

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 TIMOTHY 2 (PART 1)

PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY - IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS, STAY FAITHFUL. KEEP AND GUARD THE GOSPEL AND DON'T GROW WEARY - THE LORD WILL BE WITH YOU. AND NOW PAUL WILL GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO TIMOTHY FIT FOR THE MOMENT.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

V. 1 - BE STRONG IN THE GRACE

GRACE IS A MAJOR THEME AND CONCEPT IN PAUL'S WRITINGS (THE GREEK WORD *CHARIS* SHOWS UP 104X IN PAUL'S LETTERS). WE OFTEN THINK OF "GRACE" IN SALVATION TERMS (WE'VE BEEN SAVED BY "GRACE") AS IN, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO EARN SALVATION (WE'VE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE, CP. EPH 2:8-9). BUT "GRACE" IS BIGGER THAN THAT - IT INCLUDES THE IDEA OF HELP, FAVOR OR ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY FROM DIVINE SOURCES. AND WHEN WE THINK OF IT LIKE THAT WE'RE SEEING PAUL APPEAL TO TIMOTHY TO REMAIN STRONG IN THE HELP AND ASSISTANCE THAT COMES FROM GOD AND CHRIST.

V. 2 - DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED

PAUL TAUGHT TIMOTHY, TIMOTHY SHOULD FIND "FAITHFUL MEN" WHO HE SHOULD TEACH AND THEN WHO WILL IN TURN TEACH OTHERS. THIS CERTAINLY WOULD INCLUDE CHURCH LEADERS SPOKEN OF IN 1 TIMOTHY 3 BUT ALSO FAITHFUL/RELIABLE MEN WITHOUT OFFICIAL TITLES AND ROLES. TRAINING SOMEONE IN ANY TASK TAKES A LOT OF TIME - BUT IT IS A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT WORK FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THOSE TASKS. PAUL URGES TIMOTHY TO PRIORITIZE HIS INVESTMENT IN OTHER LEADERS SO THAT (1), TIMOTHY ISN'T THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF TEACHING THE TRUTH, AND (2) SO THAT THE WORK CAN CONTINUE BEYOND TIMOTHY'S GENERATION.

3 CHARACTERS TO CONSIDER: SOLDIER, ATHLETE & FARMER

V. 4 - SOLDIER - SUFFER HARDSHIP, DON'T GET ENTANGLED

V. 5 - ATHLETE - PLAY BY THE RULES

V. 6 - FARMER - THERE IS REWARD FOR PATIENT ENDURANCE

THESE 3 CHARACTERS HIGHLIGHT 2 IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES (1) DISCIPLINE AND (2) REWARD

1 - **DISCIPLINE**: SOLDIER/ATHLETE/FARMER ARE THREE EXAMPLES OF LIVES THAT ARE NOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE FOR THERE IS A DISCIPLINE REQUIRED IN THESE THREE ROLES THAT UNMISTAKABLY MARKS THEM OUT.

SOLDIER - WHILE IN ACTIVE SERVICE THEY ARE NOT LIVING LIKE A NORMAL CIVILIAN. THEY ARE SUFFERING HARDSHIP IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. THEY MUST REMAIN ALERT, FOCUSED, AND UNDER AUTHORITY OF THEIR COMMANDER. IF NOT, THEY WILL DIE AND PUT OTHERS AT RISK

ATHLETE - TRAINING AND PREPARATION ARE REQUIRED IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CONTEST AND COMPETING BY THE RULES IS REQUIRED IN THE COMPETITION ITSELF. AN ATHLETE MUST BE DISCIPLINED, MAKING INTENTIONAL CHOICES TO DO/NOT DO CERTAIN THINGS (EX: LIFE PATTERN, FOOD CHOICES, SLEEP). IF AN ATHLETE IS NOT DISCIPLINED, THEY WILL LOSE OR PERHAPS BE DISQUALIFIED.

FARMER - A FARMER IS A THIRD PICTURE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A DISCIPLINED LIFE. FARMERS HAVE ROUTINES, HABITS, AND NO DAYS OFF. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE DONE - EVEN DURING THE WINTER IN MANY CASES. CROPS DON'T GROW ON ACCIDENT. IF A FARMER IS NOT DISCIPLINED, THEY WILL NOT BE READY TO PLANT OR HARVEST AND THOSE COUNTING ON HIS PRODUCTION WILL SUFFER.

2 - REWARD: LIFE, VICTORY, HARVEST

SOLDIER'S REWARD - VICTORY IN BATTLE. PROTECTION FOR THOSE THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR. PLEASING THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER. THEIR OWN LIVES.

ATHLETE'S REWARD - VICTORY IN COMPETITION

FARMER'S REWARD - HARVEST, CROPS, PRODUCE, SUSTENANCE, LIVELIHOOD.

