

“Letters to Timothy” (Part 5)
Pastor Jeff Alexander + October 9, 2016

2 Tim. 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 people who will also be qualified to teach others. **3** Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Paul stresses to Timothy, his understudy, that the good news spreads throughout the world when one person tells another person about Jesus, and that person then tells another person about Jesus.

Skipping ahead, Paul says, “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this” (2:7).

What is the Lord saying to you through these following verses?

2 Tim. 2:4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

The importance of FOCUS *Are you focused on pleasing your commanding officer?*

2 Tim. 2:5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules.

The importance of DISCIPLINE *Are you disciplined in training for the race?*

2 Tim. 2:6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

The importance of HARD WORK *Are you working hard to see the blessing of your labor?*

2 Tim. 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.

Paul stresses that the gospel message is singularly focused on JESUS.

When Jesus alone is whom we proclaim, our message will never be chained, never be stopped.

Philippians 1:14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

How can the hardships of people you know positively influence your life today?

2 Tim. 2:11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; **12** if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; **13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

God’s faithfulness is the fuel for our ministry!

Lamentations 3:22-23 Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.