

## I.I. WHY WE TRAIN MEN: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

### INTRODUCTION.

**Q.** Why do we train men? **A.** These are 30,000 foot view answers.

I) **As the pastors go, so go the men** ("set an example").

—

II) **As the men go, so go the women** ("head" "is she desires to learn anything, let her ask her husband at home").

—

III) **As the men go, so goes the home** ("teach children diligently").

—

IV) **As the home goes, so goes the Church** ("stones stacked together").

—

V) **As the church goes, so goes society** ("pillar and buttress of truth").

**BIG IDEA.** Why are we doing Shepherd School? Let me give you eight reasons from 2 Timothy 2:1-7, and these are ground level answers.

Why Shepherd School?

**I. So that you would be strengthened by grace** (2 Timothy 2:1).

**2 Timothy 2:1** "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,"

- **MATTHEW POOLE:** "[Paul is saying] Be strong through the gracious influence of Christ Jesus, without which you can do nothing."

### LET ME MAKE TWO CLARIFICATIONS

**I) Grace is not just for pardon from sin, but also for power over sin.**

- **Hebrews 13:9** "It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace..."
- **Titus 2:12-14** "12 [Grace is] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

**II) Grace is not just a power, it is a Person.**

- **Titus 2:11** "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,"

***Your strength will not do, men. You must get strength from Christ.***

- **In 2 Samuel 30:6, God says,** "David strengthened himself in the LORD his God."
- **Paul says to the Ephesians,** "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (Eph. 6:10).

***The way to get strength from Christ is by asking God's help for power, believing His happy promises, and trusting His hand of providence.***

- **There is a never ending supply of strength in the person of Christ, flowing from the piercings of Christ, ready to empower the people of Christ. All you need to do is ask your Father in prayer through faith in Christ.**

***Christ was pierced for your transgressions so that you would be forgiven as well as empowered to live a new life for Him!***

- "You do not have because you do not ask; you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly to spend on your lusts" (**James 4**).
- **Shepherd School will provide with even more exposure to God's ordinary means of empowering grace—namely preaching, prayer, discussion (which can be a form of meditation), and praise.**

(Repeat point)

Why Shepherd School?

**II. So that you would be taught the truth (2 Timothy 2:2a).**

**2 Timothy 2:2a** "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,"

- **I) It is one of the duties of pastors to give instruction in sound doctrine and rebuke those who contradict it—the pastors are seeking to do just that in Shepherd School.**
  - **Titus 1:9** "He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."
- **II) You need to constantly feed on the truth to live the Christian life—the pastors of Ekklesia Muskogee are devoted to constantly feeding you the truth of the Scriptures.**
  - **Deuteronomy 8:3** "Man does not live by bread alone."
  - **You need Jeremiah's appetite where he says,** "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the

delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts" (**Jer. 15:16**).

**Our aim is to teach you not the opinions of men, but the very words of the Lord.**

All the books we are reading have been chosen because they are chalked full of Scripture and the writers labored to help you and I better understand and apply the Teaching and the Testimony.

Why Shepherd School?

### **III. So that you would be equipped to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2b).**

**2 Timothy 2:2b** "who will be able to teach others also."

- **ALL of you need to teach** your wife, your children, and your neighbors as you take part in discipling the nations. In addition, some of you need to teach Christ's church.
- **I) You need to teach your wife** (Eph. 5:25-27).
  - **Ephesians 5:25-27** "25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."
  - **It is not as if the pastors of the church are indifferent toward the wife's theological and practical training in righteousness**, but it is true that the primary responsibility for her learning and growing falls on the husband.

**This is one of the reasons Paul said what he did in 1 Corinthians 14:35:** "If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home."
- **II) You need to teach your children** (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:5-6).
  - **Ephesians 6:4** "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
  - **In Deuteronomy 6, Moses did *not* say**, "Bring the children to me for their natural and spiritual education." **No, he said**, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (**Deut. 6:6-7**).
- **III) You need to teach your neighbors as you take part in discipling the nations** (Matt. 28:28-20).

- **Matthew 28:18-20** "18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"
- **IV) Some of you will need to teach the Church** (Ti. 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:2).
  - If you would be Pastors, you will need to teach the saints regularly, as well as train the next generation of Pastors and Shepherd School men.
    - **Titus 1:9** "[Elders] must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."
    - **2 Timothy 2:2** "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."
    - **In addition to these**, I still think that those of you who complete Shepherd School would be most useful to the men in the church by leading *Act Like Men Bible Studies* throughout the year. My desire is to run them at the same time as Shepherd School, to continually pour into the men who lead their wives and children and serve Christ everyday in their vocations.
- **Because it is your duty to teach at least someone in some way, I exhort you to listen with both of your ears, men.** *With one of your ears you should be listening to learn and grow yourself. With your other ear you should be listening to learn how to teach others.*

Why Shepherd School?

#### **IV. So that you would be faithful to Christ in the midst of suffering for His sake (2 Timothy 2:3a).**

**2 Timothy 2:3a** "Share in suffering. . ."

- **MATTHEW POOLE:** "In the Greek it is, *suffer evils*, that is evils of affliction, expect them, and encounter and patiently endure them."
- **2 Timothy 3:12** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,"
  - **If you are going to live a godly life in Christ Jesus, you will have a target on your back.** The wicked will aim the arrows of both their evil words and works at you simply because you belong to and speak up for Jesus, seeking to live a godly life in Him.

***But think how Christ is worth it, men!***

- **Lord, give us your empowering grace to respond to persecution like the Apostles in Acts 5:40-42:** “40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”
- **God, give us the grace to say with Paul,** “For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ” (**Phil. 3:8**).
- **NATHANIEL VINCENT:** “It is nothing to have tribulation for several days — and then to triumph in the presence of God, and of the Lamb forever!”

Why Shepherd School?

