

The Way of The Steadfast

2 Timothy 2: Be Strong In Grace

- Father's In The Field – commissioning
- Welcome Dad's
- Opening prayer

2 Timothy is Paul's final letter he would write while in prison awaiting execution (67-68 AD). The fatherly words he is penning to Timothy are focused and carry weight. They are giving instruction and purpose for the mission of Paul's legacy as a missionary to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to his protégé to carry on in this mission, with endurance, faith, strength and to fight the good fight to lay hold of the glory and prize that awaits!

- It's a letter from a father's heart to a beloved son.

2 Timothy 2 “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

- **Jesus's grace will be and is a source of power for Timothy & Us.**
- **When we recognize the truth of His grace, we must also learn the process to labor after the strength of grace. We must exercise our spirit to be strong in the understanding of His grace for us!**
- **Justice is getting what you deserve, mercy is not getting what you deserve, and Grace is getting what you don't deserve!**

- God gives the gift of Grace that is over and above the mercy that He gives. God gives an abundance of grace to His beloved, sons and daughters.
- As our trials increase, we have need to grow stronger and stronger in the good and righteous things, our faith stronger, our resolution stronger, our love to God and Christ stronger.
- As a father exhorts his son, so does Paul exhort Timothy, with great tenderness and affection.
 - (This is how our Father, Abba, speaks to us.)

² 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.

- Paul is teaching us the value of discipleship and multiplication of the saints.
- EX. We all need Paul's / Timothy's and Barnabas's in our lives.
- The Stanely's (Paul and Phylis lived this mission out with focus and intention – The Navigators)

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

- The life of a soldier is one of training and live apart from civilian life. It is unique built on code, honor and service.
 - (As Christians, we live by a specific code, a different standard than the culture of the world.) The Bible should shape our world view and be the filter in which we process life around us.

- **2 Cor. 10:4** *“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”*

- Christians, we are in a different battle and therefore don't involve yourself in worldly things.
- Pleasing your commanding officer (The Lord) is about submission to His Will, Word, and Spirit –essentially living in union with God, abiding in Him.

A.W. Tozer said this, *“Now this word abide means to continue. And since a Christian is joined to Jesus Christ by a union of life, then abide means to continue in that union. Live on in that union. Continue in that union. You must desire to abide in the vine. You must will to do it. You must will to do it.”*

⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

- If we want the harvest, we must be faithful to labor for it and if you want to gain the prize (the eternal crown), you must be willing to run the race and be disciplined to run by the rules.
 - God gives us guideposts to live by that are for our own good.

EX. Rule followers in the room? Who thinks the rules are flexible?

- **Life guard & enforcing the rules @ Mt Princeton.**
- When you really know the rule giver is good, then you can trust that the rules He gives are good for you.
 - Run for the eternal crown, run the race with perseverance for the victor's crown.

- Deeper still, we need to labor, with diligence and patience, (being steadfast – steady and consistent) before we are partakers of the fruit.

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

- We will go through times of plowing the soil, seeding time, watering and weeding, and then the fruitful harvest in its due season.
- We must do the will of God, before we receive the promises He offers, which is the very reason why we strive to grow our patience and endurance.

Hebrews 10:36 “Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.” - NLT

7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

- It is God who gives understanding. The most intelligent man needs more and more of this gift.
- If you give the revelation in the word but do not provide the understanding in the heart, you are missing the point!
 - Head knowledge only does not bring total healing of the soul
- In our prayers we ask that the Lord to give us understanding in all things.
- Time in contemplation, focused attention to the Holy Spirit is the way to understand, remember, and practice, what we hear or read.

- When we practice engaging the presence of God in our lives, we are setting a firm foundation from we draw from in times of storms.
- We reset our souls and bring our spirit into alignment with the Holy Spirit.

EX. In my meditation times, I am focusing my spirit towards Jesus and His union with the Father (John 17) and then inviting the Holy Spirit to bring into alignment with the trinity and this is where understanding is unlocked, I remember His word to me, and I am dwelling in His presence, feeling His delight and restoration in me.

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

- Paul came under rebuke and criticism as a prisoner.
 - Some brought doubt about his message due to his incarceration. Paul's imprisonment caused some to doubt his calling.
 - The reality was that Nero blamed the Christians for the burning of Rome and had them jailed and executed, of which Paul was one.
- ¹⁰ 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 Thessalonians 5:9** *"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

¹¹ ***This is a faithful saying:***

For if we ***died*** with Him,
We shall also ***live*** with Him.

¹² If we ***endure***,
We shall also ***reign*** with Him.
If we ***deny Him***,
He also will ***deny us***.

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

- God honors His side of the covenant with His people, even when we fail on our end of it.
- Time and again He rescues and redeems His beloved because He has promised to do so and God does not lie or fail from His word, He is steadfast in His example.

Approved and Disapproved Workers

¹⁴ Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Upon our salvation, we receive the approval of God and are adopted into His kingdom and are royalty. We are approved by God through His son Jesus!
- Don't be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Correctly handles the word the God, rightly dividing (*to cut straight*) and seeks to understand it with the Holy Spirit.

¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

- Nevertheless, God's church will not fail, the true and living church will continue on its mission. "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail."
- God knows who belongs to Him, He knows them by name and if you call Him by name, then turn away from evil thinking, doing, speaking, and walk in holiness, uprightly with Jesus.
- Be a good soldier and turn away from wickedness and work in Godliness.

²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, ***some for honor and some for dishonor***. ²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- Paul is saying here that we need to take inventory of ourselves, clean out the junk that we might usable vessels for God's glory.
- We work on the things in our lives that cause dishonor to God, we have a responsibility to bring honor to God as honorable vessel.
- God will not use an unworthy vessel to carry His glory; He needs a worthy vessel to pour into.
- God came after us, He pursued us giving His Son to cleanse us of ALL unrighteousness.
- We receive the work of Jesus's blood, by which we are now new, covered, and of great worth and value (not a perfect person but one who is in the sanctification process), willing and able to be used by the Master to do any *good* work!

²² Flee also youthful lusts; but ***pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart***. ²³ But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

- The pursuit of the Christian life is to be lived with others, not siloed, but who are living with pure hearts, pursuing the things of God, living in righteousness, love, and desire peace in their lives!
- We respond to God's love discerning Jesus's work on the Cross but we are also called to walk in holiness as we live that out.

²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

- As a servant of the God will should strive to possess the qualities of His nature, gentleness, teaching the truth of His word,

Jean Guyon 17th Century Christian author and great woman of the faith, wrote in her letters 'Intimacy with Christ':

"No matter what has been said about my experience in Christ, I cannot doubt its reality. Somewhere deep within me I am utterly convinced that this is true. It is Christ at work in my heart, and that work is as unshakeable as He is. It seems to me that these theological discussions concerning the validity of an inward experience with Christ arise from people who are tempted to look at men when, instead, they should be looking at the 'Giver' of love."

Closing Prayer:

Clean your vessel, be worthy of the glory God wants to bring through you today.