

**AN ABLE TEACHER!**  
**2 TIMOTHY CH2:1-7**

**ILLUSTRATION**

*“We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God”  
John Stott.*

**Remember** we talked about the “context” meaning the circumstances that formed the setting, where we ask the “What, Who, Where, Why, When and How.” In order to help us, we will continue to go over every week the following:

The key to understanding 2 Timothy lies in recognizing Paul’s altered circumstances. He is no longer free to pursue his task of proclaiming the gospel to the gentiles. Arrested (probably in Troas Ch4:13) and now a prisoner in Rome (Ch1:16-17; 2;9). Having already undergone a preliminary hearing (Ch4:16-18) and awaiting his final trial, from which he has little hope of anything except death (Ch4:6-8). Some have ministered to his needs (Ch1:16-18), others have gone out on ministries (Ch4:10,12) and at least one has abandoned him (Ch4:10). Meanwhile the situation in Ephesus has worsened with some deserting the gospel (Ch1:15) and despite his previous excommunication (1 Timothy Ch1:20) of Hymenaeus, he is still at work overthrowing the faith of many (Ch2:17-18). In the midst of these circumstances Paul sends his second letter to Timothy.

Timothy meanwhile is facing pressures from within the church Ch1:8 – distance and shame of the Gospel and its servants, Ch1:15 – desertion, Ch2:17-18 - wandering from the truth, Ch3:8 – men who are opposing the truth. Running alongside this, Timothy is facing pressures from outside the church – Ch3:11-12 + Ch4:14-15 in the form of persecution. It is these circumstances that form the setting for Timothy, and because of these circumstances, he may not complete what God has asked him to do (Ch4:5)!

**THE MINISTER! V1!**

*“You then”, Paul is saying to Timothy “You, don't be like the deserters in Asia, like Phygelus and Hermogenes (Ch1:15)! Be strong! Stand your ground, through continuing to be strengthened, by the grace of God, found only in Christ Jesus!” Paul has already encouraged Timothy to suffer through the power of God (Ch1:8 and to have help from God the Holy Spirit (v14))! He now encourages Timothy to be like Onesiphorus (Ch1:16-18), and be strengthened for ministry through the grace of God.*

*Timothy was called (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy Ch4:13-14) to responsible Church leadership, and to be inwardly strengthened for this service, through grace found in Christ Jesus! This grace is not just for salvation, but for life service to Christ!*

*So, Timothy is encouraged to access the inwardly strengthening grace that comes from Christ Jesus to continue in ministry and not desert!*

**THE MINISTRY! V2-6**

Ch2:2 – Entrust – The pattern is from Paul, to Timothy, to reliable men and to others. Timothy is to identify “trustees”. They are to have two characteristics:

- Reliability

- Competence (ability)

This is how the Gospel is kept and passed on from generation to generation. But reliable and competent in what? Reliable, meaning faithful to the gospel and able to teach the gospel competently.

Paul recognised that the “passing on” of the gospel, with the correct pattern and sound teaching, could not be left to chance, nor could it be “passed on” in the way that he himself had been forged by God! ***Possibly the first Bible College!***

### **WHAT DO THE THREE EXAMPLES HAVE IN COMMON?**

***SOLDIER – DARING!*** The soldier must stay in the battle and not desert, he is on permanent duty because there is a war on. If he is victorious there will be spoils. But he must be prepared to take risks, face hardships and suffer! Ministers of the Gospel could not afford to get caught up in civilian affairs. They had to be daring and not be deserters getting caught up in civilian affairs!

***ATHLETE – DEDICATED!*** The athlete must not cheat, but compete according to the rules. Some of the rules in Paul's day, related to athletes taking an oath and being prepared to train for 10 months before the games, so as to not lower the expected standards. Every athlete was therefore asked whether they had spent this time training! At the end of the race, just like the soldier, there could be spoils, prizes, rewards! They had to be dedicated and compete by the rules!

***FARMER – DILIGENT!*** The farmer must not be lazy, but hard-working. No glamour, no excitement, on call 24 hours a day, in all kinds of weather! Before industrialisation, toil, sweat and tears! And just like the soldier and athlete, for the farmer a prize in the share of the crops! They had to be diligent and hard-working!

Timothy must be prepared to give himself wholeheartedly, through the grace found in Christ Jesus, to suffering, by the divine will of his commanding officer Jesus! ***As it is for all Christians!***

*The common theme of the three examples is “Endurance”, in duty, dedication and diligence (Endure v3, v10, v12!)* ***EVERY CHRISTIAN WHO ENDURES LOYALLY WILL BE CROWNED BY JESUS!***

### **THE MINISTERED! V7**

The strengthening that Timothy needs for ministry, is found in “Christ Jesus” v1, and the understanding that the minister needs for ministry comes from the same Lord! Thus, everything that is needed for Timothy's journey and ours is supplied by Jesus!

Timothy is encouraged to reflect on what Paul is saying. What could this look like for Timothy? What could it look like for you?

If reflecting is giving something serious thought and consideration, when this week will that take place for you?

**APPLICATION!**

Pray about identifying two or three people you could influence to become increasingly faithful. What could that look like?

Who have been some of the greatest positive influences on your life/ Why?

Give thanks to God for those who have been part of your journey, encouraging you to grow!