Q - WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FOR OUR OWN LIVES FROM THESE THREE CHARACTERS?

Q - HOW DOES OUR CULTURE WORK AGAINST THESE QUALITIES?

V. 7 - *"CONSIDER WHAT I SAY AND THE LORD GIVE YOU UNDERSTANDING IN EVERYTHING."*

THINK ABOUT THIS - AND ASK THE LORD TO HAVE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU.

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13 - REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST

WHY THE CALL TO "REMEMBER?" → BECAUSE WE FORGET. THE SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT PAUL CALLS TIMOTHY TO KEEP IN MIND ARE TIMELY FOR THE SITUATION THEY BOTH ARE IN.

WHAT TO REMEMBER? - JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD (NOT JUST CRUCIFIED ON THE CROSS).
JESUS CHRIST, DESCENDANT OF DAVID (MESSIAH KING)

PAUL IS IN PRISON FOR NO SIN OF HIS OWN (V. 9) AND SO FOR PAUL, HE WANTS TO REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD, THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

THE GOSPEL TELLS THE TRUE STORY ABOUT HOW GOD USED CIRCUMSTANCES AND SITUATIONS THAT LOOKED BLEAK, LOOKED BAD TO BRING ABOUT HOPE AND LIFE AND SALVATION. JESUS DID NOT COME TO BE A CONQUERING KING AT FIRST - HE CAME TO DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD AND PAY THE PRICE YOU AND I OWED AND COULD NOT PAY. IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS DYING AND GOD HAD LOST - BUT GOD WAS WORKING THROUGH THE DEATH AND DARKNESS AND DEFEAT TO BRING LIFE AND LIGHT AND TO VICTORY OVER EVIL, SIN AND DEATH.

AND SO PAUL IS SITTING IN A ROMAN PRISON, WAITING FOR HIS SENTENCING AND DEATH, REMEMBERING THAT GOD IS AT WORK IN THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS AND WORKING TO TURN THINGS FOR HIS GLORY. IT LOOKS LIKE PAUL IS GOING TO LOSE, BUT HE'S NOT. EVEN IF HIS TRIALS END IN DEATH, BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST, HE WINS.

REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD, DESCENDANT OF DAVID, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL.

2 TIMOTHY 2:9-10 - PAUL WILL SUFFER SO OTHER CAN BE SAVED

PAUL IS COMMITTED TO ENDURING AND SUFFERING HARDSHIP IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL. HE BELIEVES THAT THE WORK OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL SO THAT OTHERS CAN HEAR IT, BELIEVE IT, AND BE SAVED IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVEN HIS OWN LIFE. AND HE IS MOTIVATED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL BECAUSE OF THE PROMISES HE BELIEVES ABOUT CHRIST'S OWN FAITHFULNESS.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13 - TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT

AS WE DISCUSSED IN 1 TIMOTHY, THE PHRASE "TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT" IS USED BY PAUL A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THESE LETTERS TO EMPHASIZE A PARTICULAR STATEMENT WHICH HE WANTS HIS READER TO UNDERSTAND IS *REALLY TRUE*. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THESE WERE TRUTHS THAT WERE WRITTEN IN A WAY THAT WOULD HELP THE EARLY CHURCH REMEMBER IN A SIMPLE AND INSTRUCTIVE WAY. HERE PAUL WRITES:

IF WE DIED WITH HIM, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM
IF WE ENDURE, WE WILL REIGN WITH HIM
IF WE DENY HIM, HE WILL DENY US
IF WE ARE FAITHLESS, HE REMAINS FAITHFUL (HE CAN'T DENY HIMSELF)

DO YOU SEE THE PROMISES MADE HERE BY CHRIST? I SEE 4

1 - IF WE DIE WITH HIM, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM - IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE, IF WE "DIE TO OURSELVES" AND LIVE FOR CHRIST, ETERNAL LIFE AWAITS. IN A PHYSICAL SENSE, IF WE DIE BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS, HE WILL RAISE US FROM THE DEAD AT HIS COMING.

2 - IF WE ENDURE, WE WILL REIGN - JESUS PROMISES THAT IF WE STICK IT OUT, SUFFERING HARDSHIP, NOT QUITTING DURING THE TRIALS AND TURNING AWAY TOWARDS TEMPTATION, WE WILL NOT ONLY SEE THE MESSIAH'S KINGDOM, WE WILL REIGN AS KINGS WITH HIM! THE SUFFERING OF THIS PRESENT AGE DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE TO THE GLORY THAT IS TO COME. AT TIMES THIS LIFE IS VERY HARD AND SPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO LIVE FOR CHRIST - IF WE ENDURE, WE WILL REIGN.

