



enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 3

the gospel entrusted
to the faithful

APRIL 25 2021

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

PASTOR PHIL WARD

sermon outline NOTES

I. Entrust the gospel to others (2 Timothy 1:1–2)

- A. The strengthening grace of Christ [2 Timothy 2:1]
 - 1. We are strengthened by the gospel of God's grace [2 Timothy 1:9–12a; Romans 16:25–26]
 - 2. We pursue strength through the means of grace [Ephesians 3:16]
- B. Guarding the gospel by entrusting it to others [2 Timothy 2:2; 2 Timothy 1:13–14]
 - 1. We must get the gospel right
 - 2. We must the gospel out
- C. Entrusting the gospel to others is the essence of discipleship
 - 1. Discipleship invades character and competency
 - 2. Discipleship must be highly relational [2 Timothy 2:2]
 - 3. Entrusting the gospel involves knowledge ("the pattern of sound words"), experience ("what you have heard"), and coaching ("who will be able")

II. Three images to drive home the point (2 Timothy 2:3–7)

- A. The dutiful soldier [2 Timothy 2:3–4]
 - 1. We are in a war, there will be suffering [2 Timothy 2:3; 1 Timothy 6:12a; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5]
 - 2. We aim to please God rather than be entangled in insignificant matters
- B. The disciplined athlete [2 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27]
- C. The diligent farmer [2 Timothy 2:6; James 5:7–8]
 - 1. We pursue the small things, ordinarily done, over the long haul
 - 2. We reap what we sow [Galatians 6:7–9]
- D. The gift of understanding from the path of thinking [2 Timothy 2:7]

III. Unbound gospel and enduring faithfulness (2 Timothy 2:8–13)

- A. Remember the gospel for which we suffer [2 Timothy 2:8–9]
- B. Both share and endure suffering for the gospel [2 Timothy 2:10]
- C. Heed the trustworthy saying [2 Timothy 2:11–13]
 - 1. A positive saying [2 Timothy 2:11–12a]
 - 2. A negative saying [2 Timothy 2:12b–13]
- D. A call to discipleship [Mark 8:31–38]

2 Timothy 2:1–13

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have 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.

sermon reflections

1. What does it mean to be strengthened by grace? How can we pursue strengthening?
2. What does 2 Timothy 2:2 teach us regarding discipleship and best practices? How can you begin incorporating these practices into your discipleship?
3. Are you actively discipling someone else? If yes, how are you entrusting the gospel to them? If not, why not?
4. Which of the three images do you find most illuminating regarding discipleship and entrusting the gospel to others?
5. Identify similarities between 2 Timothy 2:1–3 and Mark 8:31–38. How does Paul reinforce what Jesus taught?

enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 3

the gospel entrusted to the faithful

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13



2 Timothy 2:1-13 THE GOSPEL ENTRUSTED TO THE FAITHFUL

reading THE letter

Making observations in a passage is the best way to become familiar with it and grasp the basic meaning. One helpful technique is to use a notebook (or separate piece of paper) and make the following observations—

- List any **People/Places**—
- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

2 Timothy 2:1-13 THE GOSPEL ENTRUSTED TO THE FAITHFUL

observations

1 How does Paul say Timothy should be strengthened?

2 Who is Timothy called on to remember?

3 According to Paul, why is he suffering?

summary sentence

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1–2 sentences—

paul's encouragement TO timothy

Preserving the gospel message is of utter importance to Paul, but he understands that it is no easy task. Paul has personally been bound and beaten in the pursuit of promoting and preserving the gospel. Yet, along the way, he has also been the receiver of encouragement, which has helped him endure the suffering he's faced for the *"sake of the elect"* **(2:10)**. In this passage, Paul wants to encourage Timothy in the same way he has received encouragement. First, he's been encouraged by remembering that he has been strengthened by *"the grace that is in Christ Jesus"* **(2:1)**. Jesus endured and suffered in the ultimate way, yet He is not dead; He is alive, and seated at the right hand of the Father **(Eph. 1:20, Col. 3:1, Heb. 1:3)**. By faith, those who believe also endure in the same suffering as they are united with Christ as fellow heirs. In Christ, Timothy can endure and continue to spread the truth of God's grace in sharing the gospel. But apart from Him, he can do nothing **(John 15:5)**.

Paul goes further to break down what he's trying to convey to Timothy by giving him practical examples of those who endure. His second approach to encourage Timothy is to bring to mind the suffering and endurance of a soldier—who aims to please his commander; an athlete—who has to follow the rules of the competition to earn his prize; and a farmer—who works hard to tend his crop to reap the harvest. The toil of gospel ministry is no different; Timothy must pursue God as his Master, he must be obedient in his faithfulness, and he must tend to those who God has entrusted to him in his ministry. All this is only possible because Christ has gone before Timothy in all these things, pointing him to the future hope that *"[he] will live with him and reign with him"* **(2:12)**.

paul's encouragement TO US

There are times in gospel ministry when it can be easy to ask yourself the proverbial question, “Why am I doing this? This is so hard!” especially when seasons of ministry are particularly dry and discouraging. Top it off with suffering, and it can be easy to want to call it quits. Paul does not come to Timothy with empty phrases of encouragement like “it will all work out” or “keep your head up and you’ll be okay.” Instead, Paul gives the best kind of encouragement—the answer to why we keep at it. Simply, the answer is to remember the gospel. We have been saved by faith through this gospel. Therefore we are strengthened when we remember it and live it out. As we pursue gospel ministry, we are continuing the work of Jesus and becoming more and more Christlike in the process. Jesus taught this when he said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* **(John 14:12-13).**

Paul’s encouragement by mentioning the work of the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer, reminds us that all pursuits come with hardship and difficulty. There is rarely reward without hard work. In God’s common grace, we can all relate. Paul normalizes this for us. The soldier works tirelessly at the command of his master to win the war; the athlete endures the difficulty of training and following the rules to cross the finish line—no cheating allowed; the farmer toils in the soil, preparing it for seed, then waters, and nurtures his crop with the hope that it will be bountiful. We, too, in gospel ministry follow the voice of our Master, we train by pursuing faithfulness in following after Christ, and toil by laboring to prepare the “soil” of those who God entrusts in our path to hear the gospel preached.

2 Timothy 2:1-13 THE GOSPEL ENTRUSTED TO THE FAITHFUL

presenting ourselves approved TO THE world

responding questions

- 1 Facing discouragement and suffering in ministry is pretty much guaranteed. What things have brought you encouragement when facing times of uncertainty in the pursuit of gospel ministry?

Did the encouragement follow the same footprint of Paul's method in this text (to remember the work of Jesus and to remember hard work is necessary and to be expected)?

2 Timothy 2:1-13

THE GOSPEL ENTRUSTED TO THE FAITHFUL

responding questions

- 2 Thinking through the first question, and throughout this week's study, how might your encouragement to others experiencing challenges in ministry change going forward? Give practical, real-life examples, if possible.