

## 2 Timothy 2

### Read verses 1 – 2

1. Throughout his letters, Paul spent a small amount of time confirming that he was sent by Jesus. He received his commission from Jesus on the road to Damascus. In Acts 9:15, Jesus tells Ananias, “*Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.*” The word ‘apostle’ literally means “sent one”. Paul was sent by Jesus and now Paul is sending Timothy to Ephesus.
2. Paul tells Timothy to “*be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*” Receiving and giving grace to others is important to a Christian and is part of loving one another. We should always keep 1 John 4:19 in the front of our minds. It says, “*We love because He first loved us.*”

“Again, this is one of the twenty-five times Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong and endure in his work in Ephesus. Perhaps Timothy was naturally timid and easily discouraged, or perhaps he was a man of normal courage who had great responsibilities. He needed to be told often, ‘be strong.’ ”

3. In verse 2, Paul tells Timothy to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those “*reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*” He is saying more than make disciples. Paul is saying make the most reliable believers into teachers. He is saying, “Teach them as I have taught you.” Similar to the Great Commission given by Jesus, Matthew 28:16-20. “*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.*” Except the “all nations” are those believers in Ephesus. Sounds to me as if Paul is saying, “Find replacements for yourself so that when I send you somewhere else, the church at Ephesus will be in good hands.”
4. We should all learn what Paul taught so that we can share the gospel message with our families and other people that we meet. Every church leader should be teaching others in the church. On the Deacon Board we have discussed grooming our own replacement. If we look at Brenda’s passion for VBS. The

worst thing for VBS in our church is for Brenda not to develop that passion in the next generation.

Read verses 3 – 7

5. In verse 3, Paul encourages Timothy to join him in serving Jesus, which in Paul's experience causes suffering. 2 Corinthians 11:16-31 lists much of the suffering that Paul while endured sharing the Gospel message. Paul does not sugarcoat the persecution that Timothy could receive as a Christian. We are fortunate that we do not receive this kind of treatment today in the U.S.A.

“The killing of Christians in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Mozambique, is a significant and ongoing human rights crisis. . . In Nigeria alone, over 50,000 Christians have been killed by Islamist militants since 2009. . . In early 2025, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo 70 Christians were reportedly beheaded in a single attack. “  
(<https://www.opendoorsus.org/>)

6. Verse 4 reminds me of the song, “Onward Christian Soldiers Marching as to War”. Paul points out that the goal of a soldier is to please his commanding officer. Look at those protesting or demonstrating today. The police or military have orders to keep peace and as Paul puts it, “*No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs*”.

Guzik put it this way. “Timothy must take the attitude of a soldier, who willingly separates himself from the things of civilian life.” “It is well remarked by *Grotius* (a Dutch humanist, diplomat, lawyer, theologian, jurist, statesman, poet and playwright.), on this passage, that the legionary soldiers among the Romans were not permitted to engage in husbandry, merchandise, mechanical employments, or anything that might be inconsistent with their calling.” (Clarke) Their job was to just follow orders.

7. In verse 5, Paul applies the same thinking to an athlete. A good athlete obeys the rules and puts in the work, with no shortcuts. A good Christian obeys God and goes where he is sent by God, regardless of the consequences. A good Christian must persevere. He/she trusts God fully.

8. Paul and the writer of Hebrews wrote about a Christian's perseverance.
  - a. **Galatians 6:9 (NKJV):** "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."
  - b. **Romans 5:3-4 (NIV):** "...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."
  - c. **Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV):** "For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."
  - d. **Philippians 3:14 (NIV):** "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
9. In verse 6, Paul says that the farmer should be first to receive his share of crops. If we consider that Paul is talking about a pastor teaching the Word of God. Before a pastor can deliver a heartfelt message, he must first feel it in his heart. It must touch him first so that he can share it with the congregation.
10. In verse 7, Paul, as Jesus did when He was teaching in parables, was saying if you pray and truly think about what I am saying then you will see that it makes perfect sense. One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to enlighten you on what the Word of God is saying and how it applies to you in your life. This is similar to what Isaiah 55:11, ". . . *my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*"

Read verses 8 – 10

11. In verse 8, Paul shortens the Gospel message to "*Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.*" The Jews of this time were studying and looking for the Messiah. They were severely oppressed by the Roman Empire. They still did not see Jesus as the Messiah. Paul puts it all together so on point. If I paraphrase, "Jesus is the Messiah, He was raised from the dead and He was a descendant of King David." They would have studied Isaiah 53, "*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*" Isaiah 11:1 starts, "*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse*".

12. In verse 8b and 9, Paul says that he is willing to suffer for this Gospel because it is true. One of the proofs of the truth of the history associated with Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection is the willingness of His disciples to die for their beliefs. Paul is saying that if it were not true, he would not be so willing to suffer for it. Even today, people are willing to give up their lives because they know Jesus is the Messiah.
13. He says in verse 10 that he continues to teach and preach this Gospel because he wants everyone to see and know that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is willing to suffer and go to his death because it is the truth.

