

2 Timothy 2

2 Timothy 2.1-7

V 1 – Meaning of “Therefore”? Following the example of Onesiphorus, not the other two men
-Paul to Timothy? Be strong and do not be ashamed of the gospel

V 2 – What was Timothy to do at Ephesus? Train faithful men, who would train others
-As a congregation we have a responsibility to train others to take over when we leave or die
-It is a very sick congregation where the preacher does everything, because when he leaves, the work will collapse
-One preacher known to this writer bragged to area preachers that his church had gone from 35 to 111 in the two years that he had been there, but then he left, and the church went down to 35, and today has about 20 members left
-**What good did he do?** That congregation never recovered
-It is better to take Paul’s advice and work on building up the members
-The best advice for any kind of leader: Organize—Deputize—Supervise
-In other words, get others involved in the programs of the church (that is what Jesus did with the apostles)

Three examples of the Christian life:

1. V 3 – How did Paul characterize Christian life? Hardship, like the role of a soldier

V 4 – How does a good soldier behave? He does not get so busy in other things that he fails as a soldier
-We can get so entangled in other activities that the church is crowded out of our lives
-Imagine a soldier saying to his commanding officer: “Sorry, I can’t go into battle today, because I have a ball game to play this afternoon (bowling, drama club, part-time job, etc.)”
-One Christian woman in the process of falling away from the church was visited by the elders and made this comment to them concerning her attendance: “Well, my goal is to come once a month”

2. V 5 – Lesson from the athlete? He must obey the rules and work toward winning (people are training right now for the next Olympics several years from now)

3. V 6 – Lesson from the farmer? He works hard
-As a result from his “suffering,” he is rewarded with the crop (See *1 Corinthians 9.7-11* – paying the preacher)
-**Lesson from these three examples?** It takes dedication, concentration, and hard work to remain faithful as a Christian

V 7 – God would help Timothy understand those things (maybe with the gift of wisdom – *1 Corinthians 12.8*)

2 Timothy 2.8-13

V 8 – Whom was Timothy to think of when he got weak? Christ (risen from the dead)

V 9 – Would this mean that Timothy would never have to suffer as a Christian? No – Paul was suffering

-**How had Paul been treated?** As a criminal (terrible)

-**But what was Paul's reply?** The gospel cannot be put in prison

V 10 – Why was Paul enduring all of this persecution and suffering? For the sake of other Christians

V 11 – How do we die with Christ? In baptism (and sometimes literally through persecution)

V 12 – If we endure? We will reign with him

V 13 – If we deny Christ? He will still be Christ (our denial will not change his nature)

-**Read Matthew 10.32-33**

2 Timothy 2.14-19

V 14 – Timothy as a teacher at Ephesus

-**What was he to teach them?** Not to argue over words (*1 Timothy 6.4*) (Examples: bread vs. loaf, thee and thou vs. modern pronouns)

-**The result of arguing over words?** Ruins the hearers

V 15 – How should Timothy handle himself?

-**1. As a workman – Implication?** We have to work at it

-**2. Not ashamed**

-**3. Handling accurately the Bible**

-**How do we handle accurately the Word of God?** Context, background, comparing passage to passage, proper divisions ("hermeneutics")

V 16 – What else to avoid? Worldly and empty chattering – in other words, just talking

V 17 – Loose talk with spread

-World War II slogan: "Loose lips sink ships"

-**The names of the two false teachers?** Hymeneaeus and Philetus (names of the first two false teachers in *2 Timothy 1.15*: Phygelus and Hermogenes)

-*1 Timothy 1.20* – first mention of Hymeneaeus – delivered to Satan, that he might learn not to blaspheme

V 18 – What were Hymeneaeus and Phygelus teaching? That the resurrection had already taken place

-**How bad was this teaching?** They had upset the faith of some and had gone astray from the truth

-This is known today as the AD 70 doctrine or the Max King doctrine

-It is as false today as it was in the First Century – the dead still have not been raised, and the earth has not been destroyed

-See: Wayne Jackson, Flavil Nichols, and other faithful gospel preachers who have written on the

subject of this false doctrine

-2 John 9-11 – Any congregation that would take in disfellowshipped people participates in their evil deeds (that was done)

V 19 – What was Paul’s response to the false teaching from these two men? The firm foundation of God will stand

-**Explain?** The Word of God will outlive all false doctrines

2 Timothy 2.20-26 – Specific advice to Timothy as a young preacher

V 20 – Two kinds of containers in a house? Honorable (gold and silver) and dishonorable (wood and clay)

V 21 – Point? When we obey God, we are vessels for honor, but we can fall through disobedience

-However, we can repent and become once again vessels of honor

-**Paul’s messages?** False teachers can repent, if they choose to do so

-But there is a great message for Timothy: to keep himself pure and clean in the eyes of God

V 22 – Paul’s advice to Timothy? Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness

-Many people don’t flee sin, they flirt with sin, and they set themselves up for a catastrophe

-Paul: Don’t get into situations that can develop into trouble, but run in the other direction

-In the Chicago area recently, two young lovers were kidnapped and brutally beaten and robbed

-One reporter on TV asked these questions: *“What were they doing out there on “Lovers Lane” at 1:00 a.m.? (Studying the stars? Doing their homework?) Where were their parents? Had their parents trained them in morality?”*

-Young people can be really headstrong (not that any of us were ever that way!)

-When we were young, we thought that our parents are dumb and that we would not make the mistakes that the last generation made

-But notice that Paul said that Timothy was to *“pursue righteousness from a pure heart”*

-**What also was Timothy to pursue?** Faith, love, and peace

-**With whom was he to pursue these things?** Other Christians (being in fellowship with God’s people and enjoying their company)

V 23 – What was Timothy to avoid? Foolish speculations

-**Why?** Because they just produce quarrels

-It sounds as if the church at Ephesus had a lot of argumentative people and a lot of disunity

V 24 – Characteristics of a good preacher? Not quarrelsome, kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged

V 25 – How should the preacher correct people? With gentleness

-**Why use gentleness?** So that God may grant them repentance leading to salvation

-**So why will gentleness help in correcting people?**

-*Proverbs 15.1 – A gentle answer turns away wrath*

V 26 – What will a gentle approach be able to do? Help them to come to their senses

- Explain the “snare” of the devil?** A trap that Satan lays for people
- We can fall away and be restored

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