### 2 Timothy

## Chapter 2

1However, as for you my child,  
  
Keep growing stronger in the loving care of the Anointed Jesus, 2and keep on teaching the things that you heard from so many witnesses while you were with me, to faithful men who are qualified to teach others.  
  
3Then, as a fine soldier of the Anointed Jesus, [be prepared to] endure hardships!  
  
4For no soldier can just go on living his life as he once did, since he wants to please the one who enlisted him. 5And the same is true of an athlete… He can’t win the prize unless he plays by the rules! 6Yet, the hardworking field-hand must also be the first one to taste the fruit.  
  
7If you’ll visualize what I’m saying, the Lord will truly give you insight into everything.  
  
8Remember that the good news I’ve been preaching teaches us that Jesus the Anointed (the offspring of David) was raised from the dead… 9And it’s over this that I’m being persecuted and imprisoned like a criminal.  
  
However, the word of God hasn’t been locked up with me!  
  
  
10I’m putting up with all of this for the sake of the elected ones… So they can gain the salvation that comes from being in the Anointed Jesus and receiving age-long glory.  
  
11For you can believe the saying:  
  
 ‘If we die together,  
 We’ll also live together;  
 12And if we hang on together,  
 We’ll also rule as kings together!’  
  
However, if we deny this, he’ll also deny us.  
  
13Even if we stop believing in him, he’ll still believe, [won’t he?] Because he can [hardly] deny his own existence!Even if we stop believing in him, he’ll still believe, [won’t he?] Because he can [hardly] deny his own existence!<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
  
14I want you to keep on reminding [the brothers] about these things, and I want you to instruct them –in the sight of God– not to be arguing over words, for this is just a waste of time and it’s a snare to those who listen to it.  
  
15As for you:  
  
Keep on seeking God’s approval zealously, so you’re accepted by Him as a workman who’s got nothing to be ashamed of, and who lays out the truth straightforwardly.  
  
16Therefore, you should avoid speaking about worldly and foolish topics, because this leads [people] away from pure worship, 17and whatever is said [spreads like] a field of gangrene!  
  
That’s what happened to Hymenaeus and PhileTos – 18they got away from the truth and started teaching that the resurrection has already happened, which misdirected the faith of some.  
  
19However, you have a solid foundation in God, and it has this seal [of approval], that Jehovah...  
  
 ‘...knows who are His.’ [Numbers 16:5, LXX or Nahum 1:7]  
  
And:  
  
 ‘Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be rescued.’ [paraphrase of Joel 2:32, see note]  
  
20Now, in a large house there aren’t just containers made of gold and silver, but also those [made] of wood and pottery… Because some were made for honorable purposes, while others were made for dishonorable purposes.  
  
21So if anyone chooses to be clean, he must remove [everything that’s dishonorable] from himself so that he can become a container for an honorable purpose – holy and useful to his master. And from then on, he must be ready to do every sort of good work.  
  
22So, flee from the desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace... Along with everyone else who’s calling on the Lord with a clean heart.  
  
23However, avoid foolish and ignorant questions, because you know that they just create arguments… 24and a slave of the Lord shouldn’t be arguing.  
  
Instead, we should be gentle with everyone, we should be good teachers, and we should know how to keep our composure in bad [situations] 25so we can teach those who disagree calmly.  
  
[After all,] perhaps God may lead them to repentance and to an accurate knowledge of the truth, 26so that they may escape the Slanderer’s snares and return to their good senses – once they realize how they’ve been lured into his cage!