3 - IF WE DENY HIM, HE WILL DENY US - WE SHOULDN'T THINK THAT WALKING AWAY, QUITTING OR NOT BEING LIKE THE SOLDIER/ATHLETE/FARMER WILL STILL RESULT IN REWARD. THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WORKS. THIS IS A WARNING IN THE MIDST OF ENCOURAGEMENT. AND IT IS A PROMISE JUST LIKE THE LINES BEFORE. AND SO THERE IS ONE FINAL PROMISE TO KEEP IN MIND...

4 - IF WE ARE FAITHLESS, HE REMAINS FAITHFUL - YES, IF WE TURN AWAY, HE WILL STILL BE FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD. BUT ALSO, WHEN WE ARE WEAK, HE REMAINS STRONG.

SO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US, WE'RE CALLED TO REMEMBER THE RISEN DAVIDIC KING, JESUS THE MESSIAH - AND SPECIALLY TO REMEMBER THE PROMISES OUR FAITHFUL LORD MAKES.

THIS IS A POWERFUL STATEMENT MERGING THE TRUTHS OF THIS CHAPTER: DISCIPLINE, REWARD & REMEMBERING JESUS CHRIST.

HEAR ME OUT ON THIS. CONSIDER WHAT I AM MISSING IN THESE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT ONE OF TRIAL, SUFFERING, GOOD DAYS, JOY, PEACE, HARDSHIP, HOLY LIVING, FORGIVENESS, STRENGTH, WEAKNESS, BLESSINGS. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A RELIGIOUS SYSTEM THAT HELPS US MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD, HELPS PEOPLE GET THROUGH, PROVIDES MORAL GUIDANCE, AND GIVES GOOD WISDOM ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE. THE ETHICS OF CHRISTIANITY MAY INDEED GIVE YOU A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE THAN FOLLOWING YOUR OWN STANDARDS OR SIMPLY RIDING THE WAVES OF WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS. BUT THAT'S NOT CHRISTIANITY. DO YOU SEE WHAT'S MISSING IN THOSE DESCRIPTIONS?

CHRISTIANITY IS THE TRUTH THAT LIFE IS BETTER NOW FOLLOWING JESUS, BUT THAT THE END OF THE STORY IS THAT CHRIST RETURNS, DEFEATS EVIL ONCE AND FOR ALL AND RAISES TO LIFE THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED THEIR LIVES TO HIM. AND THAT TRUTH MAKES EVERYTHING WORTH IT. DO YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND DISTINCTION WE'RE MAKING HERE? THE FULL PICTURE OF CHRISTIANITY MUST INCLUDE THE HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN, OR ELSE IT IS INCOMPLETE.

"IF WE HAVE HOPED IN CHRIST IN THIS LIFE ONLY, WE ARE OF ALL PEOPLE MOST TO BE PITIED" (1 CORINTHIANS 15:19)

IF WE FORGET THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS ABOLISHED DEATH AND BROUGHT IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL (2 TIMOTHY 1:10), AS IF FOLLOWING JESUS WAS JUST ABOUT A WAY TO LIVE NOW - WE'RE MISSING A MAJOR PART OF THE STORY - THAT JESUS CHRIST DIDN'T JUST DIE FOR OUR SINS, BUT THAT HE WAS RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN FOR OUR VICTORY. JESUS DIDN'T JUST COME TO SEEK AND SAVE THOSE WHO WERE LOST, BUT THAT HE IS COMING AGAIN TO RESCUE HIS PEOPLE FROM DEATH ITSELF. JESUS DIDN'T JUST COME TO TURN THE TABLES OVER ON THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES AND TEACH ABOUT LOVE - HE IS COMING BACK TO TURN THE WORLD AND ITS EVIL FORCES UPSIDE DOWN!

REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD, DESCENDANT OF DAVID, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-58 (NLT) - 51 BUT LET ME REVEAL TO YOU A WONDERFUL SECRET. WE WILL NOT ALL DIE, BUT WE WILL ALL BE TRANSFORMED! 52 IT WILL HAPPEN IN A MOMENT, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WHEN THE LAST TRUMPET IS BLOWN. FOR WHEN THE TRUMPET SOUNDS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WILL BE RAISED TO LIVE FOREVER. AND WE WHO ARE LIVING WILL ALSO BE TRANSFORMED.

53 FOR OUR DYING BODIES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO BODIES THAT WILL NEVER DIE: OUR MORTAL BODIES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO IMMORTAL BODIES. 54 THEN, WHEN OUR DYING BODIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BODIES THAT WILL NEVER DIE, THIS SCRIPTURE WILL BE FULFILLED: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. 55 O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

57 BUT THANK GOD! HE GIVES US VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

58 SO, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BE STRONG AND IMMOVABLE. ALWAYS WORK ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOR THE LORD,

(WHETHER A SOLDIER, ATHLETE OR FARMER...)

FOR YOU KNOW THAT NOTHING YOU DO FOR THE LORD IS EVER USELESS.

REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD, DESCENDANT OF DAVID, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL.