

2 TIMOTHY 2

APPROVED WORKMEN ARE NOT ASHAMED (A W A N A)

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, (*Spiritual Son*) be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

- Paul had said the same to the Ephesians in his letter to them...
 - **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- God's grace is so great, it can make you strong. Why? Because HE is great... Because HE loves us... Because HE forgives us... WHY? **GRACE!**

PASS IT ON

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.

- This is the pattern of spreading the Gospel... Teach others who will teach others who will teach others...
 - The best investments that Lynette and I have made, have been to teach young people the Word, and now they have taught others the Word... Who have begun to teach others the Word.
 - Only heaven knows how far our investments have reached... But it is sure exciting to hear of Pastors, teachers, Missionaries, Counselors, and Worship Leaders springing up from our having shared with someone that God loves them.
 - Want in? **Listen... It is not easy sometimes...**

THE SELF-CONTROLLED SOLDIER

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.

- The less you are entangled in worldly things the more you are available for

the Lord.

- If you know a soldier, if you have BEEN a soldier, you know... Their military service comes first... Their duty is stronger than their own wants and desires. They go where their Superior Officers send them.
 - They proudly wear their uniforms.
 - They salute their commanders.
 - They take orders... They give them too.
 - Their life is not easy, but... If they are called to serve, they love it!
- The same can be said of serving in the ministry. If you are called into it, you will endure! "The ministry is the best worst job in the world."
I could do nothing else! If I could, I would pay YOU to do this job!

THE DISCIPLINED DISCIPLE

5 And also if anyone **competes in athletics**, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. *(Sorry Tom Brady!)*

- Paul was a sports fan. We know this because he uses the Olympic Games a few times as examples.... Like here...
- Olympic champions were crowned in Paul's time...
 - Now, they get medals and million-dollar endorsements. They sell breakfast cereal, Medicare supplement plans, and pain relief pills.
- Paul encourages Timothy, and us, to train hard for the Lord!
- **Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

6 The **hardworking farmer** must be first to partake of the crops.

- Is there a harder working professional than a Farmer?
- **Smith** – "You cannot share what you do not have! It's like measles." Want to share the Love of the Lord? You must know it first!
- Two farmers who were neighbors each won a million-dollar lottery. While discussing their plans over the fence one farmer said, "We are going to sell the farm and finally go on a vacation."

- The other farmer nodded... And said, "Well, we are going to just keep farming until the million runs out."

7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

LEAD LIKE THE LORD DID

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 (**Jail**) as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

- Paul's Gospel WAS the Gospel of resurrection. Paul always had the resurrection as one of his sermon points. Often, it was the ONLY sermon point!
 - He was imprisoned because of this sermon point. BUT... He says, the Gospel cannot be chained!

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, (**Jews**) that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

- **How did Paul really feel** about the Jews who had him arrested?
- **Romans 9:1** "I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;"

11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*.

- **COURSON** - If we're dying for Jesus, we will also live with Him—not only in heaven, but presently—because for the extent to which we die to ourselves is the extent to which we will experience life abundantly. When I choose to die to my reputation, my rights, my ideas, and my pleasures—when I choose to take up the Cross and die daily as Jesus told me to, I

live. (*IE, live to serve others...*)

- **Gayle Erwin, the famous CC Evangelist, used to mail out bumper stickers to his supporters that simply said, "Others."**

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

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

- Brandon Lake has this song out: "**Greater Still.**"

*You met me at my lowest moment
You saw me at my very worst
When I expected disappointment
Love was all I heard.
My sin was deep
Your grace was deeper
My shame was wide
Your arms were wider
**And my guilt was great
Your love was greater still.***

A WORKER APPROVED BY GOD

14 Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

- **Timothy, do not get caught up in words... BUT...**

15 Be diligent (**Study**) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- **Rightly dividing – "Cut straight the tent pattern."**
- **NLT – "correctly explains the word of truth."**
- **AND ALSO...**

THE SHUNNING

16 But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection (**Second coming**) is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

- Some fake preachers have a "special message" from God... It is almost always weird... **AND WRONG!**
- They want your money, so they will say whatever it takes to get you to support them. BUT... Their message is spiritual cancer. Their message will not stand the test of time, **but...**

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

- Do not listen to a preacher who is greedy for money! Believe me, money will NOT be the only sin problem they have!
 - Paul tells Timothy to depart from greed!

ON YOUR HONOR!

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, (**We would say, porcelain**) some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, (**Sin**) he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- When we were painting these walls using sprayers and spray paint, we looked like we had done a poor job of painting our eye lashed and faces. Honestly, we laughed at each other... until we got home and tried to clean it off.
- Then, Perry, our resident expert, brought in some petroleum jelly and showed us how to protect ourselves from the overspray...
- CCSV, we NEED to protect ourselves from the world's overspray too! HOW?

HAVE A PURE HEART

22 Flee also youthful lusts; (**Old guy lusts too!**) but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

BE GENTLE...INSTRUCTIVE...PATIENT...HUMBLE.

23 But **avoid foolish and ignorant disputes**, knowing that they generate strife. 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be **gentle** to all, **able to teach, patient**, 25 in **humility** correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Sometimes the hardest thing to do in ministry is to be gentle with people who "oppose themselves"—with people who continue to be at cross-purposes with their own welfare—not because they hurt us, but because they hurt themselves.

Yet Paul says we must be gentle and patient with *all* men—even those who are their own worst enemies. **COURSON**

Let us prepare our hearts for communion.