

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Be Strong In The Grace That Is In Christ Jesus

- In Paul's second imprisonment.
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 - *"The time of my departure has come ... I have finished the course"* (4:6)
 - Parting words to someone he needed to carry on the fight. cf. 2 Peter 1:12-15; 1 Timothy 6:12

- In Paul's second imprisonment.
 - What has already happened?
 - *"All who are in Asia (including Phygelus and Hermogenes) turned away from me"* (1:15)
 - Demas deserted Paul *"having loved this present world"* (4:10).

- Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy
 - In Paul's second imprisonment.
 - *"Difficult times will come"* (3:1)
 - *"The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine ... and will turn away their ears from the truth"* (4:3-4)

- Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy
 - What is Paul asking of Timothy?
 - ***"Be diligent ... handling accurately the word of truth."*** (2:15)
 - Be ***"useful to the Master"*** (2:21)
 - ***"Continue in the things you have learned"*** (3:14)

- Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy
 - What is Paul asking of Timothy?
 - *"Be sober ... endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, **fulfill your ministry**"* (4:5)
 - All summed up in the exhortation: ***"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus"*** (2:1)

- ▶ How can we be “strong in the grace”?
- How would Timothy be able to:
 - “Fulfill your ministry”?
 - “Strong in the grace”?
- 2 Timothy chapter 2 – Paul exhorts Timothy by way of three comparisons.



As a good soldier ... (verses 3-4)

- First, we better realize we’re in a war.
 - 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12;
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10ff
- “Suffer hardship with me ...”

As a good soldier ...

Three keys:

1. **“Suffer hardship with me ...”**
2 Timothy 1:7-12; 4:5; Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 4:12-16; Hebrews 10:32-39

As a good soldier ...

Three keys:

2. **“Undistracted devotion”** and whole-hearted service.
“No soldier in active service entangles himself ...” Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 13:22; 2 Peter 2:20; 1 Corinthians 7:35; 1 Chronicles 28:9

As a good soldier ...

Three keys:

3. **Submission** – *“please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”* Lose sight of our own will.
“Enlist” – literally to gather a (volunteer) army. Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Psalms 40:8

Competing as an athlete ...

What does it mean to *“compete”* Greek; *athleo*? To strive or contend.

1. Must strive. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Competing as an athlete ...

What does it mean to “*compete*”?

2. Focused on the prize – the victor’s crown. 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12

Competing as an athlete ...

What does it mean to “*compete*”?

3. Compete according to the rules. 2 Timothy 1:13; 1 Timothy 4:6-8; 1 Corinthians 9:26-27

Working hard as a farmer ...

“*The hard-working farmer*”

- “To grow weary, tired or exhausted” (Thayer). “To feel fatigue” (Strong). Matthew 11:28

Working hard as a farmer ...

“*The hard-working farmer*”

- To be spent. 2 Corinthians 12:15
- Continual effort. 2 Timothy 4:2
- The reward comes later. 1 Corinthians 3:8; Galatians 6:6-10; Romans 2:7

▸ To be “***strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus,***” we’re to be as the ...

- Soldier who is willing to suffer and offer undistracted devotion in order to please He who enlisted us.
- Athlete who competes according to the rules in search of the crown.
- Farmer who diligently labors in the hope of reaping what he has sown.

▸ But what if we have never ...

- Enlisted in the Lord’s army?
- Begun to run the race?
- Put our hand to the plow?