

“Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;
if we endure,
we will also reign with him.
If we disown him,
he will also disown us;
if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.”
(2 Timothy 2:10-14, 15—NIV)



A Discipleship Tool of Christ Community Fellowship

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GRACE FOR OUR GOD-GIVEN DUTIES

Every Disciple's Commissioning—from 2 Timothy 2

We celebrate those who are Ordained, Commissioned to Gospel ministry. And while theirs is a unique calling, it is not different from what the Lord calls all of us to do and be. Ever focused on Jesus, His gospel, we are all to be grace-driven, bold people of integrity and faithfulness.

There are many places in the Bible that reinforce this calling from God on His servants—all of us (see Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:14; 3:5-8). Paul's letter to his protégé Timothy beautifully fleshes this out in rich, practical ways. As you read this last letter of Paul's, written from a Roman prison as he anticipates death, listen for Paul's fatherly tone of encouragement, entrusting, and reminding.

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.
4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.
5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.
6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.
7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

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 . . .

14 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.
15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” **(2 Timothy 2:10-14, 15—NIV)**

Serve! Strong in His Grace.

Death awaits Paul, he has run his race. He looks back at ministry—rooted in God’s grace—with satisfaction (2 Timothy 4:6-9). He looks ahead to his ministry continuing through Timothy and other disciples. In 2 Timothy 2, Coach Paul exhorts Timothy with many personal, pointed appeals, beginning with: “You then, my son, be strong . . .” (vs. 1; cf. Acts 16).

Timothy had to be strengthened by grace to fulfill his calling. We too are to be strong in “the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (vs. 1; 2 Corinthians 12; Philippians 4). As we abide in, obey Jesus (cf. John 15:1-7), His grace also empowers us (vs. 1), so we can:

Entrust Others to Also Entrust, Teach Others (vs. 2)

- Paul Church Planter (starter), Evangelist
- Timothy Church Establisher, Equipper (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- The Reliable Budding Church Leaders, Elders (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)
- Others Seekers, Baby Disciples, Curious

Endure Hardship, as a Good Soldier of Christ Jesus (vs. 3-6)

- Un-entangled in the world (4:10; 1 John 2:15-17; Hebrews 1, 2)
- Living to please the Lord (cf. Galatians 6:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:24)
- By “the rules,” for the crown (James 1:1-12; Romans 5:3-5)
- Faithful, awaiting eventual reaping (1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9, 10)

Mediate on His Word. Trust Him for Insight (vs. 7, 15; 3:14-17)

Cf. Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 1; 19; 119:1-11, 105; Colossians 3:16;
1 Timothy 4:11-16

Remember Jesus Christ! (vs. 8-13; cf. 1 Cor. 2:1, 2)

- Practice Godly Mnemonics: fight for focus, be mindful of, call to mind.
- Don’t forget the WHO, our WHY, in the doing the WHAT of serving.
- “Consider Jesus . . . fix your eyes on Jesus”—Hebrews 2:14, 15; 12:1, 2

For Prayerful Ruminating “on these matters” (vs. 7)

To Pursuing Grace for Your Life with, for Jesus:

- ❖ What are some of YOUR God-given duties, responsibilities?
- ❖ Who is your Paul: mentor, advisor, spiritual parent?
- ❖ Who are your Timothies: ones you are intentionally helping to disciple?
- ❖ Are you reliable, trusting His grace, or still just an “other”?
- ❖ Are you entangled, or running unencumbered? (cf. Hebrews 12:1, 2)
- ❖ Who are you most concerned about pleasing?
- ❖ How can you step-up your integrity, playing by His rules?
- ❖ How does hope of reward help you plod on as a spiritual farmer?
- ❖ What distractions—*squirrel!*—do you need to battle?
- ❖ How are you keeping Jesus in clear focus, your “why” of life?
- ❖ Mull over Hebrews 12:1-6; Philippians 3:12-16
- ❖ **Is Jesus your life**, your purpose, and message (Colossians 1:15-17; 3:1-3)?