

THE ENDURING MAN | 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | MEN'S BREAKFAST

I. Enlisted and Engaged (1-4) | II. Never Quit (5) | III. Don't Be Lazy (6) | IV. Understand Your Role (7) | V. Remember Your Source (8-9) | VI. Eternal Faithfulness (10-13)

INTRO: (Psalm 12:1) *"Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from the sons of men."*
– **MEN**, our world does not merely need more males; **it needs MEN OF GOD!** Men who stand when truth is mocked, lead when homes are drifting, serve when no one applauds, and remain faithful when quitting would be easier. Any man can look strong when life is easy, **but pressure reveals what a man is built on.** / Paul writes 2 Timothy from a Roman prison, nearing death, yet he does not sound defeated! – Instead, **He prepares a younger man to Remain Strong**, using the examples of a **TEACHER, SOLDIER, ATHLETE**, and **FARMER**. Different assignments ... but one shared quality: **THEY ENDURE!**

I. (E) ENLISTED AND ENGAGED (2:1-4): Every believer in Jesus Christ enters into a battlefield once they place their faith in Him. **Here**, Paul uses the metaphor of a Good Soldier (v.3), to encourage Timothy in his **BATTLE** against the Satan, The evil world, and his own sinful nature.

A. STRONG IN GRACE (1): Paul first says, *"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."* This means **BE STRENGTHENED by Grace!** - **Biblical Manhood** does not begin with self-confidence, toughness, or pretending we have no weakness. **It begins with Dependence upon Jesus.** / Grit matters; discipline matters; courage matters - **but none can replace GRACE!** When we carry our marriage, family, temptations, ministry, and pain in our own strength will eventually become proud, angry, exhausted, or defeated. **The Enduring man Prays for God's Grace because he knows where his strength comes from!**

B. TEACH OTHER MEN (2): Paul tells Timothy to teach MEN who are faithful! – A godly man does not merely consume truth; he PASSES IT ON. But where are the Faithful Men? **If you can't find one... MAKE ONE!** **We cannot complain about the next generation while refusing to disciple it!** **Older men**, invite a younger man into your life... Open the Bible... Admit your failures... Show him how to follow Christ. – **Fathers**, are not only to provide money; but especially provide spiritual direction! – **Young Men**, drop your Pride and find a Man of God to Disciple you, then do the same!

C. ENDURE WITHOUT ENTANGLEMENT (3-4): *"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him."* – A soldier participates in ordinary life but **cannot allow ordinary life to CONTROL him!** – Too often, Men become **entangled** by career, overtime, hobbies, entertainment, pornography, debt, comfort, political anger, or the endless pull of a phone. **QUESTION:** What has your attention so completely **that God receives only what is left over?** **You have been enlisted.** **STAY ENGAGED!** Take your post at home, in the church, and in the mission!

II. (N) NEVER QUIT! (5): Paul moves from the soldier to the **ATHLETE**: *"He is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."* – The athlete does not win because he started and wore the uniform. He must **TRAIN**, remain in the contest, and compete with integrity. **Starting requires EXCITEMENT, finishing requires ENDURANCE!** – **Some men quit internally long before they walk away physically!** They stop pursuing their wife, praying for their children, serving the church, or fighting private sin. **Fatigue is real**, but never use weariness to excuse compromise! **If you have Fallen down if, then GET BACK UP by the grace of God!** **The Enduring Man refuses to Coast or Quit!** He returns to the Word, Prayer, Fellowship, and Service, determined to keep growing!

III. (D) DON'T BE LAZY (6): Paul now pictures the *"Hardworking Farmer."* He works while others sleep, plants before he sees results, and keeps tending the field when nothing appears to be happening.

A. Hardworking: There is Sweat before harvest, Preparation before fruit, and Patience before reward. – But **One** danger facing men today is **not always open rebellion**; it is **PASSIVE NEGLECT**. A passive man may not abandon his home physically, but **he checks out Spiritually and Emotionally! He lets his wife carry the spiritual weight**, lets screens disciple his children, and lets someone else serve the church. **Men are called to lead!** But **Absence** is not leadership; **Silence** is not peace; **Inactivity** is not faithfulness!

B. FARMER: As Farmer's we are responsible to ...**WORK OUR FIELD!** – Your field includes your walk, character, marriage, children, work, church, and the men around you. **Not every man is married or a father**, but every Christian man has a **FIELD OF STEWARDSHIP!** – **Stop comparing your field with someone else's...** Faithfully work Your Own!

- **A farmer does not continually dig up the seed to see whether it is growing—he faithfully keeps watering it.** **Men**, spiritual growth requires the same consistency: keep opening your Bible. Keep praying. Keep showing up. Keep serving. Keep speaking the truth in love. You may not see immediate results, but **faithful cultivation will eventually produce a harvest**.
- **QUESTION: What responsibility have you been postponing?** – **Do the next faithful thing**: make the call, have the conversation, apologize, serve, lead! (*Plant Today where you want Growth tomorrow!*)

IV. (U) UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE (7): "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." **Endurance is not mindless stubbornness**. A man can be determined and still be headed the **WRONG WAY!** **We need Biblical Clarity about who we are**, what battle we are fighting, and what God assigned us to do.

A. KNOW WHO YOU ARE – Before you are a husband, father, employee, coach, provider, or protector, you are a **MAN UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST**. **Your identity is not your title**, income, strength, failures, or success. **You belong to Christ!** **A secure man can be strong** without harshness, **humble** without weakness, **tender** without passivity, and **courageous** without recklessness.

B. KNOW THE REAL BATTLE – **Your wife** is not the enemy. **Your children** are not the enemy. **The brother who corrects you** is not the enemy. **The Real Enemy** uses pride, lust, bitterness, fear, and isolation to weaken men from the inside. **If you misidentify the enemy, you will wound the people you were called to protect.** **Q:** Are you using your role to serve others... or using others to serve yourself?

V. (R) REMEMBER YOUR SOURCE OF POWER (2:8-9): Paul says, "**REMEMBER that Jesus Christ... was raised from the dead**." – **How could Timothy forget Jesus?** Not intellectually, but under pressure he could lose sight of what Christ had done and what the resurrection meant for his present battle.

A. Men often remember the problem and forget the POWER! – **Sin** did not defeat Jesus, **Suffering** did not destroy Him, and **the Grave** could not hold Him! **Endurance then, is rooted in a LIVING SAVIOR!**

B. Paul was chained, "but the Word of God is not chained." **Culture** may mock Scripture and **Circumstances** may confine you, **but no chain can bind God's Word**. Your marriage may be wounded - **HIS WORD IS NOT CHAINED!** Your child may be wandering... **HIS WORD IS NOT CHAINED!**

Q: Are you enduring through willpower, or drawing daily strength from the risen Christ? You may be limited, but **JESUS IS NOT!**

VI. (I) ETERNAL FAITHFULNESS (2:10-13) Paul declares, *"I endure all things for the sake of the elect."* Paul did not endure to prove he was tough; **he endured for OTHERS and for the glory of Christ.** – Your choices, resilience, and integrity **can inspire those around you**, especially when the path ahead is **difficult**. Stand firm, learn from every setback, and keep moving forward with courage!

A. ENDURE WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW: *"If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him."* (In Eternity) – The applause of this world is temporary, but **Christ's approval is ETERNAL!** – **Every sacrifice** made in faith, **temptation** resisted, **unseen act of service**, and **costly stand** for truth *will be seen by the Lord.*

B. TAKE THE WARNING SERIOUSLY: *"If we deny Him, He also will deny us."* – This speaks of ultimate apostasy, or a final falling away from Him. **As God is faithful to save those with faith, He is also faithful judge those who reject Him** (cf. John 3:18)

- Paul says but, *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."* This means God is always true to **His character, Promises, and Warnings.**

P/A: Paul wrote to Timothy so that He would Endure! – His admonishments and warnings to **LEARNED** and **LIVED OUT** amongst those who seek to be Men of God today. – **So then Men...**

CONCLUSION: TAKE YOUR POST! The Christian life is not a **PLAYGROUND**; it is a **BATTLEGROUND!** – God has not called us to Panic or Retreat... **He has called us to ENDURE!**

- **The ENDURING MAN** is not the **loudest man in the room**; he is the man who **Remains Faithful** when the room is empty. He keeps his word. Guards his eyes. Bends his knees. Loves his family. Serves his Church. Receives correction. Invests in other men. **And he refuses to let the pressure of the times move him from obedience to Jesus Christ!**

FINAL CHALLENGE: MEN OF GOD, THESE ARE NOT THE DAYS TO DRIFT, HIDE, OR QUIT. THESE ARE THE DAYS TO STAND UP, STEP IN, AND ENDURE!

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, **make us men who are strong in Your grace, faithful at our post, disciplined in our walk, humble in our leadership, dependent upon Your power, and steadfast to the end.** **Where we have drifted, draw us back.** **Where we have failed, lead us to repent.** Where we are weary, renew our strength. **Make us ENDURING MEN** for the sake of our families, our church, the next generation, and the glory of Your name. Amen!