

Sermon Title: Training for Godliness Requires Endurance

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to be encouraged in the pursuit of Godly endurance.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 encouraging exhortations provided by Paul.

Introduction: The purpose of this section is encouragement in New Testament ministry. The primary theme is the need for strength provided by the enabling grace of God, through Christ Jesus in the face of hardship.

2 Corinthians 1:5-11; 2 Timothy 1:6-18

There are 25 imperatives in 2 Timothy, 9 in Chapter 4 alone. Paul invites all to join him in suffering for the Gospel, this is always Paul's invitation to ministry.

"If a man preaches as he ought to preach, it will take more out of him than any other work under heaven." [Alistair Begg, "Workers in the World"]

- I. The encouragement to be strong. V.1
- II. The encouragement to pass the baton. V.2a
- III. The encouragement to be selective. V.2b

I. The encouragement to be strong. V.1

This verse is a continuation of the call to Spirit-empowered boldness and service which began in Chapter 1:5-6. The contrast between the faithful and the unfaithful, the strong and the weak, the trustworthy and the untrustworthy is striking.

Paul had led Timothy to Christ in his last missionary journey very likely. (**1 Timothy 1:2, 18**)
1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul encourages his son in the ministry to be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ. This is a present passive imperative in the Greek, meaning to be strengthened by the grace of Jesus Christ. This is the main admonition of encouragement in the first part of this letter. Paul is admonishing Timothy to overcome his apparent drift toward weakness and renew his commitment to ministry service. He is literally being empowered by the strength of God and Christ Himself. (**Titus 2:11-14**)

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. **15** For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. **16** To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? **17** For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

The strength that Timothy and all believers depend on is not their own, it is not found in them, but in the grace "in strength" that Christ and the Holy Spirit supplies and puts in them.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Their strength produces the characteristics of:

1. Courage
2. Love
3. Self-discipline
4. Boldness
5. Endurance
6. Faithfulness

(**1 Timothy 4:14-16**)

II. The encouragement to pass the baton. V.2a

- A. There are 4 generations listed here in these 2 verses.
- B. There are specific traits to be passed on.
 - 1. **2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 3:10, 14**
- C. There are specific truths to be passed on.

During Timothy's many years of close association with Paul, he had heard divine truth repeated, and seen it represented, which Christ had revealed through Apostles, first given by God to the prophets in the Old Testament.

He had heard Paul teach, preach, and practice these traits and truths among many witnesses such as Silas, Barnabas, Luke, and churches, sinners, and saints. They could all attest to the divine authenticity of Paul's teaching and living. Because it is not only a teaching position, it is also a modeling position. This was a much needed reminder in light of the many defections in Ephesus (**cf 1:15**).

- 1. The necessity for passing on the Apostles teaching.
- 2. The necessity for passing on the Gospel message.
- 3. The necessity for passing on the missionary work.
- 4. The necessity for passing on the Christlike life.

III. The encouragement to be selective. V.2b

Timothy is to do with others what Paul did with him. He is to pass on those traits and truths to the next generation. From Paul, to Timothy, to faithful men, and finally to others encompasses 4 generations but he is to look for 2 qualities:

- A. Select faithful men only.
Commit these things to faithful men only.
Exodus 18:21 "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.
Ezra 7:25 And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who *are in the region* beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know *them*.
Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is a tree* of life, And he who wins souls *is* wise.

The picture of faithful men versus unfaithful is found in Chapter 11.

Moses - **Numbers 12:7** Not so with My servant Moses; He *is* faithful in all My house.

Nehemiah 7:2 that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he *was* a faithful man and feared God more than many.

Psalms 101:6 My eyes *shall be* on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.

Matthew 24:45-46 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **46** "Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Timothy was to take what was entrusted to him the divine revelation he had learned from Paul and teach it to other faithful men, men with proven spiritual character and giftedness, who in turn demonstrate they are “reliable men.” Not only in teaching but in how they live in and outside of church.

B. Select men who are **able** to **teach**.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

Titus 2:5 *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

This is called “the ministry of multiplication,” and this is God’s method until the Lord Jesus returns.

“Don’t be a legend, but leave a legacy.” [[Alistair Begg, “Workers of the Word”](#)]