

2 Timothy 2

2TI 2:1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-- he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

2TI 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2TI 2:11 Here is a trustworthy saying:

*If we died with him,
we will also live with him;*

*2TI 2:12 if we endure,
we will also reign with him.
If we disown him,
he will also disown us;*

*2TI 2:13 if we are faithless,
he will remain faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.*

2TI 2:14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

1. Get it out to the wing – Pass it on.

2TI 2:1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Say the things you have heard, pass it on to people who will pass it on to others.

Sought of describes my job. I teach you some things, you teach others some things who teach them to teach others.

Really it is discipling. Disciple the disciple to disciple the disciples. We are called to make disciples. That is passing on what we have learnt about Jesus to others in such a way that they can explain it to others.

That is a command that we do that. While this letter talks to Tim about doing it Matthew 28.17-20

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Go and do it. Make disciples. A command.

At what point does a christian become a discipler? As soon as they understand the good news that saves them.

A no point in the New Testament does it say you have to do classes to witness, seminars to disciple. What it does say is entrust to reliable people what you know. Who is reliable? Someone who uses what they get rightly. I think classes to teach us how to are helpful, seminars to motivates us to do it better are great but these teaching times are part of the passing on. Helpful but not essential.

I pass it on to you to use reliably. It has been passed on to you over the years by a number of preachers. Their assumption is that you will use reliably what you hear. My assumption is that you will take what you here and apply and use it.

2. But we must recognise- this is hard work.

³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

A soldiers job is soldier. He needs to be ready to focus on that when it comes. He doesn't get the option of saying – I feel sick today can't go to war. He has to work at being ready, not hassled with trivial things. Now, for a soldier, what is trivial is other peoples work or other people's life. It isn't necessarily trivial but not right to clutter up the soldiers focus. The commander is happy with a ready soldier.

I find the reference to athletes sticking to the rules interesting. You don't win when you cheat – well not if you're not caught. Get caught and you get disqualified. Rules are not

meant to be broken, rules are for the competitors good. The reason drugs are excluded from sport is not to stop drug users winning but to stop drug users affecting their lives badly from taking drugs. It is not just cheating it is damaging.

To win takes hard work, no short cuts, just as discipling people is hard work and there are no short cuts.

3. What is discipling about???

2TI 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Discipling is about the Gospel – the good news of Jesus. It is about how Jesus affects our life.

Notice here that Paul believes that it is the message of Jesus that has caused him to be in jail. His suffering is caused by his discipling.

This should give us the impression that discipling is not always acceptable to people. Some people just don't want to get disciplined. Even some Christians just don't want to get disciplined. They want the benefits of eternal life, yeh sounds great but don't want to get into it deeper, or they want the gifts and blessing but not the responsibility. Maybe they don't want the suffering and hard work that always seems to be involved in Paul's writings.

But look at Paul's attitude. God's word is not chained. God will say what He wants. God will achieve his aim in peoples life somehow.

Because of his – Paul says that he will put up with hard stuff so people get to know God. Is that our attitude? Or is it more like the pressure is on so we shut up? People are hard work so we give up.

We have got to remember that Paul is writing to Timothy –Paul is in prison – but Timothy is scared, timid, chicken and has a tough job to do. His message is – hang in there and do the job, not for your good but for the good of the elect who need to be disciplined.

Look what verse 14 says

2TI 2:14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

Keep reminding them – Warn them.

One of the things the church universal is known for is arguing with itself. Over insignificant issues. We are all prone to it because we have intelligence and we have opinions. This passage warns us not to be consumed by it. It is easy to have a critical attitude but we need to replace that with a gratitude attitude.

A friend said recently “**When the going gets tough – worship.**” I want to take that concept and expand it to “When we feel critical – worship first and see if it is important enough to stop worshipping for.”

WE need to avoid the ruin of being tied to the criticism. Sure discuss, debate, but in context and with love and respect. And lots of it.

Then Paul goes straight back to how Tim is to react.

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

No shame –if you get it right, handle God’s message with integrity. This shame concept must have been an issue for Tim to deal with, Paul keeps coming back to it.

Then Paul gives an example to Tim of some people who have not given God’s word the integrity it deserves.

16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

Notice Godless chatter is mentioned just after quarreling, (v14) notice too the result of the godless chatter. Gangrene, - poison. And wandering from the truth.

Who these guys are I don’t know, but they don’t get a good wrap from Paul. The warning for us is – Don’t let it be us.

They destroy people’s faith – that is the opposite to discipling.