

Abounding Grace Christian Church

A Study of Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Part 5

I. Exposition of Chapter Two.

A. Verse 1 – “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

1. The word “strong” means; “to make strong, endue with strength, strengthen, passively, increase in strength”¹ It has the meaning of “be continually strengthened.”²
2. “...in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” – The word “grace” means; “the acceptance of and goodness toward those who cannot earn or do not deserve such gain... means that God has an attitude of kindness toward someone, wishing to prosper them.”³ Through Jesus Christ, we have God’s favor and kindness which provides an inward strengthening. Timothy was going through some difficult times but Paul, by the Holy Spirit, encourages him to receive this inner strengthening which is available by God’s grace. (See also Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13). Dr. Robert Utley adds: “This can be... (1) ‘continue to be made strong’ or (2)... ‘continue to be strong’...

Does the believer participate in the empowering, or does God do the empowering? This is the tension between the sovereignty of God and the free will of humans. In the NT *both* are involved in salvation and the Christian life. God deals with fallen mankind in a covenant relationship. There are both rights and responsibilities, requirements and privileges! Grace is always priority, but response is mandated!”⁴

B. Verse 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.” – Paul is commanding Timothy to pass on the truth of the Gospel that he had taught Timothy.

1. “...commit these to faithful men...” – The word “commit” means; “to deposit; to entrust, commit to one’s charge,”⁵
2. The word “faithful” means; “pertaining to trusting—‘one who trusts in, trusting’”⁶ – So Paul is commanding Timothy to find men who are trustworthy, whom he can train, and who will pass on the truths of the Gospel faithfully. A. Duane Litfin writes:

“Traveling with Paul, Timothy had heard the apostle address scores of diverse audiences. Among all those groups the essence of Paul’s message had not changed. It was the same body of truth Paul had taught Timothy personally. Now, with the apostle nearing the end of his own ministry, what Timothy had heard from Paul he was in turn to entrust (cf. 1:14) to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9). This has come to be called ‘the ministry of multiplication,’ and it is God’s method for propagating the good news of Jesus Christ.”⁷

C. Verses 3-4 – “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

1. “...endure hardship...” - This is one word in the Greek and means; “to suffer (endure) evils (hardship, troubles); to be afflicted”⁸ This is found two more times in this letter (2:9 and 4:5). Once again, this is referring to the persecution Timothy and the church were experiencing. (cf. 1:8).
2. “...as a good soldier of Jesus Christ...” – This is the first of three metaphors in this context. Paul also uses the metaphors of athletics (verse 5) and farming (verse 6). The idea of a “soldier” or military imagery is seen in various places in the writings of Paul. (cf. II Corinthians 10:3–5; Ephesians 6:10–17; Philemon 2)

¹ Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1889), 214.

² *The Complete Biblical Library: Acts – Revelation, Volume 2*, (Empowered Life, Tulsa, OK, 2016.), 917.2

³ *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, William D. Mounce, Gen. ed. (Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids, 2006.), 304.

⁴ Robert James Utley, *Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy*, vol. Volume 9, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 146.

⁵ Thayer, 486.

⁶ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 376.

⁷ A. Duane Litfin, “2 Timothy,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 752.

⁸ Thayer, 320.

3. **“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” –**
- “...engaged in warfare...” –** The word “engaged” means; **“to engage in military activity as a soldier—‘to serve as a soldier’”⁹**
 - “...entangles himself...” –** The word “entangles” means; **“to weave in”; “to entwine”; i.e. “to involve with.”¹⁰**
 - “...with the affairs of this life...” –** The word “affairs” means; **business, occupation, pursuits and occupations pertaining to civil life,¹¹**
 - These verses are not saying that a believer should neglect their families, their jobs, or other things pertaining to “civil life”, but it’s referring to believers getting things out of focus, out of priority. Allowing the distractions of this life to keep us from fulfilling the plan of God for our lives. A. Duane Litfin writes:**

“A Roman soldier’s single-minded purpose, rigorous discipline, and unquestioning obedience to his commanding officer combine to make the figure of a soldier an apt one for a servant of the gospel.”¹²

D. Verses 5-6 – “And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.” – Dr. Robert Utley asserts:

“Paul uses three strenuous professional examples:

- soldiers fight for their commander**
- athletes strive within the rules to win a crown**
- farmers work hard to partake of the fruit of their crops**

All involve commitment, effort, patience and suffering! All receive their due reward (cf. Prov. 27:18).¹³

E. Verse 7 – “Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.” – Paul is telling Timothy to really think about what he’s writing to him and trusting that the Lord will give Timothy understanding. Gary Leggett writes:

“Paul summarized his three illustrations with a charge to Timothy. ‘Consider’ means ‘put your mind on’ and implies Timothy should grasp the meaning of what has just been said and how it applied to his own ministry. As Timothy did this the Lord would add ‘understanding’ (‘insight,’ i.e., the ability to make right judgments) that was beyond Timothy’s human ability.”¹⁴

F. Verse 8 – “Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,” Dr. Gordon Fee makes an important statement:

“This picks up the ‘memory’ motif that recurs in this letter (1:4–5, 6; 3:14–15). Just as Paul had earlier reminded him of the faith of his forebears (1:5), of his own call and empowering for ministry (1:6–7), and of the ‘sound teaching’ he had had modeled before him in Paul (1:13; cf. 1:9–10), so now he calls him to focus his attention on Christ himself.”¹⁵

- “...Jesus Christ, of the seed of David...” –** The first thing Paul reminds Timothy here is that Jesus Christ, in His humanity, was a descendant of David. This was a reminder that He was truly the Messiah, born into the royal lineage of David (**I Samuel 7:14; See also John 7:42; Romans 1:3**).
- “...was raised from the dead according to my gospel.” –** The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the completion of the redemption in Christ. It was an essential ingredient of the Apostle’s Gospel message. Without this truth, there is no Gospel and there is no salvation. One must believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead in order to be saved (**Romans 10:9-10**). **See also Acts 2:24, 32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33-34, 37.**

⁹ Louw and Nida, 550.

¹⁰ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries : Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998).

¹¹ Thayer, 534.

¹² Litfin, “2 Timothy,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 752.

¹³ Robert James Utley, *Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy*, vol. Volume 9, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 148.

¹⁴ *The Complete Biblical Library: Acts – Revelation, Volume 2*, (Empowered Life, Tulsa, OK, 2016.), 918.

¹⁵ Gordon D. Fee, *1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1988)