

*1You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 6The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. 7Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. 2 Tim 2:1-7*

Paul in this passage encourages Timothy to live his life as *a good soldier of Christ Jesus*. Paul's desire was that in the end, in the eternal reality, Timothy would *obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory*. Even though Paul knew Timothy's continued following of Jesus would likely result in suffer a similar persecution to his own, Paul encourages Timothy to keep the faith for he had Timothy's eternal wellbeing mind. He knew the eternal truth is that this world and everything in it is passing away. In that light Jesus words ring the clear truth *what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Matt 16:26*

*17For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor 4:17,18*

Paul begins, *1You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 2:1* The Apostle Paul had finished telling of the *faithless Asiatics and the true loyal Onesiphorus*, and now begins again encouraging Timothy. He tells him, *my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. Paul was encouraging Timothy to stand strong as a believer, *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, this grace in which we stand*. The believer's standing, the rock on which our faith is founded, is *the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. The grace by which we have obtained *peace with God, having been justified by faith* by the finished work of Christ of the cross. This grace enables the believer to *be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Eph 6:10* Paul then stated *to take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:13* We obtain our standing with God by dependence on the finished work of Christ.

*1Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. Rom 5:2*

We are to *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. We have standing with God because He looks at us though the finished work of Christ, *the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works. Heb 4:10* We are strong because we have rested from our religious efforts and are leaning forcefully into the finished work of Christ, *strong in the grace of Christ Jesus*. We are to be strong in grace so as to live godly lives, *work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Phi 2:12,13* The Christian life is about God working out His character and will through our lives.

*"Thou, then, be strong," but not as men understand strength or firmness; but do*

*thou be strong “in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” —that is, be strong in the power of that inward sanctification which enables a man to will and to do according to what God has commanded, in the power of that inward sanctification which alone proceeds from Christ, and which will never be wanting to any one who is in Christ; in other words, “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10). Ellicott’s Commentary*

*Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.* This is like a command from a superior in battle, *Stand your ground*. Paul’s exhortation to Timothy must be true of every Christian, we are all to be soldiers of Christ. We must stand our ground under the banner of the King of Kings in the cause of the kingdom of God. Paul wrote in verse 3, *Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus*. Paul had just written of the defection of *Phygelus and Hermogenes*. He wanted this not to cause Timothy to waiver in his faith, he wanted him *be strong*. Paul had written similarly to the Galatians and Corinthians.

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. KJV Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. NASB Gal 6:9*

*13Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Cor 16:13,14*

Yes, Christians are expected to stand for our faith, we are not to defect. This implies that there is resistance to living godly. The apostle Peter wrote, *Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (Berean Study Bible)* Paul’s command was not just to be strong but to *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. To *be strong in the power of that inward sanctification which enables a man to will and to do according to what God has commanded*. This illustration of the Christian being a soldier is used here in verse three, *Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus*. We must continually be aware that we are in battle, the kingdom of light versus the kingdom of darkness. We are to *be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Eph 6:10* Paul develops this theme in Ephesians six.

*10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6:10-12*

*2The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Tim 2:2*

Here Paul injects here the mission of all who are called to be pastors and teachers, entrust the truth of grace, the gospel, to faithful men.

*11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Eph 4:11-13*

This is really the mission of all believers. We are all to go and make disciples of all the nations, each of us lives in our own mission field and are specially equip to witness to and pray for those God has entrusted to us. Paul expected Timothy, as a pastor to entrust the truth of the gospel *to faithful men who will be able to teach others*. He like Paul knew

the scripture, the OT Law and the Prophets, but he also had experienced the new wine of the gospel in Jesus Christ. He was trained up and chosen, like Paul, to be a minister of the gospel to the Gentiles as the Jews. Paul returned again to his soldier theme, *be a good soldier of Christ Jesus*.

*3Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 6The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. 7Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

Paul tells Timothy not to be entangled in the affairs of everyday life. Timothy was called out, he has a mission to preach the gospel. The ministry has many needs, Timothy was responsible for a large church he alone couldn't solve and meet all of the needs. So Paul says, *No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier*. Timothy must devote himself to prayer and teaching.

*1Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.*

*4"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Act 6:1,2,4*

We as Christians must consider ourselves as ambassadors of another kingdom, the kingdom of God. We must work for that kingdom and learn to store up our greatest riches in that land. We are to live as soldiers of Christ, *No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier*. Lord give us the grace, *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*.