Introduction: As we start out this New Year I got to thinking about our obligations as Christians. Obligations to our Lord, our brethren, and our family. In our text Paul is instructing Timothy about some obligations he and we have. **2 Timothy 4.1-7**

**I) My Son**

**A) Spiritual relationship between Paul and Timothy. Acts 16.1-6**

1. Various passages shows the bond between the two men**, Romans 16.21, 1 Cor. 4.17, Phil. 2.22**

**2. Paul wanted what every parent wants for their child, .**

**II) The Circle of Life**

**A) Paul taught Timothy and Timothy is to .**

1. This is the divine teaching plan of the church.

2. Most likely you are here because someone taught you the Gospel.

**B) Are we trying to teach others the Gospel?**

1. Our children? Our parents, spouse, family, neighbors, etc.

2. The fact is many religions have become more evangelical than us.

**III) Obligations**

**A) Of a**

1. Endure hardships-- the life of a soldier is not easy. **2 Corinthians 11.23-28**

2. Paul used the analogy of a soldier in **Ephesians 6.10ff**

3. Not to be in the affairs of this life.

3. What kind of hardship are we willing to endure?

**B) Of an**

1. Training and buffeting the body, **1 Corinthians 9.25-27**

2. According to the rules, we must follow the law ourselves.

**IV) The Reward, v. 6**

**A) The farmer must labor in order to**

1. Farming is hard work, requires .

2. Often the reward is in the future. **James 5.7-8**

**B) But he gets to partake of the crops**

1. As Christians we receive the greatest benefit from our efforts.

2. We grow as we teach others and lead others to Christ.

Conclusion: Obligations cannot be side stepped or given to another. They are ours and ours alone. Are you and I fulfilling our obligations?