

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13 • SEPTEMBER 18, 2022



WARM UP: Foundational Practice of Embracing the Gospel

We embrace the gospel at a point in time and over time. Our ability to suffer well is directly connected with our ability to remember Christ and embrace the gospel in our lives. Begin your time together with 1-2 people sharing how they are currently embracing the gospel in their lives. How are you enduring the Christian life by embracing the gospel? Be specific as you share both in your current circumstances and how the Gospel is helping you endure and find hope.

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13 OUT LOUD.

1. Paul admonishes Timothy to live in a different way, urging him to remain strong in the gospel. The gospel often presents fork-in-the-road moments, which are opportunities to hear AND respond to God. Describe a fork-in-the-road moment in your own life when God caught your attention and led you to reorient your priorities in life.

BE STRENGTHENED

2. Chapter 2 begins with the phrase “be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” “Be strong” in this passage is a passive verb, which means that it is not strength that one produces in/for oneself, but strength that has *already been bestowed* upon you. This fights against the human tendency towards moralism and is a reminder for believers of where our strength comes from. In what ways have you been strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus? How does strength by the grace of Jesus differ from “strength” produced by humans? What does it look like to find your strength in Jesus instead of in yourself?

TRUTH TO CONSIDER

3. Paul charges Timothy to consider the truth of what he has shared with him. He uses three illustrations: a good soldier, an athlete with integrity, and a hard-working farmer. In all three illustrations, we see that hardship and sacrifice are inherent, that they have a single-minded focus, and that all of them submit themselves to a greater master. Which illustration do you relate to and why? How can you live with a single-minded focus on the gospel? What “civilian pursuits” (v. 4) in your life can often distract you from a single-minded focus?

REMEMBER AND RESPOND

4. Timothy is called to remember AND to respond to the gospel of Christ. By allowing the gospel to sink into his life and holding fast to the truth, he is able to endure suffering and hardship. In light of this passage and the gospel of Christ, what are you being challenged to remember and to respond to in your life right now?

CLOSING

Paul urged Timothy to entrust to faithful men the words that he heard. Who in your life has been faithful to share the gospel with you, and who can you be faithful to share the gospel with? Spend some time praying as a group for those specific people who come to mind.