**V. So that you would be a good soldier of Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:3b).**

**2 Timothy 2:3b** “. . . as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

- **This is not peacetime. The Christian life is war. You are not a civilian. You are an enlisted man.**

***You need to be ready to suffer for Christ and serve Christ in the midst of that suffering as a good soldier.***

*Embrace the fight, brothers. God has providentially placed you in your city, state, and nation for such a time as this.*

***Armor up. Sharpen the sword. Hold the shield high. Take the field.***

- **JOHN TRAPP:** “Christ saith to us ‘Either vanquish or die’; as the Prince of Orange said to his soldiers at the battle of Newport, when they had the sea on the one side, and the Spaniards on the other, If you will live, you must either eat up these Spaniards or drink up this sea.”
- **In 1 Timothy 2, Christ’s field general, Paul, is saying,** “report for duty, being ready to suffer and serve as a good soldier of Christ Jesus!”
  - **JOHN TRAPP:** “Never dream of a delicacy; think not to find God in the gardens of Egypt, whom Moses found not but in the burning bush. Many love Canaan, but loathe the wilderness; commend the country, but look upon the conquest as impossible; would sit in the seat of honour with Zebedee’s children, but not drink the cup of affliction. These deceive themselves.”
- **You and I must fight for the truths of the Law and the Gospel—“wage the good warfare.” You and I must also “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”**

Why Shepherd School?

## **VI. So that you would please your King, Christ (2 Timothy 2:4)**

**2 Timothy 2:4** "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

- **Though most of your life will be spent either sleeping or in your vocation in the world, you must never be spiritually asleep nor have your mind fixed on worldly things.**
- **Whatever your vocation is, you need to work hard in it in order to please your King, for the glory of Christ and the good of your neighbor!**
- **Colossians 3:23-24** "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

**Q. Who do you want to please?**

**Shepherd School is for men who want more than anything to hear "Well done good and faithful servant" from the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Why Shepherd School?

## **VII. So that you would live your life according to God's standard and so be rewarded (2 Timothy 2:5).**

**2 Timothy 2:5** "An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

- **JOHN TRAPP:** "[It is] not he that had a strong body, but he that ran well who got the crown in the Olympic games; it was not he that had an athletic ability, but he that wrestled best, that got the garland"
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** "24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I [buffet my body and make it my slave], lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

Why Shepherd School?

## **VIII. So that you would exhaust yourselves in planting and watering, and therefore most enjoy the fruit that God grows (2 Timothy 2:6).**

**2 Timothy 2:6** "It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops."

- **JOHN TRAPP:** "They are utterly out, that think to have the pleasure of sloth and the reward of goodness."

## **CONCLUSION.**

**Verse 7.**

- I) **As the pastors go, so go the men** ("set an example").
- II) **As the men go, so go the women** ("head").
- III) **As the men go, so goes the home** ("teach children diligently").
- IV) **As the home goes, so goes the Church** ("stones stacked together").
- V) **As the church goes, so goes society** ("pillar and buttress of truth").

## **TEXT WORK**



## 2 Timothy 2:1-6

→ vv. 13-14

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

present (passive) imperative  
2nd person, singular  
Yield yourself to divine power! Receive power!

by means of  
"charis"  
prep. definite  
definite prep.

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses

Relative pronoun  
"the things"  
aorist, active, indicative  
2nd person, plural

prep-  
"Fit!" "Competent!"  
"Sufficient!"

entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

aorist, middle, imperative  
deposit  
like treasure

adjective

future, middle, indicative

aorist, active, infinitive

adjective, conj.

3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

aorist, active, imperative  
2nd person, singular  
2 Tim 1:8

Be a partaker in afflictions

NASB "Affairs of everyday life"

4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits,

"no one soldiering"

Soldier in active duty

present, middle, indicative

gets intertwined  
gets involved with

since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

conj.

aorist, active, subjunctive  
3rd person, singular

definite

V-A AP-DSM

Find approval from  
make happy Gal 1:10

5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

"If anyone competes as an athlete!"  
same verbas

adverb  
Crowned as the prizewinner

conj.

same verbas

Lawfully

6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

definite

V-PAP-ASM

N-PAL-3S

adjective

V-PAN

definite

Exhausted

Wearied

1 Timothy 4:10

"To this end we toil and strive..."  
(godliness)

## OVERVIEW



# SHEPHERD SCHOOL SEASON ONE OVERVIEW



## *Practical Purposes of Shepherd School*

*The first practical purpose* of Shepherd School is to help every man lead his family. *The second practical purpose* is to help him lead his small group, if and when he has one. *The third practical purpose* is to train up a would-be pastor who “aspires to the office of overseer” so that he may lead Jesus’ church in faithfulness. This is truly “a noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1) and requires that one meet the qualifications laid out in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

*In everything we want to be as practical and as helpful as possible.* Therefore you will be in class once per week, and in that class you will be taught the Scriptures as well as the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. In addition, you will read helpful books throughout the week and then discuss in person with the Pastors. Finally, for those in the certificate path, you will be examined and equipped with proper instructive and corrective training as you write theological essays and biblical expositions. This will all be done so that each man may be “a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1-3) to the glory of God.

*This is not an average Bible study or small group setting. This is training for war.* We believe this will be intensely challenging and, by God’s grace, extremely edifying for all involved. At the outset, you need to decide that you are going to finish this season and be here every week unless severe sickness or something else serious prevents you. Godly men do not put their hands to the plow and then turn back because things get hard. Commit to sticking it out for the good of your soul, the well-being of your family, the overall health of Christ’s church, and most importantly for the glory of God.

## *Overview of Season Four*

In Season Two we study *the Word of God, the Law of God, and the Gospel of God*. In Season Three we study Ecclesiology (Church) and Practical Godliness (Man). In Season Four we study *Baptist Covenant Theology, Church History, and Eschatology*. However in Season One we will be studying *Theology Proper* (God), *Christology* (Christ), and *Pneumatology* (The Holy Spirit). As we do you will read from *A Body of Divinity* by Thomas Watson, *Reformed Systematic Theology* (vol. 3) by Joel Beeke, as well as *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices* by Thomas Brooks.

## *Practical Goals*

We pray that through our efforts God would equip you with *sound doctrine, the capability to clearly and plainly teach or preach the word of God*, as well as *a desire to be a doer of the word*. We pray for and labor towards these ends so that the triune God would be most glorified in *you, your family, your small group, Christ’s church, your vocation, in the civil government, and among the nations*, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grab your Bibles and go with me to the book of Second Timothy, chapter 2. We're going to look at verses 1-7. 2 Timothy, chapter 2, verses 1-7. This is how we begin every season of shepherd school with this text of scripture because this answers the question of why we do shepherd school. We did not simply think it was a good idea to get men together for theological training. We didn't just think it was maybe a good idea to do something like this. But we're your pastors, the pastors of Ekklesia Muskogee. We are conscience-bound by the scriptures, especially this passage to do exactly this. This is our attempt what we do in shepherd school. our attempt to obey 2 Timothy 2 1-7. And so before we get to that text of scripture, I I just want to ask a general question that's like from a 30,000 foot view, not on the ground, not really tangible, but just huge big ideas. Why do we as a local church specifically focus on training men? That is to ask, why do the pastors of this particular church have shepherd school but don't have Shepherd School? Why do we specifically go after the men? And it's because as the pastors go, so goes the men. As the pastors in a local church go, so go the men that are a part of that church. The pastors are charged to set an example to the flock. The pastors are to be qualified men who have been called by God. And that calling is confirmed by the local church, confirmed by the other existing elders as well. But men that can set an example that you can look at and say imitate them as they imitate Christ. Like they're setting an example of what it looks like. And so as the pastors go, so go the men in the church. And all of this, the health of the church comes down to the health of men in the church. The health of the church comes down to the health of the men in the church. Only men can be pastors. So as the pastors go, so go the men. And as the men go, as you go, so go the women. If you have unhealthy, unfaithful women in a local church, it needs to be laid at the feet of the men in that local church because the men are the heads of their households. They are the head specifically of their wives. They are not just the one responsible, though they are. They're also the one that has authority over their wives and over their children as the covenant head that God has put in place. So it goes further than just responsibility but it definitely includes responsibility. This is when in or why in Ephesians 5 Paul charges the men the husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and laid down his life for her gave up his life for her. And the very first specific thing he mentions is sanctifying her by washing her with the water of the word. Meaning as Christ has loved the church, so husbands love your wives. And the chief way that you love your wife is by seeking her sanctification and especially through your teaching her the word of God. So as the men go, so go the women. Men, if you have weak wives, weak in the faith, that needs to be laid at your feet. It is your responsibility. That's why Paul even says in 1 Corinthians 14, if the women in the local church want to ask any questions or have any questions, let them ask their husbands at home. Paul forbids women even from speaking in the congregation because it's their job to ask their husband's questions because it's their husband's job to wash them with the water of the word. And so when your wife has a theological question or younger men when you are married when your wife has a theological question her first place she should go is to you and then you

should be able to answer that question. But if you are not able to answer it or help your wife through it then you as the head of your wife as the head of your household you should go to one of your pastors and get help. But it's not I'm not really sure what to say about this. So why does your wife not go talk to one of the pastors? It's your job and the pastors are to equip you to be a faithful head of your household and to wash your wife with the water of the word. And if she has any questions to ask you and you'd be equipped to answer it or if you're not equipped, get equipped in the moment by your pastors. As the men go, so go the women. You want to see strong women, you're going to see strong men who are taking responsibility and exercising the authority God has given them rightly, sacrificially, laying down their lives for the good of their wives sanctification, especially through washing her with the water of the word. Next, as the men go, not just so the women go, but as the men go, so goes the entire household. As the men go, so goes the home. It's the husband and the wife's duty to train up to teach the children God's word. Both the supernatural truths revealed in scripture and also just the natural truths revealed in natural law. The things that we study normally in our education. It's both the husband and the wife's duty. But the primary responsibility falls on you men for the education of your children. That doesn't mean you're going to be the primary educator even, but it means it is your responsibility to make sure that it gets done and it gets done well. This is why in Ephesians 6:4 after Paul tells children to obey your parents, honor your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Then he switches in verse four and just singles out fathers, fathers, train up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Not as if it's not mom's job as well, but it is primarily laid at the feet of the men. So as the men go, so goes the home. You see a weak home, an unfaithful home, weak women, unfaithful women, it needs to be laid at the feet of the men. God has designed men to protect and provide both physically and spiritually. And you and I have the authority in the home and have the responsibility for the overall well-being of the home. As the pastors go, so go the men. As the men go, so go the women. As the men go, so goes the entire home. And as the home goes, as households go, so goes the church. The church is made up of households. In our highly individualistic society that just thinks of everything like individual, single people, it's so backwards from the way God reveals things in the scripture. It's not individualistic. The church is not just made up of individuals, but a local church is made up of households. And the health of that household has to do with the health of mom and dad and primarily dad. So if you have a bunch of unhealthy households, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter how healthy maybe the deacons and the elders are. If it's a bunch of unhealthy households, it's going to be an unhealthy church. You might have some really healthy individuals sprinkled in there, but if it's a bunch of unhealthy households, then the church will be failing. As the home goes, so goes the church. And as the church goes, so goes society at large. Society is downstream from the church. What happens in society is downstream. That means what happens in the church affects what happens in the society. what the church permits, what the church closes their mouth about,

society will just run away with. What the church will openly speak about, then society, even the evil parts of society will be curbed. The evil will be curbed because we're speaking the truth of God's word and applying it in the civil sphere. So, as the pastors go, so go the men. As the men go, so go the women. As the men go, so goes the home. As the home goes, so goes the church. And as the church goes, so goes society. At the center of all of that is the men that God has designed and commanded to be the covenant heads of their households. And it affects everything. That's the 30,000 foot. Why do we train men? But now I want you to look at 2 Timothy 2 1-7 and see why specifically we do shepherd school. And I want to point out to you eight reasons. Eight reasons we do shepherd school from 2 Timothy 2 1-7. Let's read the whole text at first and then I'll point these eight reasons out to you. This is God's very own word. 2 Timothy 2 starting with verse one. You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses in trust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. This is God's word. Praise be to God. Praise be to God. So why do we do shepherd school? This is the seminal text that gives us the conviction to do this. And so I'm going to teach you this text, but ask and answer the question, give you eight answers for why we do this. Why do we do shepherd school? Well, first you can see in 2 Timothy 2:1, he says, "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Come on in, brother. You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. So why do we do shepherd school? First, so that you would be strengthened by grace. So that you men would be strengthened by grace. That's where Paul starts in this section when he's taking the direction away from explaining what has happened in the past. You can even look at verse 15 and see you're aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me among whom are these men. And then in chapter 2 verse one he transitions to you then my child direct exhortations and commands to Timothy who is Paul's protege this younger man that Paul is entrusting his ministry to and he's telling Timothy this is what you do as a faithful pastor. You then my child. You can see the directness of what Paul is saying when you look at it. You then my child, not as if Paul is actually the physical father of Timothy, but he is has taken Timothy as his spiritual son. We don't know a whole lot about Timothy's family other than his wife or rather his mom and his grandma were faithful believers. We don't know a whole lot about about his dad, but we know for sure that he might not have had a faithful biological father, but Paul took him under his wing and became a faithful spiritual father to him. And that is this term of endearment why he calls him my child. And you just need to know, by the way, some of you men, you didn't have faithful dads. I know that. You know that. You need to face that. You did not have faithful fathers who brought you up in the

discipline and instruction of the Lord. And so if you don't have faithful fathers who are doing that, you need to get yourself a faithful spiritual father. You need to have some man who's further along in the faith than you that can be like a spiritual father to you. And that is a necessity for your life. So, if you don't have someone who is helping you, who is walking with you, and you grew up and you didn't have a faithful dad, you need to find somebody who's further along in the faith. They don't even have to be 20 or 30 years older than you. They can just be further along in the faith than you and come alongside you as a spiritual father and help you grow up into maturity. Everybody needs that. Timothy, I think, needed that. That's why his mother and his grandmother are mentioned, but his dad's not mentioned at all. I think I don't think Paul would refrain from mentioning Timothy's dad if he was any kind of faithful Christian man. Paul takes him in as his spiritual child and he pours into him. But the command here is, look at it again. You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. that be strengthened. That's just one verb in the Greek and it means get strength. It's an imperative verb. It's a command. Be strengthened sounds strange because that doesn't sound like a command, but he's actually commanding him to yield yourself to divine power. You need to get power from the Lord Jesus Christ. You need to get power by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And that's one of the reasons we're doing shepherd school. So that you would get spiritual power to live the Christian life. So that you would be strengthened by grace. Matthew Pool says Paul is saying be strong through the gracious influence of Christ Jesus without which you can do nothing. Christ says, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." And Paul says, "In Christ, I can do all things. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." That's exactly what Philippians 4:13 means. It has nothing to do with your baseball game. It has everything to do with having strength from the Lord Jesus Christ to live the Christian life for his glory and enjoying the Lord. You need to get strength. You need to be strengthened by grace. Let me make two clarifications here. Notice he says be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. So it's really be strengthened by grace and that grace is in Christ Jesus. And you only get it through faith in Christ Jesus. The first clarification you need to understand is that grace, the grace of God is not just for our pardoning of sin. The grace of God is for power over sin. Grace is not just we're saved by grace. It's not just we're forgiven by God's gift. Grace is not just pardon. Grace is power to live a new life for the glory of God. That's what he's saying here. He's saying you need strength to live the Christian life to say no to sin and yes to Jesus. You've got to have that strength. So grace is not just to get us pardoned, to get us forgiven, but also to give us power to live a new life for God's glory. Hebrews 13:9, the apostle to the Hebrews says, "It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace." And then in Titus 2 12-14, Paul writes, "Grace is training us. Grace is training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age. So grace is not just for pardon. Grace is also for power. You need the grace of God in your life, not just so that your sins are forgiven. You need God's grace continually so that you have power to live as you want to live as a

Christian, as you're commanded to live. The second clarification we need to make as we look at verse one is not just to highlight that it's not just for pardon, it's also for power. And the reason I highlight that is because people abuse the grace of God. Many reformed people, Calvinistic people abuse the grace of God. Meaning God gives us his grace and so when they're confronted with sin or a brother calls them out and points to their sin, they respond with something like, "Well, we're saved by grace." It's like, grace isn't only for pardon. God gives us his grace so that we would say no to sin and yes to Jesus and repent and walk in a new life. So we don't use grace as an excuse to go on sinning so that grace may abound. Paul says, "By no means." So grace is not just pardon, it's also power. And it's not just power, it's a person. Grace is not just a power from God, but grace is really a capital P person. In Titus 2:1, Paul says to Titus, "The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people." The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation for all people. Who's he talking about? He's talking about Christ. Grace is not just some abstract power that God uses, but grace at the end of the day is a person. Jesus Christ is God's grace personified. He is grace in the flesh. He is mercy made flesh. You can see how it makes sense. Let's go back to 2 Timothy 2:1. Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. You only get the strengthening grace from Christ. It's in him. Men, you need to know from verse one that your strength will not do. Your strength won't do. You do not have what it takes. You are not enough. Like there's constantly the opposite of that told to you by even famous evangelical preachers. I don't know if you see it online or you hear about these things, but that's that is a literally a phrase commonly used right now. "You are enough." That's a common thing that certain evangelical preachers say. "You're enough." And what they're trying to do is get people's heads up and you know, don't be so down on yourself. "You are enough." It's like, yeah, but the way that you lift someone's head or give someone strength or encourage someone is not by lying to them. You're not enough. I am not enough. You don't have what it takes. I don't have what it takes. But the Lord Jesus Christ does. Timothy doesn't have what it takes. Paul doesn't have what it takes. And that's why Paul's saying, Timothy, if you're going to do your duties as a faithful man, you must get strength from the Lord Jesus because you can't do it. The Christian life is impossible to live without the strength that comes from the Lord Jesus Christ. In second Samuel 30:6, God says, "David strengthened himself in the Lord his God." Where did David's strength come from? and said he strengthened himself in the Lord is God. I take that to mean David thought about the promises of God, meditated on the law of God, and pled with God to strengthen him. David's looking for strength. Where is he going to get strength? He strengthened himself in the Lord his God. And then Paul says to the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:10, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might." Be strong. It's a command. How? In the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ and in the strength of his might. Your strength won't do. You have to get strength from Christ. So why shepherd school? It's because one of the ways you get strength from Christ is through the ordinary means of grace. through prayer, through listening to the word of God preached, even more so than reading

