

Sermon Notes 9/18/22

# “Dying to Live for Jesus”

How can we really live for Jesus?

1. Be strong in God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Timothy 2:1

Titus 2:11-12

2 Peter 3:18

2. Be diligent is \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Timothy 2:2

2 Timothy 2:3-6

3. Be focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Timothy 2:8

Romans 6:4

Romans 8:10-11



*“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” ~Romans 6:4 (NIV)*

# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 3: September 18

2 Timothy 2:1-13

How can we really live for Jesus with passion and enthusiasm? Living for Jesus is not easy, especially when we live in a culture that is constantly pushing us away from Jesus. That was the struggle Timothy was facing in Ephesus when Paul wrote Second Timothy. In chapter 2, Paul encourages Timothy to persevere in his ministry for the sake of the gospel. He reminds Timothy that God has given us powerful resources that will help us to live for Christ even in the difficult times of life.

## Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

1. How did Paul address Timothy in verse 1?

2. In what way did Paul want Timothy to be strong? (2:1)

The importance of grace was emphasized in the previous chapter (1:9-10). In fact, all 13 letters written by Paul begin and end with a blessing of God's grace (2 Tim. 1:2; 4:22). If Timothy is going to live faithfully for Christ in difficult times, he must be strong in God's grace. God's grace instructs us how to live in the present age" (Titus 2:11-12).

3. What was Timothy told to do with the things he learned from Paul? Why? (2:2)

C. Michael Moss notes,

Timothy is to "entrust" what he has "heard" from Paul (undoubtedly the "sound teaching" of 1:13) to others who can serve as "reliable" or "faithful" teachers. The verb to "entrust" (παρατίθεσθαι, *paratithesthai*) is related to the noun "deposit" (παραθήκη, *parathēkē*) in 1:12 and 14 (cf. 1 Tim 6:20). Timothy is to see the gospel as a sacred trust which must be passed on.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 204.

4. How was Timothy to endure hardship? (2:3)

5. How does a soldier limit himself? Why? (2:4)

Andreas Köstenberger writes,

While the need for single-minded service has special relevance for church leaders, it extends to all believers. The Lord Jesus Christ is our commanding officer, and the battle for human souls in pursuit of extending Christ's redemptive mission demands our utmost attention. How easy it is to be distracted by the things of this world!<sup>2</sup>

6. What must an athlete do in order to win? (2:5)

Moss observes,

Paul's second analogy is that of "an athlete." When an athlete "competes," he must compete "according to the rules" (νομίμως, *nomimōs*; literally "lawfully"; cf. 1 Tim 1:8) if he wishes to "receive the victor's crown" (cf. 4:8).<sup>3</sup>

7. What should a hardworking farmer receive? Why? (2:6)

Like a hardworking farmer getting ready for harvest time, Timothy must be diligent in his ministry. Later, Paul warns Timothy about the terrible times that are coming (3:1). Köstenberger comments,

This end-time orbit explains the urgency and intensity of Paul's instructions, an urgency and intensity that are often lacking in complacent Christianity today but that need to be recovered if the church wants to be a factor in the rapidly unraveling moral fabric of the surrounding culture and bear bold witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>

8. Why is it important for us to meditate on God's word and pray about those verses that are hard to understand? (2:7)

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<sup>2</sup> Andreas Köstenberger, *1-2 Timothy and Titus: Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 230.

<sup>3</sup> Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus*, 206.

<sup>4</sup> Köstenberger, *1-2 Timothy and Titus*, 232.

9. How did Paul describe his gospel in verse 8?
10. What did Paul say about God's word in verse 9?
11. Why was Paul willing to endure anything? (2:10)
12. What did Paul use to encourage Timothy? (2:11-13)
13. What is the "trustworthy statement" in verse 11? What does that mean?

In Christian baptism, we are united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:4). When we are baptized into Christ, we are putting to death our old life of sin and God is raising us up to live a new life with Christ. Verses 11-13 was probably a hymn that the early church sang together when someone was baptized.<sup>5</sup>

14. What is the "trustworthy statement" in verse 12? What does that mean?

Jesus tells us that if we are faithful, even to the point of death, He will give us the crown of life (Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:33; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26).

15. What is the "trustworthy statement" in verse 13? What does that mean?

16. What helps you to be strong in God's grace?

17. How should God's faithfulness affect our commitment to Christ?

18. Consider the word pictures used to describe the Christian life (soldier, athlete, and farmer). Which one is most helpful to you? Why?

19. When will you take some time this week to reflect on and pray about a passage in God's word?

20. When and with whom can you share something you have learned from God's word?

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<sup>5</sup> James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 295.