

2 Timothy 2:1-26 **Qualities of a good Workman (Leader)**

Be Strong in Grace and Doctrine – Commit truth to faithful men

¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 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.

Examples of Soldier, Athlete, & Farmer

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.

⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

⁶ The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

Gospel Message and Paul's example

⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. 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 as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹ This is a faithful saying:

For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him.

¹² If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.

If we deny Him,
He also will deny us.

¹³ If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.

Counsel regarding true and false doctrine

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.

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

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 is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

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."

Sanctified Vessel of a gentle Servant

²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

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.

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Facts Revealed:

Be Strong in Grace and Doctrine – Commit truth to faithful men [2 Timothy 2:1-2]

✠ Leaders being confronted by older False Teachers who desire the position of prominence in a Church need the encouraging words to be strong in the ability provided by God. [Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 23, Joshua 1:1-9, Haggai 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:10]

✧ Strength for Church leaders comes in Christ Jesus who gained the victory by resurrection from the dead. [1 Peter 1:3-5]

✧ Stand firm in the original message of the Gospel of Jesus, commit the teachings of Paul to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Examples of Soldier, Athlete, & Farmer [2 Timothy 2:3-6]

✠ Paul uses different examples to describe qualities and virtues of a Christian leader.

Soldier:

✧ Example of undivided commitment to a cause in the face of much hardship to please the one he serves, this is a case of a disciplined life.

✧ Believers are expected to commit their lives to serve the Lord without distractions of this life. [Matthew 15:22, Mark 4:18-19]

Athlete:

✧ Example of one committed to follow Jesus by keeping His commandments to the very end. [Matthew 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13, 2 Peter 2:20-21]

Farmer:

✧ Example of one who works diligently preparing his field and tending it, he waits patiently for the crop to develop, then enjoys the reward of harvest. [James 5:7-8]

Gospel Message and Paul's example [2 Timothy 2:7-13]

✠ Paul advised Timothy to carefully consider his instructions, but acknowledged that true understanding of the work of ministering the Gospel comes from God. [John 14:25-26, 16:13-14]

✧ Jesus Christ was of the seed of David.

✧ Christ was raised from the dead, just as Paul declared in his gospel message.

✧ Because of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul was arrested as an evil doer and is in prison held in chains.

✧ Though Paul is chained in prison, he is glad that the Word of God is not chained or hindered as the message goes out even more because of his imprisonment. (Praise God for the epistles written from prison).

✧ Paul willingly endures his affliction for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

✧ Paul's strength to endure everything is founded on his knowledge and hope of God's Salvation:

For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.

If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.

If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. [2 Timothy 2:11-13]

✧ The hope of living and reigning with Christ strengthens the believer as he faces tests and trials with patience.

Counsel regarding true and false doctrine [2 Timothy 2:14-19]

✧ Believers need to be reminded of the truths of the Gospel message, and at the same time they need to intentionally avoid strife over words which are not profitable, but destroy the hearer.

✧ Just as the Children of Israel needed to be constantly reminded of the works of God in their history.

✧ The focus on the use of words is to edify the hearer, not to destroy him. [Romans 15:1-4, 1 Corinthians 14:1-12, 26, 2 Corinthians 10:8, 12:19, 13:10, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Timothy 1:3-4]

✧ Be diligent (endeavor, labor, study) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. [2 Timothy 2:15]

✧ To maintain true doctrine and avoid error, requires deliberate effort on the part of the believer, and as a leader one especially needs to understand the truths of the Gospel to avoid false doctrine coming at us from every side.

✧ Discernment between true and false doctrine, is only possible if one studies the Word of God seriously seeking discernment by carefully dividing the word of truth. [2 Timothy 2:15, Jeremiah 23:18]

✧ It is of utmost importance for a leader, because he is held to a higher standard, with harsher punishment for error. [James 3:1]

✧ **Errors in doctrine have been present from the very beginning. If it was false** in the Garden of Eden as Satan deceived Eve, at the time of Job in the counsel of his friends, throughout the history of Israel, at the time of Jesus as He condemned the doctrine of the Scribes and Pharisees, in the time of the Apostles as they faced the enemies of the Gospel, and has been promised to continue throughout the time of the Church, **then it is still false** today.

✧ We need discernment of error today even more than they did then, because it is cleverly disguised in theatrics, philosophy, and oratory.

✧ But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. [2 Timothy 2:16]

✧ Paul illustrates his meaning by naming men in their assembly as examples: Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. [2 Timothy 2:17-18]

✧ We have the same in the Church today in those who claim all was fulfilled in the first century, while the evidence of Scripture has not been apparent in its history, yet the effect is the same and faith has been destroyed in many.

✧ This is the reason Jesus and the Apostles so strongly stressed the need to beware of false doctrine to come in the last days, and was present in the first Century. [Matthew 7:15, 24:4-5, 11, 24, Mark 13:5-6, 22, Luke 21:8, Romans 16:17-18, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 2 Corinthians 11:3, 13, Galatians 2:4, Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 1 Timothy 2:14, 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:13, Titus 1:10-11, James 1:26, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 2:26, 3:7-8, 4:1, 2 John 1:7, Revelation 13:11-14, 19:20]

✧ 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." [2 Timothy 2:19]

- ✧ Even though false doctrine was present at the time of Paul, he reassured Timothy that the foundation of God stands firm.
- ✧ The Lord knows those who are His.
- ✧ It is important for the believer to do all in his power to avoid sin and iniquity. [1 Corinthians 15:34, Ephesians 4:26, 1 John 2:1]

Sanctified Vessel of a gentle Servant [2 Timothy 2:20-26]

- ✧ Paul refers to the human body as a vessel and associates its value and purpose with its use. [2 Timothy 2:20-21]
 - ✧ Vessels of gold and silver, wood and clay are valued relative to its use, some for honor and some for dishonor according to the will of the owner.
 - ✧ In the human vessel the value is established by the choice of the vessel. We have power to choose to cleanse ourselves from dishonor and become vessels of honor of greater value.
 - ✧ Therefore we are able to choose to cleanse ourselves from the pursuit of pleasure and sin, and sanctify ourselves by consecrating our lives to the Lord, becoming useful for the Master.
 - ✧ A Sanctified person is one prepared for every good work the Lord desires in us.
 - ✧ The choices include:
 - ✧ Flee youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [2 Timothy 2:22]
 - ✧ Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. [2 Timothy 2:23]
- ✧ Qualities required of a servant of The Lord:
 - ✧ He must not quarrel, but be gentle to all and patient. [2 Timothy 2:24]
 - ✧ He must humbly correct those in opposition, lest he fall into reproach and condemnation. [1 Timothy 3:5-7, 2 Timothy 2:25]
 - ✧ Only God is able to grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.
 - ✧ Only when they repent of their arrogance will they be able to come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil.
 - ✧ Those promoting false doctrine and quarrelsome strife have been taken captive by the devil to do his will, their behavior is the evidence, their destiny is destruction. [2 Timothy 2:26, Romans 9:22, Philippians 3:18-19, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, 2 Peter 2:1-22, Matthew 23:29-33, John 3:19]
 - ✧ Jesus said, "By their fruit you will know them." [Matthew 12:33, Luke 6:43-45]