the word of God alone by yourself. The preached word of God and hearing the word of God, faith comes through hearing and hearing through the word of Christ. But the preached word is a huge means of God's grace to you that you will be strengthened by it. Fellowship together, that's a means of God's grace. When we have fellowship and discussion of deep things, praising God, singing praises to God through song, that's a means of grace that God uses to strengthen you. And so, one of the reasons we do shepherd school is so that you be strengthened by grace. That's why we sing. That's why we discuss what we have read. So, we can have that time of fellowship and discussion and wrestle through things, which is like a form of meditating on the word, thinking deeply about the word. All these the preached word, prayer, these are all means of grace. So we do shepherd school to expose you to even more means by which God gives us strengthening grace. If you want strength from Christ in your everyday life, I'd just be as simple as I can. The way to get strength is by asking God's help for power. Ask God's help for power. Believe his happy promises. and trust his hand of providence. That's what you can do every day. Ask God's help. Ask him to strengthen you. Trust in his promises and trust in his providence. I would say to you, if you lack strength in your Christian life, perhaps it's because you don't ask for it. You do not have because you do not ask. So ask God to give you the strength that you need to glorify the Lord and to enjoy him. So that's the first reason so that you be strengthened by grace, exposed to even more of the ordinary means of grace as we come together. But the second reason you can see at the beginning of verse two, the reason we do shepherd school is so that you would be taught the truth. So that you would be taught the truth. Paul says to Timothy at the beginning of verse two, "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses and trust to faithful men." What does he mean? What you've heard from me in the presence of many witnesses. What I've preached, what I've taught you from the scriptures, not the reason he says in the presence of many witnesses, he's like, it's not a secret what I'm telling you to pass on. I'm not telling you to just pass on every little private conversation we've had about things. I'm telling you what you've heard me teach to other men in the fa and the presence of many witnesses and trust those same things. Teach other men what I've taught you. And so you men, you need to be taught the scriptures. You need to be taught. You need to be poured into. You need to have the scriptures taught to you and applied toward your specific vocational duties and your job toward how you lead your household, how you lead family worship, how you guard your wife and your children. You need specific teaching and you need to have this teaching entrusted to you as Paul tells Timothy to do. It's one of the duties of pastors to give instruction in sound doctrine. That means healthy doctrine. Doctrine according to the scriptures and to rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine. That's the duty of pastors. Titus 1:9. Speaking of the qualifications for pastors, he must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught so that he may be able to give instruction and sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. So, it's our duty as pastors, myself and Brandon and Nate, to teach you sound doctrine and to rebuke those who contradict it. This is exactly



what we're seeking to do in shepherd school. So, teach you the truth. You need also to be taught the truth. Not because it's implied that you need to be taught it because it's commanded of pastors to teach it to you. So, it's implied you need to be taught it, but furthermore, you need to constantly feed on the truth of God's word in order to live the Christian life. And if you had to choose between listening to an hour-long sermon and reading the Bible on your own for an hour, you should choose the sermon every single time. Every single time you will get more in a one-hour faithful sermon than you will get in six hours of reading the Bible on your own. It's that seems crazy and strange to people in our day because it's been it's swung so far the other way. And people are like, I just need a lot of personal Bible reading or I don't need to listen to preaching and teaching because it's like, well, it just goes to show that you're not doing that great at your personal Bible reading. If you'd rather have your own personal Bible reading than listening to the word of God preached, you're going to get in one hour of a faithful sermon, you're going to get like 20 hours of study and all the things that aren't really as significant are kind of thrown away. And you're going to get the meat. You're going to get it applied to you. You're going to get illustrations to help you understand it. You're going to get rebuked in ways that naturally when we read the scriptures that you're not going to do. You're going to get examined, forced to examine yourself. You're going to get comforted maybe in ways that you're not very good at comforting yourself. Some of you may be good at studying the Bible on your own and drawing a lot of comfort for it, but you may be really weak at really examining yourself or being rebuked by it or being corrected by it. Some of you, you may be really good at reading the scriptures on your own and being rebuked or corrected by it. and you are easily seeing your faults, but you might stink at drawing comfort from the scriptures or knowing how should I examine myself then. But a faithful preacher of God's word will force you to examine yourself. He will give you comfort in Christ Jesus. He'll rebuke you when you need it and he'll also give you exhortations and directions. You need to be taught the word. You need to feed on it. And not only through personal Bible reading, but also through the word being preached. You need Jeremiah's appetite where he says, "Your words were found and I ate them and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. For I am called by your name, oh Lord, God of hosts." May God give all of us that kind of appetite. Let me just say some of you, if you're honest, you'd say, "I stink at reading or reading comprehension." That's okay. That's okay. Do your best in this season of Shepherd School. Do your best. Read it. If you read the stuff and you're like, "I don't know if I'm remembering." That's okay. Part of it is learning to be disciplined. And it usually gets better with time. But even I think there are some who just end up not being as good of readers or retaining thing in written form. Maybe that's some of you. That's okay. Maybe you need to listen to just more sermons. If you're able to eat things audibly, eat the word audibly like that. Maybe you can listen to an audio Bible and that helps you even more. Maybe you can listen to a lot of preached sermons and that will help you more. Maybe an audio book actually will help you if you retain things better audibly or through video teaching or audio teaching

preaching. Do whatever you can to feed on the word. Don't use it as an excuse for sure, but don't be downcast because there are some people I know who can read things and just comprehend everything, remember everything. And there's some people I know that I think these men have good hearts and good desires and frankly they would say it's like I stink at reading. Like I'm trying. I just don't feel like I remember anything. There are levels of that kind of comprehension. You know Spurgeon would read a book a day. I can't read a whole book in a day. My brain feels fried if I try to read an entire book. Mark Driscoll is a guy whatever you think about him today. Mark Driscoll is a guy like that too with a computer brain just like Spurgeon had. You know, Spurgeon had that kind of brain that he wouldn't start preparing his sermon for Sunday morning until Saturday evening. Late Saturday evening, he would choose a text, sit down in his office. His wife would search through his personal library and help find things that were kind of related to the text. and he would just think through it all and then write a little outline. And then if you've ever read Spurgeon's sermons, you would have to say, "There is no way this is off the cuff." Like, no way he didn't have a manuscript written down and he's reading it. There's no way he just had like five points and a few scribbles and that came out of his mouth. But it did. That God blesses some people like that. Mark Driscoll takes 90 minutes to prepare a sermon. He preaches hour-long sermons and you would also if you listen to him no matter what you think about what he teaches and all that. I'm just saying you listen to him like it doesn't seem like he spent 90 minutes preparing that seems like he spent like 20 hours. God gifts certain people different ways. Some people they have to spend 20 hours and you listen to them preach and it's like man did they like throw that together this morning. It's just different for different people. And so it is I think even with reading and learning the truth. But more than anything, men, you need to be taught the truth and you need to listen to the preached word of God as much as you can and that will really benefit you. Our aim in shepherd school is to teach you the truth. Not the opinions of men, but the very words of the Lord. All of the books that we've selected to read, we select them because they are saturated with scripture. We don't select them because we need extra stuff other than the Bible. No, we need help from men to better understand and apply the Bible. And that's exactly why we choose the books that we do. Not so that it's like, "Oh, we're reading a bunch of stuff that's not scripture." No, the whole thing is to help you better understand scripture and apply it to your everyday life. So, you need to be taught the truth. Thirdly, look at the next part of verse two. Not only do you need to get strength from Jesus, that's why we do shepherd school. Not only do you need to be taught the truth, and that's why we do it, you need, thirdly, you need to be equipped to teach others. We do shepherd school so that you would be equipped to teach others. Notice what he says in the next part of verse two. Not only is it what you've heard from me and trust of faithful men so that they know the truth, he doesn't stop there. He says, "Who will be able to teach others also?" So these men that Paul is commanding Timothy to teach, they need to be taught so that they not only know it, but so that they can pass it on as well and they can

