

## 2 Timothy 1:13-2:7

### Chapter 1

#### Verse 13:

***--Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.***

--Paul had set a **pattern** (which meant *model, sketch, or outline*) of doctrine and ministry for Timothy to follow and work in. His teachings and literal words were **sound**—or healthy—as is repeated numerous times in the pastoral epistles (**1 Tim. 1:10; 6:3; 2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 1:9, 13; 2:1, 2, 8**).

--Teachers should be able to stay close to the Scriptures as they teach and preach. If not, beware! Not all spiritual-sounding words are health-giving words.

--Paul is exhorting Timothy to **Hold fast** to Paul's ministry message and methods!

**\*Hebrews 2:1: *Therefore we ought to give the most earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*\***

--How should Timothy hold this pattern? In faith and love. The type which are found in Christ Jesus. A genuine faith and holy love will never want to promote unhealthy doctrine!

--Faith can become a sterile academic, and love can become a cold, religious action. May God, in His manifold grace, deliver us from dead orthodoxy to living faith and love in Christ Jesus!

#### Verse 14:

***--That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.***

--That the **good thing** was the priceless deposit of the testimony of our Lord and Paul's sound words. Timothy was to realize God's investment in his own life and walk!

--We have had the truth committed to us. Do we realize the responsibility we now possess?

**\*Jude 3: *I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*\***

--The Greek word for **good** (*kalos*) means *beautiful, excellent in nature, admirable*, etc. The Word of God and the gospel are the greatest treasures we will ever possess.

--Those who know the goodness of God's Word and gospel share and listen!

--Once we realize the precious treasure we have, we must also protect it! How? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Notice, Paul doesn't attempt to explain how this works. He simply assumes the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

**\*Romans 8:9: *Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*\***

--God's Word, the testimony of our Lord, and the gospel will always be under attack in one form or another! The Judaizers will rise up to mix in bad doctrine; False teachers will rise up to deny clear doctrine like the resurrection or deity of Christ; Persecutors like Nero and Rome will rise up to silence the truth with threats of prison or death; etc.

--But the indwelling Spirit of God is not afraid of Satan's tactics. He knows how to deliver.

### Verses 15-18:

--In this next section, Paul uses two examples Timothy knew well. One negative and one positive. Everywhere we go, we will find faithful and faithless individuals. There will always be a mix! \*The lesson we learn with Judas lurking among Jesus' own disciples!\*

--**(15) *This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.***

--First, the negative example. The **Asia** Paul is referencing was the Roman world's designation as found in **Acts 2:9; 16:6; 19:10**. Sadly, it would include Ephesus, where Timothy was, and the other six churches of **Rev. 1:4**.

--What was their turning away? Some think it was in reference to Paul's trial, where no other Christian was willing to come as a witness for him. I think the context leads us more toward the idea of rejecting the truth of God and the servants of God.

--These may be real churches, with real believers, but Paul is acknowledging their turning away from Christ and sound words to false teachers and unsound words. That was the whole point of leaving Timothy in Ephesus in **1 Tim. 1:3-7**.

--Paul even mentions two men by name, Phygellus and Hermogenes, the inference being that these two men were surprising names to turn away from Paul and his gospel. Their defection hurt!

--**(16-17) *The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me.***

--Second, the positive example was Onesiphorus, whose name means *help-bringer*. He went to Rome at a time when most Christians were trying to get out, and **refreshed** Paul.

--Even the godliest men and women in the Bible needed encouragement at times!

\*Abraham/Melchizedek; Moses/Jethro; David/Jonathan; etc.\*

--When he got to Rome, he didn't have an easy time finding Paul. He had to search **very zealously** for him. Tradition says Paul was being kept in a well-type dungeon.

--**(18) *The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.***

--Because of Paul's language, some interpreters try to say Onesiphorus is dead, and Paul is praying for the dead. There is nothing of the sort here. Obviously, it is much easier to assume Onesiphorus is no longer with Paul but traveling somewhere else.

--There are other places in Scripture where Paul speaks of someone's household while they are clearly still alive, as in Chloe + Stephanas in **1 Cor. 1:11+ 16:15**. Plus, when we see how Paul spoke about Epaphroditus, who *almost* died in **Phil. 2:25-30**, it is hard to imagine how he says nothing similar or more about Onesiphorus.

--What is Paul expressing here? Paul knows he will never have an opportunity to repay the kindness Onesiphorus showed him. So instead, he prays that God will.

**\*Matthew 5:7: *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*\***

--This is a wonderful prayer to make our own when there is a kindness given that we cannot return. Pray that God will bless them on **that Day** when they stand before Jesus Christ, who sees every kind word or deed.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Verse 1:**

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

--***You therefore.*** . . contrasts with those of Asia and is in line with Onesiphorus.

--Paul knew very well the only place to find the necessary strength to serve the Lord and endure was in the grace of God.

--The command is to *keep being strengthened in the grace of God*. We live in the sphere of His grace (**Rom. 5:2**) and should be continually drawing on His limitless supply.

--Our sufficiency is not of ourselves. If we don't feel that, we must not be involved in many spiritual pursuits or battles!

### **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.***

--The truth Timothy heard was not secret spiritual truths reserved for the elites. The truth of Christ's teaching was publicly declared. \*Beware of spiritually elite groups. Jesus taught openly and plainly!\*

--The treasure of Christ's teaching was *committed* to others—think the Great Commission! The truth is simply passed on, not changed, updated, or molded to fit the culture. Nothing is to be added or removed from the content.

--Timothy was to commit this treasure to ***faithful men*** who were ***able to teach others also***.

