

II Timothy 2: Be Stronger *Bob Boardman*

I. Introduction.

A. Key verses. Chapter 1: 7-8. Chapter 2:1-2.

B. Outline for chapter two.

1. Be stronger Timothy.
2. The price of discipline.
 - a. Dedicate yourself. (1-7)
 - b. Suffering. (8-13)
 - c. Opposition. (14-19)
 - d. Moral choices. (20-26)

II. Dedicate yourself. (1-7)

A. The source of strength: grace.

1. The key to what Paul is sharing with Timothy is grace. We ought to covet grace.
2. If we can attain grace—the unmerited favor of God—we can be strong.
3. This is more than saving grace—it is the key to living a godly life and overcoming evil. (Titus 2:11-14)
4. Grace teaches how to be disciplined and how to overcome evil.

B. Grace is attained through humility. (1 Peter 5:5-6)

1. The humbling process is excruciating to our flesh. We need to cast those excruciating feelings upon God.
2. We go to Jesus Christ to obtain this grace. We cannot get it anywhere else. (Philippians 2:1-11)

C. The importance of discipling.

1. Paul is not simply satisfied with reviving Timothy—part of the therapy is to get him into the battle again.
2. Quality men produce quantity men.

3. Producing reproducers is difficult but satisfying work.
4. Every man should be a “Timothy” being disciplined by another.
5. Everyone should also be a “Paul” discipling others.

D. Three illustrations.

1. Dedicating like a soldier. One cannot get involved in civilian pursuits as a soldier.
 - a. He is tough through training and testing.
 - b. He must have loyalty and single-mindedness. (Philippians 3:10, 14-15)
2. Dedicating like an athlete.
 - a. There is discipline.
 - b. There is adherence to the rules.
 - c. Even if the rules are broken unknowingly the athlete is disqualified. We need to know the Word of God to know the rules.
 - d. An athlete competes to win. (1 Corinthians 9:24)
3. Dedicating like a farmer.
 - a. He must be patient and persevering.
 - b. God often chose farmers because of their patience to work through.

III. Suffering. (8-13)

- A. The basis for all suffering is the suffering of the Lord Jesus and his resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:14-15)
- B. The cost of suffering to Paul.
 1. While Paul is imprisoned the Word of God cannot be bound.
 2. The Word was Paul’s chief weapon.
- C. Christ’s faithfulness independent upon our faithfulness brings comfort.

IV. Opposition. (14-19)

- A. Avoid skirmishes of words.
- B. Know and use your weapons skillfully.
 1. We need to master the Word of God.

2. People read the Bible less and less because TV consumes our minds. There are few examples of Bible readers. Emotionalism replaces the discipline of searching. The authority of the Bible is being doubted and we acquiesce. It is not being taught from the pulpit and the podium. There is a shortcut mentality in our culture. There is no standard for reading the Bible in ministry profiles. There is a proliferation of books about the Bible. There are poor reading habits. There is poor education.

3. Reasons why one should read the Bible through once a year. It gives one the bird's-eye-view of the Scripture. It reviews what has already been read. It gives one a bath in spiritual truth. It helps prevent tangents and side-tracks. It teaches us the fear of God, obedience to His Word and helps prevent pride (Deuteronomy 17:19-20). It lengthens physical days. It helps in wisdom, knowledge, discernment and understanding (Proverbs 2:9-10)

C. Avoid profane and worldly jargon.

1. It multiplies ungodliness. It spreads like cancer. It always affects others adversely. It threatens foundational truth. It destroys the faith of others.

V. Moral choices. (20-26)

A. Timothy was to become purified as to separate himself from vessels of dishonor.

1. He was to flee youthful lusts but also to pursue righteousness.

2. There are some things you fight and some things for flight. (Proverbs 7, Proverbs 23:17)

3. This includes masturbation and homosexuality.

Application questions.

1. What is the importance of grace for sanctification and how is it attained?

2. Which illustration stood out to you concerning the disciple? How does this convict you especially? Explain.

3. What three things can you do to establish a daily Bible reading schedule that gets you through the whole Bible in a year?
