

Spiritual Commissary

2 Timothy 2:1-4 KJV “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

Hello brothers in Christ, PRAY and grab your Bible.

Well, the plan for the next few weeks or so of “Spiritual Commissary” was to set some basic truths of our foundation in Christ in concrete in our hearts and minds. Some basic core truths that we must stand on if we plan on surviving storms and growing stronger in the faith. Like the sufficiency of Scripture and that God’s Word is ABSOLUTE TRUTH. Satan will never stop trying to instill thoughts of doubt, or any snare he can to get you to question God’s Word. The same goes for prayer and trusting God. After much prayer and meditation and last week’s Spiritual Commissary on 2 Timothy 2:9 the Holy Spirit has led me to continue with some solid study in 2 Timothy. So bear with me as we will be jumping around some as the Spirit leads me. As always if you have any questions, just write, and if I don’t know the solid Biblical answer I will consult my pastor Dr. Ken, or some of the many other elders/teachers God has introduced me to.

Now if you remember from last week Paul is imprisoned in Rome and basically on death row and writing from the hole or solitary confinement. So Paul is suffering greatly while also bearing the weight that he knows he has reached the end of his journey here. Even though Paul was innocent of sinful crimes at this point, unlike most of us, and in much worse conditions than we are, or have been in probably. I think we can all still relate to the emotions he was probably warring with. We know he was in bad shape health-wise from the countless beatings, and sufferings he has endured for many years on top of the pains that come with age alone. I would say he would be fighting emotions of anger and no doubt depression. Not to mention knowing his journey here has reached its end, and he would soon be killed. So we can imagine these struggles and emotions. Yet what does Paul do? Being so grounded in his faith and Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, he pens his last epistle, or letter, to Timothy. Filled with love and strong encouragement to stand strong in the Gospel truths Paul taught him. Highlighting some solid instructions and precautions for Timothy to never forget or stray from.

While we are surely not Paul's or Timothy's ourselves these very same instructions and encouraging words from God should be applied to our lives today. If we have any concern with pleasing God and receiving His grace and favor in our lives as we complete our journeys here too. Always putting ourselves aside, and considering the lost souls who will spend eternity in Hell if the Gospel ceases to be proclaimed, or we stray from Gospel truths as so many false prophets and churches today have sadly. Gee, talk about a lot of pressure and responsibility! I hear you, but listen, we each have different God-given gifts and talents to be used for His glory and purpose. That doesn't mean each one of us will be preachers behind a pulpit or teachers in a class, but if you are truly born again in Christ, a child of God, then you have been called, chosen by God. We MUST die to self and grow in Christ because each of us as Christians are actually living witnesses, missionaries, and ministers of the Gospel 24/7/365. Every word, action, and deed we display has the ability to honor or dishonor God. Will we make mistakes or mess up? Absolutely, but we should be quick to ask forgiveness, put it behind us, and keep pressing forward in Christ. There are way too many "lukewarm" Christians in the world. Again none of us will be "rock stars" for God every day, but as we grow in the faith we will be better prepared to remain faithful and obedient even during tough trials and storms.

The thing is none of us are capable of this. Even Paul and Timothy could have never achieved these things or lived such lives by their own will power or doings. It is only by Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in us that God makes us able. We can't, God absolutely can. In fact, let's jump right into the text at this point because that is exactly what Paul is reminding Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:1 KJV** "**Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**"(read **Ephesians 6:10** later). "Thou therefore", is a direct instruction to Timothy, and applies to us just the same. Paul is basically saying, "but you Timothy", do this. Paul is referencing back in Chapter 1 vs 15 where he gave an example of one he taught who strayed or fell away from Gospel truth. So "thou therefore", or but you Timothy is clearly warning Timothy not to do the same. At the same time, Paul in Chapter 1 vs 16-18 gives an example of "On-e-siph'-o-rus" and how he remained a faithful brother to Paul and worked hard to help him even when he was in prison. So "Thou Therefore" was a dual reference from Paul saying, but you Timothy don't do that but also do like this.

Then he calls Timothy "my son", this is a clear reference to being his elder in the faith. Paul had led Timothy to Christ and taught him the Gospel during his first missionary trip(**1 Corinthians 4:17**). Now here is the MOST IMPORTANT part of verse one that we can not miss! "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." That is EXACTLY what we must understand and embrace fully. We can't handle life's storms, our own sins, the worlds, or other people's sins. Or even think we can be Strong Christian Warriors ourselves, no way! It is only possible by the grace and power of God through Jesus Christ via the Holy Spirit these things are possible. If we are not praying, studying God's Word, and hanging with other Strong Christian

Warriors then we are running on self. Well we all know beyond a doubt what self produces, weakness and sin. We will be running around talking smack, getting drunk, high, or both. Catching cases, acting like idiots, and leaving a path of destruction for those around us. Now once we have truly embraced this and realize it is only by the grace of God and being born again in Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit can guide and empower us to overcome such foolishness and self-destruction. That is when we can begin to let Christ strengthen us to a point where we can endure suffering and storms without turning to sin, but always turning to Christ. A day will come when by the grace of God we will be able to stand firm as Christians even when it costs us dearly, like Paul's suffering, even unto death.

When we can truly deny our own self pleasures and wants, and even suffer often, so that others may see Christ working in us, and seek Him as well. Man, I wanted to get through 2 Timothy 2:1-4 and we have only covered verse one, forgive me! Brothers I pray for God to send you all comfort and strength! I pray you will reflect on last week's that God's Word can not be bound. I pray that you meditate on that as you meditate on this verse as well. I'm sorry we got so deep in verse one, but next week we will finish through verses 2-4 God willing. They are Paul using a dedicated, serious, military analogy to Timothy in regards to the faith. Because just like Paul encouraging Timothy here, I want to see you all not just be "lukewarm" Christians but by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, become Strong Christian Warriors! Remember to be strong, and that our strength comes from Christ!

Much love my brothers in Christ, you all STAY in my prayers,

Brian B.

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