

Short New Testament Letters from God: Bible Pictures of Christians

January 8, 2023

-A.M. SERMON NOTES -

“Short New Testament Letters from God:

‘Bible Pictures of Christians’”

(2 Timothy 2)

INTRODUCTION

Our 2023 Bible studies will spring from “Short New Testament Letters.” Every Sunday we study and apply God’s Word. In 2 Timothy 2, the Apostle Paul used several enlightening word pictures to clarify to young Timothy exactly what a Christian is and what a Christian does. Some suggest today’s professing Christians fall into one of three groups:

A. Cultural Christians B. Congregational Christians C. Convictional Christians

I. Steward (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

II. Soldier (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

III. Athlete (2 Timothy 2:5)

IV. Farmer (2 Timothy 2:6-7)

V. Workman (2 Timothy 2:14-18)

VI. Vessel (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

VII. Servant (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

CONCLUSION

These seven “Bible Pictures of Christians” clarify our calling as God intends it! Lay your life alongside these Bible verses for comparison and correction in Christ. By God’s grace, become what He’s called you to be, for Him!

-Applying Today’s Sermon to Your Life -

1. Our 2023 Bible studies will spring from “Short New Testament Letters” from God. Our Verse-of-the-Week today is Psalm 107:1, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” On the threshold of a new year, how does this verse give us confidence and peace?

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-26. Paul uses seven metaphors or word pictures to illustrate

what it’s like to live for Jesus. Search for and highlight all seven in your Bible.

Which of the seven metaphors is your favorite? Why?

3. How does our culture and the church-at-large confuse cultural Christianity with

biblical Christianity? Discuss this with a friend and make a specific list. How are

you using the time, talent and treasure God has temporarily entrusted to you for

His glory?

4. Answer the following as TRUE or FALSE:

T F God is the Owner. I am temporarily the entrusted manager.

T F A soldier is his own boss and does as he pleases.

T F An athlete must keep a strong, positive attitude for his team.

T F Farmers must be patient for rains, growth and harvest.

T F Paul uses the word “workman” to describe believers.

T F People often pour clean water into a dirty cup and drink it.

T F God calls every Christian to keep the attitude of a servant.

T F A servant has no right to his own life and preferences.

T F I’m placing my life alongside today’s metaphors for correction.

T F My life already perfectly pictures all of today’s metaphors.

T F Believers and churches may have confused what a Christian is and does.

T F My own opinion on the Christian life is what I use as my guide.

5. Graded by these metaphors, my life gets an: A B C D F (circle one).
6. Which of these seven word pictures best describes your current life for Christ?

Why?

7. Which of these seven word pictures require your life’s greatest correction right now? Why? What action steps will you take immediately?
8. Imagine living today without faith, without knowing Jesus, without knowing how to pray, and without a supportive church family. Now think about your neighbors, your coworkers, your relatives, your classmates, your friends, and people in your circle of acquaintance. Who needs your faith, your Jesus, your

prayers, your

church family? Will you ask Jesus to make His appeal to them through you?

9. I will put today's Bible study into action now by: