

## Summer Mix Tape Part 8

Stay In School

2 Timothy 2:15

Memory Verses: 2 Timothy 2:15

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Wow, hasn't it been a great summer? Lots of different speakers, lots of different messages, however they all seemed to hit on the same themes, which gives us a sense that the Holy Spirit had his hand in it. And, we've had a couple of fellowships, times of prayer and testimony, as well as last week's Church Picnic, which we are hoping you all enjoyed.

This week we close out the summer with our back to school service. Another round of applause for all of our students, SC Kids leaders and SC Student leaders. Thank you again for all that you do.

In preparation for this week I was wondering what I could speak on that would be appropriate for our kids and students, but also relevant for our adults. I ran it by my wife and we came up with this thought; stay in school! Of course, we want our kids and students to have a healthy appreciation for education and we want them to finish the course.

For our upcoming seniors, senioritis is a real thing and there will be times your brain simply checks out and you're like, okay I'm done with this. That may even happen your very first week. But you gotta shake that off, because we want you to finish strong. This is the final stretch, so don't slow down, finish at a sprint. For our upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders, finish elementary school strong. For our upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders, finish middle school strong. Find a love for school, don't give up, stay in school.

But what of us who have long since graduated high-school or college. We obviously can't stay in school. Listen I tried. I loved college so much that when I graduated I begged them just to let me just live on campus forever and they said no, and that I was weird. But just because, as adults we can't physically go back to high-school, it doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to be students. The KJV says in 2 Timothy 2:15, "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." In many passages, the Bible reminds us that as Christians we are to never stop being a student; we are to never stop studying. In other words, Christians stay in school for life! For you kids or students, that may seem unappealing, but let me assure you, if you love Jesus, you'll love learning all you can about him and his creation. Studying the Bible and learning how to have a deeper faith in Christ isn't a burden, it's a blessing. Our attitudes should be that of Psalm 25:4 which says, "make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths." The point this morning is simple, regardless of how old

you are, you should never lose a desire to learn all you can about Christ and his kingdom.

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here is that... We should never stop learning about Christ's love for us. When it comes to learning about the love of Christ and his purposes for us as his followers, there is really only one place we need to look; the word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." The word of God; the Bible, is the most important book you will ever study. 2 John 1:9 makes this point even more clear, Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." When you abide in his teachings, you have both the father and the son. You must know his teachings and you must abide in them.

So what exactly does the Bible teach us about the love of Christ? First, it teaches us that no one loves us more than Jesus. John 15:13 tells us that there is no greater love than laying down your life for another person. Ephesians 5:2 tells us that that is exactly what Jesus did for us. Romans 5:8 says that he died for us even though we were his enemies. Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us so that we could escape eternal destruction and have everlasting life in paradise with him. Secondly, it teaches us that his love will never leave us or forsake us. There is nothing you can do to separate you from the love of Christ. Romans 8:38-39 tells us that nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ. In Hebrews 13:5b he says he will never leave us nor forsake us. Third, it teaches us that we cannot know or exhibit true love towards others if we do not know Christ. Look at 1 John 4:7-8 and 1 John 4:16 and 1 John 4:20. Philippians 4:9 says, "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." In short, The love of Christ in us is the key to loving those around us. Of course, these are only a few passages about the love of Christ and how it applies to us. The entire bible points to the love of God for us in Christ. The only way to learn it, is to take the time to study it for yourself. Regardless of how old you are, you should never lose a desire to learn all you can about Christ and his kingdom.

The second thing we need to see here is that... We should never stop studying the world he has given us to enjoy. For far too long now it has been a stereotype of Christians that we don't believe in science. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, most of the greatest scientists ever were believers. Robert Boyle, the famous scientist who

defined elements, compounds, and discovered the first laws concerning gases said, “ a deeper understanding of science was a higher glorification of God.” Michael Faraday, the famous chemist who discovered electromagnetic induction was a leader in his church. George Washington Carver, famous for his agricultural discoveries said, “I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, it we will only tune in. Mr. Carver makes an excellent observation. **We can learn much about God in the word we read, but we can also learn much about him in the world we live.**

Science is not at all anti-christian. Science is our way of learning about what God has created for us to enjoy. It could be said that there is little more Christian than science. **Romans 1:20** tells us that nature declares the greatness of God. When we learn mathematics we are learning about God. When we learn grammar we are learning about God. When we discover ancient antiquities we are learning about God and his love for us. **Daniel 1:17** says that God gave the Hebrew youth learning in literature and wisdom. This is why we should continue to learn as much as we can, whether through the word, or through the world. **Proverbs 1:5 says, “Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.” Proverbs 18:15 says, “an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”**

I don't know if any of you kids or students have ever come to this realization or not, but when you are learning about the world God created, or how to understand it through literature or math or science, you are worshipping God if you apply it to him as the creator. Worship isn't just what we do in here. Worship is what we do in life when we learn about our God and give him the recognition he deserves. **Regardless of how old you are, you should never lose a desire to learn all you can about Christ and his kingdom.**

Lastly we need to recognize that **We must never allow arrogance to keep us from digging deeper.** The problem with many people, whether they be christian or non-christian, whether they be young or old, is that at some point many feel that they don't need to keep learning. Have you ever heard the phrase, you can't teach old dogs new tricks. It's hardly applied to dogs. It's mainly applied to people who have gotten old and as they've gotten older they've not just refrained from learning new things but they've actually blocked out new things or new teachings. They become anti-learning. If we've learned anything this morning it should be that we as Christians are to never stop learning. We are to stay in school and keep seeking new revelation in Christ from the word of God and new revelation about God in his world.

I think the reason many stop learning is because they get to a

point where they feel they've learned enough. They say, “I've read the Bible 40 times, why do I need to read it again?” Or I've got 5 degrees, what else is there that anyone can teach me?” These phrases smack of arrogance. There is always something more for God to teach you. There is always something more you can learn. Remember, **the purpose of learning of Christ's love and the world he created is not knowledge itself, but spiritual transformation.** The word is a living word, and every time you read it it can give you something new and show you how to be a better follower. The world is so vast that we could never learn all there is to know in a hundred lifetimes, and the more we know the more we have to worship our creator for. **Proverbs 9:9 says, “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.”** The wisest of us never stop learning! Never stop learning! Stay in school! **Regardless of how old you are, you should never lose a desire to learn all you can about Christ and his kingdom.**

### Application

So what is the application this morning. I think that there are two. First, if you are a SC Kid or SC Student, take your education serious. Whether you are homeschooled or public schooled or Christian schooled, recognize that what you are learning is not trivial, it is important because it helps you know God better. The better you do in school the better it shows you care about the things of God. Secondly, if you are an adult and beyond the years of school, dedicate yourself to learning. Make it a point to continuously read the word and try to let it speak to you in new ways. Study books on nature, history, science, etc... and see if you can find something new in our world to worship our God for. Determine to be a life long learner who never has arrived. **Regardless of how old you are, you should never lose a desire to learn all you can about Christ and his kingdom.**

### Conclusion

I'll leave you with this. **John Calvin is likely one of the smartest followers of God to have ever lived.** He said this, “there is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.” Everything is worth studying because everything was made by our God to make us rejoice in Him! **C.S. Lewis is likely the other smartest Christian to ever live.** He said, “i believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” When you love Jesus, everything you learn leads you to more of Christ! He is how we see everything else! **Regardless of how old you are, you should never lose a desire to learn all you can about Christ and his kingdom.**