teach others. So why do we do shepherd school? We want to equip every single one of you to teach. There's only two of you who are in the certificate path who are being trained to preach like formally preach and lead the church in that kind of preaching way. But every single one of you, all you participants, what we want throughout all of this is to equip you to know how to teach the word of God to other people. Because even you younger men who aren't married yet, it will one day be your responsibility to teach your wife and to teach your children. That may be all it is. You may never lead a small group. You may never lead a men's Bible study. You may never pastor a church. You may never be in a formal teaching setting. But every single man has someone that they must teach. Even the men who don't get married at all, don't have any children at all, it's still their duty to make disciples of all nations to evangelize and disciple those who come to faith in Christ who will be able to teach others also. All of you need to teach in some form or fashion. You need to teach your wife, your children, your neighbors as you take part in discipling the nations. Then in addition, some of you who desire pastoral ministry, you need to be equipped so that you can faithfully teach and preach to Christ's church.

Let me bring out a few particulars and nail them down with God's word. You need to teach your wife, husbands and would-be husbands. You need to teach your wife. If your wife is a bad theologian, it is your fault. If your wife is a bad theologian, it is your fault. It's your responsibility. It's my responsibility. So, we need to embrace that and realize that that is our duty. Ephesians 5:25-27, as I referenced earlier, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." Just like Christ is seeking our sanctification, so husbands must seek their wives sanctification. And it is through the washing of water with the word. It's not as if the pastors of the church are indifferent towards your wife's or your future wife's theological education. That's not it at all. It is true though that the primary responsibility for her learning and growing falls on you, the husband. So that's one of the reasons Paul says what he does in 1 Corinthians 14:35. If there's anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. It's my job. It's your job. You need to be equipped, no matter who you are, to teach your wife, especially the scriptures. But also, you need to teach your children. And the odds are, if you don't already have them, every one of you, you're going to have children someday. You're going to have children. Most of us already do. And it is your job to teach your children. Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but train them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." So, you teach them to be disciplined and you instruct them. That's the duty. That's the charge of fathers to their children. This is just echoing what Deuteronomy 6 had said under the old covenant. In Deuteronomy 6, Moses did not say, "Bring the children to me and Aaron and we will teach them."

How many men treat it like Moses said something like that? He didn't say, "Take them to the church. Take your children to the church leaders and they will have children's programs to train up your children in instruction." Moses looks at the dads and says, "Teach your children diligently." Paul writing a letter to the church in Ephesus as it were looks at the fathers and says, "Fathers, you train up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." It is not the job of the pastors and in the same way that it is with wives. It's not as if the pastors are uh indifferent towards your children's education. Your children get the same education that everyone else does in the church on the Lord's day. And we as a local church even try to directly talk to the children in the sermons to make sure that there are at least certain parts that are very clear to the children. But God says, "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, when you rise. Deuteronomy 6 6 and 7. You need to teach your wife. You need to teach your children. You younger men who are not married yet, it is especially good that you are in shepherd school now because you talk to some of these older men. Come and talk to me and we'll tell you I had no idea what I was doing when I got married. I had no idea what I was doing. I didn't know how to best teach my wife. I didn't know how to lead family worship. My theology wasn't that great. I didn't have a firm foundation. How am I going to teach someone else when my foundation is so shaky? It is an excellent thing, young men, that you are learning now and preparing now to have a solid foundation so that like we have seen with a few other men in our church who've been trained up. Then they get married and they're like they're doing family worship from day one. They're leading, loving, teaching, instructing their wives, and they've saved so many years that many of us wasted. We don't want that for you. And so, I'm very excited that you young men are in shepherd school now to get that good foundation. So, you need to teach your wives, you need to teach your children, you also need to teach your neighbors in general. You need to be equipped to know the scriptures and be able to evangelize, to proclaim the gospel. I don't mean you have to be a street preacher, but you need to be able to tell others the gospel and call them to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus. The great commission is not simply only for pastors or missionaries that are sent out. The great commission is for the priesthood of all believers. That charge is given to us. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I've commanded you. That's for all of us. Then some of you who desire pastoral ministry, you'll need to be equipped to teach the church. If you would be pastors, you will need to teach the saints regularly as well as train the next generation of men and the next generation of pastors. So, you need to be able to teach the church and train up men if you desire to be a pastor. Again, Titus 1:9, you got to hold firm to the trustworthy word is taught, able to give instruction and sound doctrine, and rebuke those who contradict it. Second Timothy 2:2, again, what

