

Chris Brown – In the World, But Not of It

In the time of the Apostle Paul, Ephesus was a city of 20,000 people and known to be a rough place to live. In fact, you could say, “What happens in Ephesus, stays in Ephesus” because sinful behavior was rampant. It was a discouraging place. Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage him. In fact, more than 25 times, he encouraged Timothy to “be strong.” In 2 Timothy 2:2, he instructed Timothy with these familiar words: “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Discussion Questions:

1. That instruction is true today as well. We need to be on the watch for reliable men who are qualified to disciple others. But first, we need to take an inventory of our own walk with God. How would you describe your walk with God right now?
2. Paul knew that Timothy may have been about to throw in the towel. So, he writes his second letter to remind Timothy to be a good soldier because God is good enough. When you are down, what do you do to persevere through hard times?
3. Our men and women in the Armed Forces are trained for battle. Chris reminds us that we are in a battle every day and that we need to prepare. Our enemy is like a roaring lion. He loves to single out his prey and destroy them. Chris said that the average American male has .7 friends. What are you doing to prepare yourself every day for battle? Do you have someone you can rely on?
4. Some of us are surprised that life is so hard. Chris encourages us not to get caught up in the American dream (civilian affairs). Instead, compete like an athlete, within the rules. If we don't play by His rules, we are not on His team. What are some of His rules that you have a hard time following?
5. Most of us grew up in homes without a spiritual leader. We don't know what “being strong” looks like. Thankfully, God sent Jesus as our model. Paul is saying that is why he lives like he does. When you are in the battle, remember that you are on His team. How does that help you to be strong?