

Discipleship with a Purpose Pt 3

2 Timothy 2:2

- When it comes to discipleship there are two important components involved but only one important fact, the two components are > **Teacher, Pupil**, and the one important fact is both need to be equally dedicated for it to work properly. If one is a little more zealous to teach than the pupil is willing to learn or the pupil is more eager to learn than the teacher is willing to teach then the partnership will eventually dissolve, as both need to be equally dedicated for it to work
- We have some very good examples of this in scripture that proves how true this is, let's start with what Paul says at the end of his life to his protégé Timothy > **2 Tim 2:1-2**- Paul tells Timothy that not only was he to be **strong** in the grace of Jesus Christ but he also was to provide for the **spiritual strength** of others. So here Timothy's told to **strengthen himself** and also to remember to provide **spiritual strength** for others, that's what a true **teacher pupil** relationship looks like.
- The **Pupil** in this case (Timothy) responsibility is to transmit to others the inspired teachings which he had received from the **Teacher** (Paul), who will soon pass off the scene. Paul had faithfully delivered to Timothy in the presence of many witnesses the truths of God, and afterward fully expected Timothy to find faithful people who would be good pupils and repeat the process, the key is finding those who are faithful to learn and afterward go and teach others.
- When you look at this verse there are 4 generations of believers mentioned if everyone do their part > **1st** the Apostle Paul, **2nd** Timothy- many witnesses, **3rd** faithful men, **4th** others. This meant Paul expected to become at some point a spiritual great grandfather as long as everyone does their part, but that's easier said than done, in light of the perversity of **man's will** which is the rival of discipleship and evangelism, we'll talk about that at a later date.
- So here's the bond that must take place between **teacher** and **pupil**, as both must show themselves to be **dependable, faithful**, and **hardworking**, and look at the examples scripture gives to illustrate this **2 Tim 2:4-6** > **Soldier, Athlete**, and **Hardworking Farmer**., A **soldier** on duty should keep themselves ready to receive orders from headquarters, and his desire is to please the one who enlisted him, just as the believer's goal should be to please the Lord.
- The **athlete** goal is to receive the reward and in order for this to happen he must compete by the rules of the game, many are disqualified because they take shortcuts in order to try and get a competitive advantage and couldn't maintain the discipline needed to finish, the **farmer** must put in the hard work before he ever sees the fruit of his labor, and only then can he partake of the work that he's put in, this takes a great amount of patience, just as the discipleship process.

- **Math 10:24-25**- the followers of Jesus often wondered why they had to endure harsh or ill treatment since it was Jesus who everyone was upset with, Jesus anticipates their questions and gives them the answer. They are His disciples, He is our Master and Teacher, we are His servants and pupils, were members of the household He is master of the household. Again discipleship simply means following the teacher, not being superior to Him, so the servant should not expect to be treated better than His Master, if they called Him Satan they'll hurl greater insults at us.
- **Lk 14:26-33** we see a number of examples consisting of **hardship, shame, insults, humility**, and if we refuse to go through these things as He did for us then we cannot and will not be His disciples. **1 Thess 2:1-12**- here is a list of things Paul and his cohorts modeled in front of the Thessalonians as they sought to disciple them in a very short time. Notice they endured persecution unfairly **V1-4**, they didn't try to trick or entice them with flattery but always speaking the truth even if it caused some not to follow, **V5**, they didn't embellish who they were or on their testimony, or use their position in the church to get them to follow them **V6**.
- They were gentle to them like a nursing mother caring for own children, Paul realized new converts needed gentleness just like a newborn baby **V7**, they didn't just see them as students to impart information to acting cold and aloof, but they poured out their very lives to them being affectionate toward them, for they cared for their well being and not just their souls **V8**. They were unselfish toward them not asking them to support him as was in their right, but working themselves so they could minister without being a financial burden on the people **V9**.
- They modeled exemplary behavior for the Thessalonians to follow just as a parent would do for their children, they didn't follow the do as I say not as I do model of discipleship, they seemed to understand that the best sermon they could give to the people was a **holy life V10-12**. But as well of an example Paul and the boys gave to the Thessalonians it still would have never worked unless the people were willing to listen and follow their teachings and examples > **Acts 18:1-5**-
- He meets and stays with a couple named Aquila and Priscilla, and a friendship formed forged out of teacher-pupil relationship, as Paul disciplined both Aquila and Priscilla. **Acts 18:24-28**- they do the same with a man named Apollos, who would go on to become a pastor and leader in the **NT** church. **Prov 15:31-32** tells us that those who listen to correction will live among the wise, but those who refuse to listen to correction will become their own worst enemy wow! So discipleship works both ways you need the **teacher** who enthusiastically shares God's truths and you need the **pupil** who readily and faithfully shows up to hear and apply that which is taught.