we're looking at, well, you've heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, and trust of faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Because it is your duty to teach at least someone in some way. I exhort you. I encourage you to do this is the metaphor that I frequently use. Listen with both of your ears. With one of your ears in shepherd school, you need to be listening for your own edification, for your own sanctification, to grow in your knowledge. And with your other ear, you need to be listening with how can I best teach other people and learn from those who are teaching in shepherd school. Learn how the communication is clear. Learn how there's a division in teaching the scripture and it's not all just like all over the place, but it's clear, plain, examples are given, all that kind of stuff. You need to learn how to teach others with one ear and you need to just be learning for your own edification with the others. So that's the third reason because you need to teach. Every single one of you will need to teach someone and we want you to be equipped to do that. Fourthly, look at the first part of verse three. Why do we do shepherd school? So that you would be faithful to Christ in the midst of suffering for his sake. so that you would be faithful to Christ in the midst of suffering for his sake. He says at the beginning of verse three, share in suffering. Share in suffering. That's just one verb actually in the Greek that Paul wrote in. It's translated those three words, but it just means be a partaker in afflictions. Be ready to share in the same suffering that you have seen me suffer for the sake of Christ. Share in suffering. We want you to be faithful in the midst of suffering for his sake. You need to know and be faced with this frequently. All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Every single person who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. That's not my opinion. That's what God himself says through Paul in 2 Timothy 3:12. All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. And so we want to through shepherd school give you a good foundation so that you're ready to suffer for Christ's sake. You're ready for the persecution that would come and you know the closer you get to Christ the more those who hate Christ will hate you. You're just ready to share in that suffering. If you're going to give or live rather a godly life in Christ Jesus, you're going to have a target on your back. You're going to have a target on your back. The wicked will aim the arrows of both their evil words and evil works at you simply because you belong to and speak up for Christ and desire to live a godly life in him. Everyone who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. That's why Paul tells Timothy, "Get ready. Share in the suffering." Share in suffering reminds us also that we're not the only ones who suffer for Christ's sake. Paul suffered for Christ's sake. You know, Timothy, church history tells us Timothy was stoned to death in a riot in Ephesus in the middle of a city that he pastored. Timothy's out proclaiming the gospel. A riot erupts and they kill him. He shared in suffering. And you men, you need to be ready to be faithful to Christ in the midst of whatever suffering it is. And think how much Christ is worth it. Nathaniel Vincent said, "It is nothing to have tribulation for several days and then to triumph in the presence of God and of the Lamb forever." Who cares what we suffer for Christ's sake in this life? We will triumph in the presence of God and

the lamb forever. So, we want to do shepherd school so that you do what Paul tells Timothy here to share in suffering. But fifthly, look at the next part of verse three. We do shepherd school so that you would be a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Not only does he say share in suffering, but then he says as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. As a good soldier of Christ Jesus. So that's what we want for you. We want you to be a faithful a good soldier. And that reminds us that this life is not peace time. The Christian life is not peace. The Christian life is war. And you need to think of yourself not like a civilian. You need to think of yourself like a soldier. That's what Paul tells Timothy to do. I know you're not a pastor, but this metaphor for a Christian soldier is all throughout the New Testament. Not just reserved for pastors, not just reserved for missionaries, but reserved for faithful men who are striving forward for the glory of God. So, you need to realize, I'm not a civilian. I am an enlisted man. I am in the Lord's army. You need to be ready to suffer for Christ and serve Christ in the midst of that suffering as a good soldier. Soldiers expect to suffer. When you're in war, you expect things could go badly. I probably will get injured. I'm definitely going to get shot at if I'm in a war. And so, we should expect that as well and be ready to be faithful soldiers, good soldiers of Christ Jesus. And I encourage you men in this life, you need to embrace the fight. Embrace it. Don't try to live as if it's peace time because it's not. Don't try to live as if you're just a civilian and not a soldier enlisted in the Lord's army because you're not a civilian. And the more you try to live as if it's peace time and don't live actively on mission realizing I'm a soldier, I'm going to get shot at. I have life and death decisions to make. The more you just act like a civilian, the more you're just gonna lose and lose. So, embrace the fight, brothers. God has providentially placed you in this city that you live in, in this church that you're a part of, in the vocation you're in, in the state you belong to, in the nation you're in, at the specific time that you live in. The Lord chose that you were born, where you were born, when you were born there, why you're in your job. The Lord put you there as one of his soldiers to glorify him and enjoy him. Don't forget that life is a war. You are here for a reason. Your life matters. We do Shepherd School because we believe every single one of you matters immensely. We believe that your wives matter, your children matter. We want you to be faithful so that God's glorified and all the people you're responsible for are loved as Christ has loved us. We do this because we want you to be strong and healthy. We want you to be able to suffer and keep your head up. We want you to be able to evangelize the lost, to disciple the saved. We want you to live a life that on your deathbed, we can look at you and say, "You're about to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant." and not go, "Well, at least I think he's a believer." How many people have you known that have passed away that you think pretty sure they were a believer? Praise God for that. Compared to, "Man, that was a Christian warrior. That person is about to be rewarded for all of their labors that they had done for Christ's glory. like hell is about to celebrate that this person is out of the fight. Compare how many people who profess to be Christians that it's like I think they were a believer. I'm glad for that. Compared to that was a soldier. You should want to be on your deathbed and we want you to be on your deathbed

and be able to say to you, you were a soldier and we are bummed that you're about to be out of the fight, but we're glad you're going to be with Jesus. That's what we want. We want for you. We want it for your kids. We want you to embrace the fight and to realize God has put me here for a specific purpose. So, armor up, sharpen the sword of the spirit, hold your shield high, and take the field. We win with Christ. Christ wins, and we get to win with him. You need to think of yourself like that kind of soldier. Not just the soldier fighting, but a soldier fighting in an army knowing this arm is going to win. We have the end of Revelation. We have Revelation 20 and 21 and 22. We know how the story ends. We win with Jesus. So, we get to fight. We get to put on our armor, not going, we'll see how it goes. We get to unsheath the sword of God's word, not going like, I don't know this is going to work. We know that Christ wins and we get to win with him. John Trap commenting on this. Christ says to us, "Either vanquish or die. Vanquish or die." As the Prince of Orange said to his soldiers at the Battle of Newport, when they had the sea on the one side and the Spaniards on the other, the Prince of Orange said to his soldiers, "If you will live, you must either eat up these Spaniards or drink up this sea.

