



For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
(Eph 2:8-9)

Building the Kingdom of God (2 Timothy 2:1-13)

I. Review

Paul is in prison and about to die; so, he encourages Timothy, his son in the faith, not to be discouraged by his imprisonment but rather see it as one of the primary methods God is using to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, leading to the building of God's kingdom.

Therefore, Timothy must do three things:

1. Hold on tightly to the truth he has been given. (1:13, 14)

2 Timothy 1:13-14 NKJV Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (14) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

2. Protect the purity of the gospel.
3. Possess it as your own.

Entrust it to those coming after him

2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Like Paul be willing to suffer (2:3-7)

2 Timothy 2:3-7 NKJV You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. (5) And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (6) The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. (7) Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Last week we considered the meaning of being a good soldier of Jesus Christ and the discipline that we need to stand strong in battle and not be entangled with the priorities of the world.

This morning we want to consider the example of the athlete and the farmer and see how these things fit together for the building of the Kingdom of God.

Pray and Read 2Tim 2:1-13

2 Timothy 2:1-13 NKJV You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (3) You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. (5) And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (6) The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. (7) Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. (8) Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, (9) for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. (10) Therefore 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. (11) This is a faithful saying: For

if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*. (12) If we endure, we shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us. (13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

II. **Goal** - that the gospel of Jesus Christ will spread to every corner of the world so that all men, women and children will have the opportunity to respond to the invitation of Christ.

Discipleship - This is the way Jesus did it; this is the master's plan for evangelism.

1. The Master Plan of Evangelism Pgs 21ff and 38
2. **Question:** Next to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, what is the greatest testimony to the authenticity of the gospel?
Answer: A changed life

III. **Power:** - the grace of God in salvation and sanctification

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound that SAVED a wretch like me.... 'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved; how precious did the grace appear the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come, tis Grace has brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home.

IV. **Role:** - Find Joy and Rest in the grace and peace of God; then be willing to suffer and sacrifice for the glory and gospel of God

The Discipline of a soldier - We are in a war and God has called us to soldiers, heroes of faith — in the big and little areas of life.

1. This is what your wife needs; this is what your children need.
2. "What you do for yourself will die with you what you do for others will live on in eternity."

The Dedication of an Athlete (2 Timothy 2:5)

2 Timothy 2:5 NKJV And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

"Competes according to the rules" "

As an athlete, hard work is not enough you have to have a focus; you have to learn the fundamentals and the rules that make your sport unique.

Can you imagine a swimmer who is in the weight room all day working hard to be the strongest swimmer but never gets into a pool? He may look like Arnold but he won't win any swim meets.

Suffering as A Christian is not dealing with a collection agency because you bought something on credit that you couldn't afford. It is not dealing with the consequences of sexual sin or drunkenness. Rather, it is when we stand up for truth at work or when we follow God's will no matter how silly it looks to the world.

The Rules are set by the Judge -- Jesus Christ

The Diligence of a "hard working" Farmer (2 Timothy 2:6)

2 Timothy 2:6 NKJV The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

"Hardworking farmer" He doesn't quit If the frost kills his first plants; he plants again;

Why? Because his family is counting on him

Johnny Mac tells a story about his track relay team in high school. He was the second leg of the race and remembers running his best and leading the race when he passed the baton to his teammate feeling good about their chances to win the race but halfway around the track his teammate stops walks off to the side and sits on the grass. John ran up him and said, "What happened did you pull a muscle? No, I just got tired and didn't feel like running anymore." You can't do that you are not just running for yourself you are part of a team

The same is true for as Christians.

The farmer finishes what he starts He plows, plants, irrigates, fertilizes, and he does all of this before getting anything in return.

It is important that we teach our children about commitment; to finish what they start. That is why I tell me kids that they need to clean their plates at dinner. Don't leave those Cheerios on the bottom of your bowl — eat them up Why? Because if you don't you won't finish your marriage either (NO I don't say that). But it is important for me to teach them the importance of commitment.

He is diligent

"People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated."

V. Reward

Pleasing God — This is primary reward

There is no greater success than pleasing someone you love.

"If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." CT Studd

"Crowned"

The Olympics Games were held in Mexico City in 1968. And under the hot Mexican sun runners competed in the Marathon for over 3 hours until the finalists crossed the finish line. After everyone was done and the medals were given out, a sports announcer noticed that there was still one runner still on the course bleeding and limping as he jogged down the road.. The news quickly spread and the fans ran back to stadium to cheer him on as he staggered into the stadium and crossed the finish line. Reporters asked him, "Why didn't you just quit and seek medical care?" The runner replied, "My country did not send me 5,000 miles just to start a marathon. They sent me here to finish the marathon!

God wants you to finish the race; If you fall get up brush your self off and get back in the race for the glories of heaven await you.

“If we endure we will also reign with Him”

Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what our rewards will be but this we know that they are blessing from God that will impact our lives for eternity

“Crops” or fruit as in Rom 1:13 the salvation of souls

1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

Suffering will be part of Christian experience; but with that suffering God promises a reward;

“For the joy that was set before Him, Jesus endured the cross”

"If you succeed without suffering, it is because someone else has suffered in order that you might succeed. If you suffer without succeeding, it is in order that someone behind you might succeed without suffering."

Adoniram Judson

When we sit here in this room, with the open Bible before us, we so easily forget that this Book comes to us saturated with the blood, sweat, and tears of men and women of the past.

VI. Proof

Jesus suffered and now He risen as the King of Kings

Many have tried to stop the spread of the gospel -- but the Word of God is not chained.

There is on dungeon that is deep enough; no chains strong enough to hold back the Word of God

VII. Bottom-Line

“Faithful saying” — a first century hymn or poem. It is true and trustworthy.

Our actions here as Christians will impact us in eternity

Christ is not only preparing a place for us; He is also preparing us for that place.

A place of rest — the beauties of earth are just a bitter taste of the new heaven and earth.

A place where our work will be satisfying, — as we reign with Christ over creation.

No longer will our jobs be frustrating and draining (Is 65:22)

Isaiah 65:22 NKJV They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Get excited for the new world and let that motivate us to live a life of self-sacrifice
(Rev 21:1-4).

Revelation 21:1-4 NKJV Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. (2) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. (4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."