



**Endure in Hardship
2 Timothy 2:1-13**

Pass On the Truth

In chapter one, Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel and to guard it. Paul now tells Timothy to pass on that teaching to other faithful people as Paul had passed it on to him. They in turn would pass it on to others. This is the pattern of how Christianity continues through the generations. Are you doing your part?

Illustrations of Suffering that Ends in Reward

Paul's chains illustrated the difficulty of the task of being a herald, apostle, and teacher of the gospel (1:11). Paul had experienced great hardship and was currently in prison. Timothy was probably wondering was it worth it? Paul says yes by using three illustrations to encourage Timothy.

Soldier – Good soldiers are self-disciplined, single-minded on the mission, and obey orders. Christians are to do the same. We can't be distracted by the world and must obey God's orders.

Athlete – Athletes need discipline, training, and endurance to win. But all that is voided if an athlete doesn't follow the rules of the game. For Christians the rules of the game are living a righteous life and serving God with pure motives.

Farmer – If farmers work hard (plow, sow, and tend to the crop) and are patient they will receive a reward for their endurance. Christians too will receive reward for their hard work for the Lord.

Follow the Example of Jesus and Paul

Jesus – Jesus is the perfect example of one who suffered and then received exaltation. Paul highlights Jesus has a descendant of David. In other words, Jesus was the Messiah. As Messiah he suffered and was in a long line of kings and a people who suffered. But in the end, Jesus was resurrected, glorified, and seated at the right hand of the Father.

Paul – Paul suffered greatly for the gospel. At the present he was considered a criminal (a harsh word, used by Luke of the men who hung on the cross next to Jesus – Luke 23:32, 33, and 39). Yet he did so, so that people who be saved and receive eternal glory! Furthermore, even though he was bound, the gospel wasn't!

Be Encouraged by a Trustworthy Saying

Paul encouraged Timothy with a popular saying. It may have been part of a baptismal ceremony, a hymn, or a catechism. The essence of the saying encourages Christians to endure hardship and remain faithful to the Lord in view of what Jesus has done and will do. Specifically, 1. Since we've died to sin in salvation we will live with Jesus. 2. Christians are promised reward for service to God, so those who endure will reign with Jesus. 3. To disown Jesus is to reject him completely (1 Tim 4:1; Heb 10:38-39; 2 John 9). Jesus rejects those who professed him only temporarily (Matt 10:33). 4. Jesus will not break his promise to save us even though we may go back on our commitment to him.