better beat all of them or drink the entire sea. Those are your options. And Trap, I think, is right. He's saying that's what he's saying. Think like a soldier. This is war and we're going to win. So fight like it. Think like it. No retreating. In 1 Timothy 2, Paul is like Christ's field general and he's saying, "Report for duty. Be ready to serve as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Be ready to suffer as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. That's what we want for all of you. And that's one of the reasons we're doing shepherd school. Trap again says, "Never dream of a delicacy. Think not to find God in the gardens of Egypt when Moses found him not but in the burning bush. Many love the promised land but hate the wilderness. Many commend the country but look upon the conquest as impossible. Many would sit in the seat of honor with Zebedee's (James and John) children but not drink the cup of affliction. These people deceive themselves. So we want you to be a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Look sixthly and more quickly with the last few. We want you to please your king Christ. We want you to please your king, Christ. That's why we're doing shepherd school. Verse four, no soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. That's what we want. We want you to please your king Christ. Men, look at me. We don't want you to be in shepherd school so that you are pleasing to me or pleasing to Nate or pleasing to Brandon. We want you in shepherd school and we want to pour into you, pray for you, teach you, exhort you, have you examine yourself, all of that so that you would please Jesus. If we get to the final day and I am displeased with you, but Christ is pleased with you, I think that's a total win. Christ is pleased with you, that's a win. I was wrong, maybe. Like, that's fine. If Christ was pleased with you, that's what we want more than anything. That's what we're aiming for. And that's what he tells him. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. We want you to please him. and not get



entangled in civilian pursuits. He's just again reminding you, think like a soldier. There are certain things that soldiers don't do because they're enlisted men fighting in a war. There are certain things that other men, civilians do and are allowed to do and it's lawful to do that soldiers don't do because they're in the middle of a war. And that's how you have to think about your life as a Christian. There are certain things that other men who aren't Christians, they do. Certain things that take up their time, certain things they spend money on, certain things that they give their thoughts to that you as a Christian man are saying, "Nah, I got more important things to do. I'm not going to get entangled in the affairs of everyday life in that kind of sense, in the sense of just things that weigh you down. You need to have a single eye to live for the glory of God and to enjoy him. Don't get entangled in civilian pursuits. Make it your aim to please, to find approval from, to make happy is what that verb means. To please the one who enlisted you. Look. Seventh. Why are we doing shepherd school? so that you would live your life according to God's standard and so be rewarded. He switches his metaphor from a soldier to an athlete to an athlete competing in such as the Olympic Games. An athlete, he says in verse 5, is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. St. Timothy, you need to compete according to the rules of God's word. God's law, God's gospel, those are the rules. You have to compete. Your Christian life is not just like a soldier in war. It's also like an athlete competing in the Olympic Games. And the only way you're going to be rewarded for your efforts in those games is if you compete according to the rules. You have to stay within your line if there are lines. You have to jump at a certain part, not too far away, not too far back. if you want to compete rightly. And so, so it is for the Christian life. God's word is the standard. God's law and his gospel are the rules. And we want you to live your life according to God's standard and so be rewarded. That's the promise. An athlete is not crowned. What's implied is he wants you to be crowned. He wants you to be rewarded for your labors, for God's glory. But you will not be rewarded if you don't compete according to the rules. If you don't live your life according to the standard of God's word. So we want that for you. We want you to be self-controlled, to be self-disciplined, to understand what God's law and gospel say, to live accordingly and glorify him, and so that you would be crowned, you'd be rewarded. Lastly, the eighth reason that we're doing shepherd school is so that you would exhaust yourselves in planting and watering and therefore most enjoy the fruit that God grows. We're doing shepherd school so that you would exhaust yourselves in planting and watering and therefore most enjoy the fruit that God grows. planting and watering, meaning teaching the word of God and praying. All the labors that you do for God's glory, but especially the teaching God's word and praying. That's the planting and watering. He switches again in verse six. Notice he's like soldier, then athlete, and now he goes to farmer. Paul's just opening up his wallet of all of his metaphors and was like, I'm just going to use all of all of these. I'm going to hit it from every angle. Verse six, it is the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crop of the crops. It is the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. What he's saying is Timothy, you

need to be a hard worker like a farmer so that you can most enjoy what God grows from your ministry of the word and prayer. Just like the hardworking farmer is the one who most enjoys what actually grows because he's the one that sowed the field. He is the one who labored diligently in the field. And it's the same thing. That's the metaphor that he's using for Timothy and that we need to use for ourselves. Hardworking farmer. It doesn't just mean hardworking. It means exhausted. That that Greek word that's translated hardworking in the ESV. means the exhausted farmer, the wearied farmer. In 1 Timothy 4:10, it's translated toil. When Paul says, "To this end, we toil and strive has to do with exhausting yourself in your everyday ordinary duties so that you would most enjoy the fruit God grows from those ordinary everyday labors." That's what we want for you. We want you to be the most tired person in your house. You have to be the most tired person in your house. When your head hits the pillow at night, it should be, "Oh my gosh." When you wake up in the morning, you should be thinking, "I do not know how I'm going to have the energy to do today what I need to do." That should be you every morning and every night when you go to bed, it's such a relief that you get to go to sleep because you are like a hardworking farmer. You're the one responsible. God has created you and given you authority in your home. He's given you duties. You got to provide. You got to protect physically and spiritually. And you need to think of yourself like a completely exhausted farmer. And if you will do that by God's grace, you will most enjoy the fruit that God grows from your labors. That's what he's saying. And that's why we're doing shepherd school. We want you to be men who are not abusing yourselves or I'm not talking about asceticism to where you get three hours of sleep a night and your diet's poor and all that stuff because I've just got too many things to do. No, you need to get sleep. You need to eat healthy. You need to physically train your bodies. You need to be healthy. But in your duties, you need to exhaust yourself. We've got a lot of good things to do. And here's the example. The exhausted farmer, the athlete who competes according to the rules, the soldier who is aiming to please the one who enlisted him. That's our goal. That's our aim for Shepherd School. And that that's why we do it. So I would just say in conclusion, look at verse seven. For everything that I've told you, everything that we've read in these first six verses, I just say what Paul says. Think over what I say. For the Lord will give you understanding in everything. As the pastors go, so go the men. As the men go, so go the women. As the men go, so goes the home. As the home goes, so goes the church. And as the church goes, so goes society. God, help us be faithful men who get all of our strength from Christ and labor diligently to glorify him. Pray with me.

Our father in heaven, we come to you again in Christ's name and we ask you to bless the hearing and the preaching of your word. Give us understanding as we think on these things. Help us to be like exhausted farmers enjoying the fruit that you grow. We ask you to cause that fruit to go grow in our own lives, in our wives lives, in our children's lives, in our neighbors lives, in your church. We ask for fruit, for the fruit of the spirit to grow, to be evident. Help us to see and enjoy that share

of the crops. Help us to be like soldiers who know that we are in a battle and a battle that is going to be won by Christ. Help us to have our armor on, to sharpen our swords, to hold our shield of faith high, and to take the field. Help us to be like an athlete who trains themselves physically and spiritually so diligently so we can live for your glory with this one life you've given us. Give us these desires. Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Glorify yourself throughout this season of shepherd school. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.