Read verses 11 – 13

14. In verse 11, Paul says “*Here is a trustworthy saying*”. Occasionally Paul shared Christian hymns or “folk wisdom”. Many believe this is part of a Christian hymn. When preparing for a cantata, I know that I am ready when I have the songs stuck in my head and they just keep coming to the front of my mind. I have known people who practice for a test by doing the same thing. They sing it or repeat it so that it is the most important thing on their minds.
15. Whoever came up with this hymn was paying attention to biblical teachings. The first line of the hymn says, “*If we died with him, we will also live with him*”. Paul wrote in Romans 6:5, “*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.*” The first half of Romans 6 speaks to our resurrection as believers in Jesus.
16. The second line of this hymn says, “*if we endure, we will also reign with him.*” This saying is interesting because it is written about by John in Revelation 20 and 22. Throughout his letters, Paul wrote about having great endurance throughout our trials and tribulations on this earth. In Colossians 1:10-12 Paul writes that the power to endure comes from God.
17. The third line of this hymn says, “*If we disown him, he will also disown us*”. These words are right from Jesus’ lips in Matthew 10:32-33. Jesus said,

32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

18. Verse 13 gives the final line of this hymn as presented by Paul to Timothy. It says, “*if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*” My mind goes to 2 other verses in the Bible. The first is 2 Peter 3:9 which says God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish. It is important to note that there will be times in our Christian walk when we have faithlessness. There are highs and lows in our lives when bad things happen and we ask, “Where is God now?” He is still around us, lifting us up, still caring for us. We just don’t recognize it.
19. The second verse that comes to my mind is Romans 5:20b. “*But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.*” The song from DC Talk says, “What if I stumble? What if I fall? What if I lose my step and I make fools of us all? Will the love continue? When my walk becomes a crawl?” You could add to this, “What if I am the one lost sheep and not the 99 following?”

“It is a terrible thing when people who name the name of Jesus show themselves unfaithful; many have been turned off from Jesus because of the hypocrisy of those who take His name. But all the *faithlessness* of man doesn’t disprove the *faithfulness* of God.” (Guzik)

Read verses 14 - 19

20. My NIV Bible entitles this section as “Dealing with False Teachers”. The NKJV entitles it “Approved and Disapproved Workers”. It is clearer when you think like Paul. Paul considers anyone who teaches God’s Word to be a Teacher.

“Paul gave practical instructions on how the true servant of Jesus Christ will live. He warned about activities which sabotage our efforts to live a life worthy of God’s calling, especially those things which prove divisive. Paul always presented two clear choices without any neutral options. We either choose Christ’s way, or we fall into the devices of Satan.” (Holman New Testament Commentary)

21. Sometimes I think, “How did we get here?” or “Why are there so many denominations?” Consider that in the first century there should have been only one church based on the teachings of Jesus and His disciples. Even in the first century, there were false teachers teaching an improper gospel message. Throughout history, men have thought of their ideas were better than God’s ideas. They have always thought that being a pastor or evangelist could give them the notoriety that they crave or they view it as an easy way to make money. In either case, these people were a problem in the first century and today.

“As a minister of the gospel, Timothy must remind all those in the church about the instructions and warnings Paul had delivered to him. Pastors are to keep reminding their congregations of the truth of Scripture, the nature of God, and the demands of holy living. This task is never complete.” (Holman New Testament Commentary)

22. We have different denominations because men “quarrel about words”. They give more importance to certain parts of Scripture than they should and no importance to others. Consider that Snake Handlers put more importance on Paul being shipwrecked in Malta and subsequently bitten by a snake. Acts 28:6 says, “*The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.*” Men have always wanted to be considered a god. They built an entire religion or cult based on these words.

23. At first, I thought verse 15 is for the pastors and teachers but then I think it is for all of us. We should all be spending time in God’s Word so that we know what God has said. Teachers and pastors are held more accountable, but we too should make sure that we are not being led astray. James 3:1 gives a warning specifically for teachers and pastors. “*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.*” This verse says that teachers and pastors will be judged more strictly but we as believers will be held accountable for what we tell others and what we believe.

24. Verse 15 says that we should do our best to make sure that God will approve of what we believe and what our motives are. We are to make sure that on that day of judgment that we are not ashamed. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*” He was not ashamed of what he was teaching others. Are you?

“God bestows his approval on the one who exhibits truth, love, and godliness in daily living, and who correctly handles the word of truth. (Holman New Testament Commentary)

25. In verse 16, Paul says to “*Avoid godless chatter*” (NIV) or “*Avoid worthless, foolish talk*“. Paul is not talking about chatting with the people that you meet throughout the day. He is saying when preaching or teaching. There was an old adage used at OC, “If you can’t dazzle them with your brilliance, then baffle them with your bull.” Paul is saying leave that to the false teachers, preach the true Gospel.

