.
  - a) **Matthew 16:25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
  - b) Choosing to sacrifice something of yourself for the redemption of someone else.
  - c) Jan Johnson, writing for the BGEA says, "To die to self is to set aside what we want in this moment and focus instead on loving God with everything we've got and valuing others as highly as we value ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). This moves us away from self-centeredness and closer to becoming openhearted followers of Christ who care deeply for others. It's much easier to pay attention to the concerns, interests and needs of people (Philippians 2:3-4) when our own interests no longer consume us."
2. Making It Personal: What are you doing for others for God's glory?

**2 Timothy 2:12** <sup>12</sup> If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.

1. As followers of Christ, we are joint-heirs in the Kingdom of God! We will reign with Him for all of eternity.

2. Contracts that with... **Matthew 10:33**                      **But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.**
3. Interestingly, Peter cursed, “I don not know the Man!” (Matthew 26:74).
  - a) Yet after Jesus was resurrected, Peter repented and the Lord forgave and restored him.
  - b) Thus, this verse in 2 Timothy does not refer to those who stumble like Peter, but to those who walk away and deny the Lord without a returning repentant heart.
4. Paul believed what James taught in James 2:17, **Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**
  - a) Paul and James never contradict each other. (J.V. McGee)
    - i) James is talking about the works of faith, and Paul is saying that genuine faith will produce works.
    - ii) John **Calvin** put it like this: “Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone.”

**2 Timothy 2:13**                      <sup>13</sup> **If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

1. Three things are impossible with God—to die, to lie, and to fail the soul that trusts him. Even when we cannot muster faith enough, his word of promise cannot be frustrated.      F. B. Meyer

**Conclusion: What’s the big take away from this passage?**

1. We are called to...
  - a) Be strong in grace.
  - b) Teaching Others,
  - c) Enduring, hardship like a good soldier...
  - d) Considering, the athlete and farmer as well...
  - e) Remembering, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

**Invitation: Revelation 3:20**      **Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

**Benediction: 1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

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<sup>i</sup> All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson. Hebrew and Greek definitions, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, Copyright 1995 Woodside Bible Fellowship