

Equipped
FOR THE FIGHT

Strong in Grace

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Lesson 18

In this week's passage, Paul uses several analogies to show us how Christians should live. First, he tells us to be like a good soldier. He reminds us that we are in a battle and, just as soldiers cannot get distracted and survive in war, neither can we get entangled in the things of this world. A soldier on duty does not get caught up in everyday affairs but chooses to concentrate on his commanding officer's orders. God help us to focus on the eternal things that matter as we fight the good fight of faith!

Next, Paul likens us to an athlete. An athlete competes to win, and to do so he has to play by the rules. Likewise, we must follow the principles God has for us in His Word or we will surely fall out of the race and be disqualified. Paul challenges Timothy to follow the Word of God above all else and that same challenge confronts us today.

Thirdly, Paul uses the illustration of a farmer to remind us that we have work to do in our Christian walk. And, just like a farmer plants a seed and has to wait for the rain to fall, the seed to blossom and the harvest to arrive so too do we have to wait patiently for the fruit of our labor to be manifested. Farming is hard work and can be discouraging at times, but when the fields come forth, it is more than worth the reward.

As we fight like a soldier, compete like an athlete and work like a farmer, we are called to live and love like our blessed Savior. Because He was strong in grace and imparted that grace to each one of us, we are able to go forth confidently each day. We have the love and favor of God so we can stand strong in His grace and freely pass it on to others.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. ⁸Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. ¹²If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. ¹³If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."
NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

"This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

2 Timothy 2:11-13

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

1. Verse 1 of this week's scripture states that we are to be strong in the grace that is in Jesus. Look up the following verses and note what they say about the grace Jesus shows us. Then, ask Him to help you extend His grace to others.

a. Romans 5:8: _____

b. Romans 3:23-24: _____

Group Discussion

Despite what we were and often still are, God still pours out His grace upon us. How can we then not show grace and forgiveness to others? Do you think being ungracious is a problem in our society today? In our churches? In our own lives? _____

2. According to verse 3 of this week's passage, what will we endure as good soldiers of Jesus Christ? _____

a. According to verse 4, what should we not entangle ourselves in? _____

b. Entanglements can prevent us from serving the Lord with our whole heart. What warning is given in 1 John 2:15-17 about being distracted by the world? _____

c. Are you often prevented from serving the Lord because you are entangled in the things of this world? Write your thoughts. _____

"We must learn to live on the heavenly side and look at things from above. To contemplate all things as God sees them, as Christ beholds them, overcomes sin, defies Satan, dissolves perplexities, lifts us above trials, separates us from the world and conquers fear of death."

– A.B. Simpson (1843-1919)

3. In verses 8-9 of this week's scripture Paul writes of the trouble he suffers for teaching and preaching the gospel. What does Matthew 10:22-23 tell us about the trouble we will face as believers? _____

4. Read the verses below and note why you think the world stumbles when it comes to the cross of Christ and dislikes those who preach the Good News?
- a. 1 Peter 2:7-8: _____

- b. 1 Corinthians 1:18: _____

5. Paul ends this portion of scripture with "trustworthy sayings". Finish the phrases below taken from verses 11 through 13 (NLT).
- a. If we die with Him, _____
- b. If we endure hardship, _____
- c. If we deny Him, _____
- d. If we are unfaithful, _____

- e. Does verse 13 give you encouragement? Why or why not? _____

"When God calls a man, He does not repent of it. God does not, as many friends do, love one day, and hate another; or as princes, who make their subjects favorites, and afterwards throw them into prison. This is the blessedness of a saint; his condition admits of no alternation. God's call is founded upon His decree, and His decree is immutable. Acts of grace cannot be reversed. God blots out His people's sins, but not their names."

– Thomas Watson (1557–1592)