26. In a couple more chapters, Paul will tell Timothy, “*For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires*”. (2 Timothy 4:3) These pastors that tell you what you want to hear are, as Paul says, “*more and more ungodly. They are like gangrene.*”

27. Then in the second part of verse 17, Paul calls out 2 men for their ungodliness, Hymenaeus and Philetus. Then in verse 18, Paul says they have departed from the truth. Hymenaeus was mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:20 where he said he “*had handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*”

28. It is one thing to have your name mentioned in the Word of God forever for good behavior but not for this reason. He goes on to say what these men have done. Not only have they “*departed from the truth*”. The lies that they were teaching were that the Rapture had already occurred and that they were living in the millennial kingdom of Christ. If this had happened, then there would be no hope for the future. It would mean that this is the best that it will ever get. Paul says that this type of teaching is false but it “*destroys the faith*” of those

who believe it is true. Paul taught, *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”* (Romans 8:18)

29. In verse 19, Paul says that *19 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm*”. The Bible is full of examples of God’s solid foundation. Jesus is described as the cornerstone by Paul in Ephesians 2:20, *“Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone”*. Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish builders says, *“24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”* (Matthew 7:24-25) Jesus spoke about Himself when He quoted Psalm 118:22, *“The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner”*. Without a solid cornerstone or foundation, the building will not stand.
30. Paul finishes verse 19 with the foundation is *“sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”* Since Jesus sees what are in the hearts of men, then He truly knows what is in our hearts.
31. In His parable of the Good Shepherd in John 10, Jesus says *“14 I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me”*. At the end of our lives, Jesus will use His knowledge of us to say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”* or *“I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”* Have you turned away from your wickedness? Does He know you?
32. *“Upon this rock I will build my church”* (Matthew 16:18) was said by Jesus at Caesarea Philippi. It was a statement by Jesus to Peter, signifying the establishment of the Christian Church. Some believe that the "rock" as Peter but others identify it as Peter’s confession of faith (*“You are the Christ”*) or Jesus himself. Based on this verse, the rock is the statement of faith that *“Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord”* so Jesus is the foundation.

33. Normally, when Paul talks about a church, he says that it is like a body with each part with a function and all working together for the good of the body. In verses 20 and 21, Paul equates the church to a household with some things made of gold and silver and others made of wood and stone, “*some are for special purposes and some for common use.*”

“If we cleanse ourselves from dishonorable things, God will regard us as vessels of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master. Paul spoke about a cleansing that isn’t just something God does for us as we sit passively. This is a *self-cleansing for service* that goes beyond a general cleansing for sin. . . This work of cleansing is really God’s work in us and not our work. This is the sense of 1 John 1:9: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” (Guzik)

[Read verses 22 - 26](#)

34. Paul would tell Timothy and us to cleanse ourselves with telling us how to do so. He starts with “*Flee the evil desires of youth*”. This is similar to what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:12, “*When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.*” But Paul says that in order to cleanse yourself then put off “*the evil desires of youth.*” This suggests that only youth have evil desires. Some translations call them “*youthful lusts*”.

“Youthful lusts describe the sort of desires and temptations that are especially prominent when someone is an adolescent or young adult. Sexual temptation, illicit pleasure of the flesh, and a longing for fame and glory often mark one’s youth. (Guzik)

35. The second thing Paul says is to “*pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.*” Righteousness is being right with God. In 1 Corinthians 13:13 Paul said that, “*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*” This list is much like the list in 1 Timothy 6:11 or in Galatians 5:22-23 which are the Fruits of the Spirit. Once again, the fruits of the Spirit are what we as believers should be pursuing with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If we are truly following the Holy Spirit then we will develop these attributes.

36. Paul finishes verse 22 with we are to “*pursue . . . peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*” Jesus said in John 13:35 that “*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*” These verses say the same thing. Of all of people that should get along, it is the fellow members of a church that we should seek to love and seek to be at peace with. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always happen. Our humanness gets in the way.
37. In verse 23, Paul handles the disagreements that happen between fellow church members which are believers. He says, “*Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.*” These quarrels happen because we are human and we make it all about us and not about God. If we put God first then these quarrels won’t happen. I think that Paul lists things in the order that he did because if we “*pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace*” then we will not be putting ourselves first and having “*stupid arguments*”.
38. Verse 24 says that as believers, we should not be quarrelsome and should not be resentful. Paul makes it very clear when he says, “*must be kind to everyone*”. These verses still go back in my mind to the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 which includes “*love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*” If you have the Holy Spirit living in you then kindness should be coming out of you.
39. In dealing with the human nature of being quarrelsome, Paul throws in that Timothy must be able to teach. Guzik says, “With the great emphasis Paul placed on God’s Word, a pastor who is not able to teach is like a surgeon who can’t use a scalpel.”
40. In verse 25, Paul says that if a quarrel does happen, then send the ones quarreling to neutral corners and hope that God talks to them and causes them to repent of their quarreling and “*learn the truth*” (NLT)
41. When we studied Satan in Sunday School, we learned that he is not happy unless there is conflict in the Church. These quarrels are brought on by Satan. Paul finishes this chapter with, repentance brings a coming to their senses so they can escape Satan’s trap because they are doing Satan’s will.