



STRONG in GRACE

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. – 2 Timothy 2:1

If you know anything about me, you know I love the Bible. I am constantly finding gems that I hadn't seen before. This is one of them.

The book of 1 Timothy was sent to Timothy (duh) about how to establish the structure of the church in Ephesus. Paul discussed worship, leadership and human inclination. When you come to the end of it you find a blueprint that seems perfect in every way for Christ's church. It would have to be. Paul set it up, right?

Well, when you read the first chapter of 2 Timothy, Paul seems to be responding to some problems and complaints that Timothy had sent him about the church. I see this because Paul first reminds Tim of why he is a minister and why the author is so confident in him. Paul then reminds his young protégé of the people that rejected the message, people that accepted it and then rejected it and the people who have accepted it and are still with them. It is almost as if Paul feels the need to bring a little peace and calm to the situation.

Then you come to chapter 2. You almost have to preface it with, "Ok, Paul, that sounds nice and all but what am I supposed to do now?!" First thing out of the gate, "be strong in grace". And not just any grace but "grace that is in Christ Jesus". First thing. Most important thing. GRACE. CHRIST'S GRACE.

In a church family, grace isn't always our first response. But it has to be. For there to be unity while allowing people to be themselves, grace is A MUST! We don't see everything the same. We don't act all the same. We aren't all the same. Different gifts for different ministries lived out in different people. That means people won't always see eye-to-eye. It is natural for people to want other things. There is such a mess if we are not STRONG IN GRACE.

Grace eliminates people from "taking their ball and going home." From demanding people be more like their version of God than God Himself. Grace helps you love people as they are becoming more like Christ. Loving people regardless of where they are supposed to be. Grace, Christ's grace shows compassion to the broken. Help to the helpless. Direction to the aimless. That is what a healthy church is like. Well...like Christ Jesus. You need it. I need it. And we need to give it (Matthew 6:14-15).

From My Heart,

Billy