--What are the qualifications? Faithful in character, first. Able in ability, second. Paul didn't tell Timothy to look for men who were leaders, intelligent, talented, or influential.

--How did Jesus do this? By being with the 12 apostles. How did Paul do it? By being with Timothy (**1:13**)! \*A big difference was made from a small group.\*

### **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.***

--Paul now uses a few pictures to give Timothy an illustration of the faithful Christian life. First is that of a soldier in a war. What are the characteristics of ***a good soldier of Jesus Christ***?

1) Good soldiers of Jesus Christ have an awareness of the war. We are to be alert. We are on active duty in enemy territory! This world is a battleground and not a playground.

--The hazards of this spiritual war were a very clear reality for Paul, Timothy, and those early Christians.

--Warfare can look very different for individuals depending on their post. \*Siege, Spy, Infantry, Base logistics, Basic training, etc.\*

2) Good soldiers of Jesus Christ accept hardship. Even basic training is hard, let alone direct combat. We are to endure our fair share of this difficulty, whatever its form: family, friends, loneliness, ridicule, persecution, etc. \*Is comfort our idol?\*

\*Tozer (Paths To Power): *"It (The Church) has lived through its early travails and has now come to accept an easier way of life. It is content to carry on its painless program with enough money to pay its bills and a membership large enough to assure its future. Its members now look to it for security rather than for guidance in the battle between good and evil. It has become a school instead of a barracks. Its members are students, not soldiers. They study the experience of others instead of seeking new experiences of their own."*\*

--We are not in this war alone.

**\*1 Peter 5:8-10: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.\***

--All soldiers will face some type of hardship if they are actually in the battle. Satan will spare no further than God restrains.

3) Good soldiers of Jesus Christ can leave things behind. A soldier only carries what he needs for the battle. Nothing more, but also nothing less!

--Think of long Roman Campaigns or our modern deployments. The deployed soldier leaves behind all his family, friends, houses, luxuries, hobbies, work, etc. \*Missionaries leaving things behind, like Frank Drown and his father.\*

--There will always be a temptation to leave our post to get involved in other non-war-related things. Do your part! \*Don't be a deserter.\*

4) Good soldiers of Jesus Christ please their Commander. Do you feel weak, scared, or unequipped for this war? Well, He chose you anyway! Seek to please Him who enlisted you.

--How? Good soldiers follow orders.

**\*John 14:15: If you love Me, keep My commandments.\***

--Pleasing our Commander doesn't happen in one day. It happens through the campaign. We are in this war until it ends, or our life is spent in the King's service. There is only one generation that will survive by rapture, but in the end, we will all be there for the victory parade! Our lives are given to the winning side.

**Verse 5:**

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

--Here, Paul uses the picture of a Greek in the games. The Greek word for **competes** (*athleo*) is used only here in the NT, twice in this verse. It means *to contend in public games for a prize*.

--All contending athletes must compete within the rules to obtain the reward.

--Jesus is the Judge, who upholds all the rules of this competition we call life. No one can cheat the system (like the Patriots!), and no sorry excuse will fly with this Judge. \*He will never condone sin to win.\*

--His rules are perfect and unchanging. We cannot pick and choose the parts of the Christian life that we like or dislike. \*How many refuse obedience or faith for no other reason than personal preference!\*

--The culminating picture is the victorious athlete called from the roaring crowd to the stand before the judgment seat, where a crown is waiting.

#### **Verse 6:**

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

--Finally, Paul invokes the picture of the hard-working farmer.

1) Labor is pictured. The farmer has regular work over extended periods of time. He is up with the sun to get in the needed amount of work. \*Christianity is not a lazy religion. God is looking for workers! Why is it always a small crowd doing the most labor in every church?\*

2) Patience is pictured. When we don't see immediate fruit, we must recognize that seeds have been sown. Tend to the things that you don't see! There is life buried beyond our sight.

--The danger here is that relaxing our labor, or quitting, will result in a stunted or absent harvest! We will reap what we sow. \*Don't set your hand to the plow and turn back!\*

3) Harvest is pictured. The Christian life has its own inherent blessings.

--If God cares for the dumb ox doing a tough job, how much more you and I?!

***\*1 Corinthians 3:8: Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.\****

***\*Revelation 22:12: And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.\****

--God will be no man's debtor!

--Beyond the soldier's war is victory and peace. Beyond the athlete's competition is healing and reward. Beyond the farmer's labor is rest and harvest. Beyond the Christian's life is glory and the crown. The Christian life is not easy. It is work. It is worth it. Eternally worth it.

--Do we believe Him? There are many who are disappointed at the thought of losing heavenly reward, but sadly, they are more disturbed at the idea of paying the required price a soldier, athlete, or farmer pay to obtain the reward!

#### **Verse 7:**

***--Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.***

--Paul is basically saying that there is so much more in these pictures! \*Damian's study after talking with farmers.\*

--The Christian life is all three of these pictures and more! God will teach us if we seek Him.

--Paul knew God must be the Teacher of all spiritual truth through His Holy Spirit. No man can give us understanding of spiritual things. This spiritual understanding was a common prayer of the apostles for believers.

***\*Colossians 1:9: For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;\****

--God must do this work in us through His Holy Spirit. Knowing the original languages wasn't enough. Seeing Jesus' life and miracles wasn't enough. Hearing Jesus teach wasn't enough. But by following Him and abiding in Him, the disciples came to know Him as He worked understanding in them.

***\*Luke 24:45: And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.\****

--Jesus is the same gracious Giver, yesterday, today, and forever.