



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

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## 2 Timothy 2:1-13

### Faithful in the Fire: Part 1

Following Jesus does not mean a comfortable life. In fact, God is not interested in our comfort. He's interested in us growing to become more like His Son, Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy was written by Paul who was in prison and soon to be executed. Paul was writing to Timothy who was in Ephesus facing intense opposition from false teachers in the church. There will be challenges and opposition that comes from following Jesus and serving Jesus. Thank God we don't do it alone. He is with us in the fire. In 2 Timothy 2, Paul gives Timothy several word pictures to remind Timothy who he is and what he's supposed to be about. If you and I desire to be faithfully courageous in the midst of challenges and opposition, it is imperative that we embrace these word pictures.

I am a **steward** that has been entrusted with a treasure. The treasure is God's Word. As a steward, I must take careful measures to protect the treasure and entrust the treasure to faithful (dependable, reliable, trustworthy) people who will be able to teach others also.

I am to live like a **soldier** who's in the army of Christ. Good soldiers don't get entangled (tied up) with things that will cause him/her to fail to carry out the orders of the commanding officer.

I am to live like an **athlete** who desires to win the prize. The Greeks and Romans, much like Americans today, loved sports. The olympic games and the Isthmian games were major events in the Roman Empire. Back then, part of competing according to the rules was a requirement to train for at least 10 months. Failure to train was an immediate disqualification. How you trained would also impact how you performed! The games themselves were governed by different rules. If you wanted to win the crown you had to abide by the rules. Paul was encouraging Timothy to obey the Word (it's your guidebook, rulebook) and keep his eyes on the prize.

I am also to live like a **farmer**. A farmer's work is really never done. They are diligent, patient, and work hard. Many of them are also prayerful because their diligence doesn't guarantee a

good return on their investment. Farmers also demonstrate a willingness to wait for their reward. No one enjoys the harvest more than the farmer who put in all of the work.

In the midst of challenges, opposition, suffering, and even death we are to remember Jesus who has risen from the dead and is a descendent of David. Jesus led the way in suffering, but suffering and death were not the final answer. Resurrection was the final answer! The answer to suffering and death is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul then gives Timothy a trustworthy statement (something incredibly important full of sound doctrinal truth). These words were meant to comfort Timothy as well as spur him on. There would also be others who would hear these words when they were read in the church, including false teachers that had invaded the church.

**If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.**

**If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.**

**If we deny Him, He also will deny us.**

**If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.**

To learn more about each of these phrases, I encourage you to get online and listen to the message. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- As a follower of Christ am I living like a steward, soldier, athlete, and farmer? What am I doing with what I have been entrusted? Am I entangled in other areas of life that are preventing me from being focused on what God has called me to? Am I seeking to please the One who enlisted me? Am I living in obedience to God's Word? Am I hard at work faithfully depending on God to produce a harvest? Am I patiently waiting on eternal rewards or am I fixated on earthly rewards?
- When I am overwhelmed by challenges, suffering, and opposition will I jump into the deep ocean of God's truth? Will I fix my eyes on Christ and His Word?

We live on promises not explanations!

Pastor Matt Shada