

## 2 Timothy 1-2 – Oct. 12, 2022 – Part 2

Paul is writing to Timothy so he can carry on the work. More need Jesus.

**2 Timothy 1: 11-12 NLT** – 11 *“And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News. 12 That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.”*

Paul has entrusted his life to God. He knows God. He knows...

God **guards** us, but sometimes **allows** the **Lion’s Den, Fiery Furnace.**

Facing Lions & Fire can boost our faith & become our witness.

Are we examples for others, or give up on Jesus?

Paul’s example - final days - is spent encouraging Timothy & others.

What will our final witness be? Courage & calmness?

**2 Timothy 1: 13-14 NLT** - 13 *“Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. 14 Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.”*

**Paul** knows how things are in Ephesus... the problems, & he knows Timothy **Hold onto pattern of teaching, shaped by his faith & God’s love.**

What we learn is determined by our own faith... and knowing God’s love.

**Guard the Truth.** Don’t allow it to be twisted. Enemy works thru ½ truths.

Know it. Teach it. Proclaim it to those who would deny it. **Guard it.**

**2 Timothy 2:1-2 NLT** – *“Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. 2 You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”*

Be **strong thru grace** – how God deals w/us, but also how we deal w/ others.

Grace is a gentleness; favor we don’t deserve. Grace changes others.

Timothy is called to **teach the truth**... invest in people. Train next generation.

Never try to teach a pig to sing. Wastes your time, annoys the pig.

**3-7 NLT** – *“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. 5 And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. 6 And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. 7 Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.”*

**Endure suffering.** Following Jesus will **subject us to suffering. Expect it.**

Some will make fun of our faith. Rachel Scott (Columbine) died for it.

**John 15:18** – “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.”

**Matt. 10:22** – “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Some won't stand firm. Cave in. Badge of honor – difference!

Jesus went on to say: “When they persecute you in one town, run away to another one.” **Matt. 10:23**

Leave those people, don't leave Jesus.

**1 Peter 4:14-16** - If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. 15 If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. 16 But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!”

**Endure as a soldier.** They are ready to lay down their life for Jesus.

Soldiers should shun distractions, stay focused on the mission.

Crows. Eliminate them.

**Athletes.** Training is 1st necessary, then play by the rules. Live a holy life.

God has given us rules for living. Holy Spirit communicates right/wrong.

How far can I stretch God's rules and still be ok? Can't be close to God/rules

**Hardworking Farmer – First Fruits.** Casual farmers don't produce much.

**1 Cor. 15:58** – “Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

We've been weary. Isolated. Get up. Get out. Our labor is not in vain.

**2 Tim 2:11-18 NLT** – 11 “This is a trustworthy saying: 12 If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. 13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is. 14 Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words.

Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.

15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. 16 Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. 17 This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. 18 They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.”

Extraneous arguments are divisive; stuff that doesn't matter will split us.

Focus on what is important – Jesus' love.

Growing in faith can be uncomfortable.... Look for an escape.

Gentleness. Avoid trying to be right. Truth is truth.

**2 Tim. 1:23-26 NLT** - 23 Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. 24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. 26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants."

**Avoid arguments. Be gentle. Don't quarrel.**

You can be happy, or you can be right. Does it matter?

We are called from a message of love, to love one another. That's it.

Stay positive. Test negative. **"Love One Another" – Newsboys**