

I Timothy: Lesson #60 – Being a Diligent Worker
Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children
For Sunday, Dec. 14th

Read II Tim. 1:1 - 2:26 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: II Tim. 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Paul Writes a Second Letter to Timothy

- Paul loved Timothy very much and thought of him like a son. Paul was in prison again for preaching the gospel. He was nearing the end of his life and wrote Timothy one last letter. He hoped that Timothy could come to see him soon.
- Paul reminded Timothy that both his mother and grandmother had taught him about God’s Word. They had been faithful to God and Paul was proud that Timothy also had faith in the Lord.

Timothy Must Never Be Ashamed of the Lord

- Paul was already suffering greatly because he was in prison for having preached about Jesus Christ. Paul told Timothy he should never be ashamed to tell people about Jesus.
- If people act mean towards us just because we want to follow the Lord Jesus and do right, then we sure need to keep following Jesus and never be ashamed.
- We know we can trust the Lord. What we are doing will count with Him. One day we will see that everything we ever did to stay faithful to the Lord really counted.

We Must Stay Faithful to Christ

- Paul tells Timothy something that every Christian has to remember about staying faithful to Jesus:
 - ⇒ If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Him. That means if we have died to our sins, the Lord will give us eternal life in heaven with Jesus.
 - ⇒ If we endure under trials, we will also reign together with Him. Jesus will keep reigning in heaven and we will stand with Him in His reign, if we stay faithful through all our troubles.
 - ⇒ If we deny Him, He will also deny us. If we turn away from the Lord and don’t follow Him, He cannot claim we have faithfully served Him. He will have to say He does not know us as one of His people.
 - ⇒ If we don’t remain faithful, He will remain faithful not denying Himself. Jesus will always remain faithful to who He is – the Son of God. People may quit being faithful to Him, but He will never be unfaithful to Himself.
- Paul says that this is a faithful saying, it is a saying we can believe in.
- We can be on a sure foundation with Christ, but two things have to be true for that to be so. 1. The Lord has to know that we are truly His. 2. If we are going to call on the Lord’s name, we must leave wicked things behind us.

Timothy Must Work Hard for the Lord

- Paul gives Timothy three illustrations from people in life who have to work very hard to accomplish their goal.
 1. Soldiers have to go through hard training and battles to serve as soldiers. They don't get to be as involved in everyday life as they might want to be because of their service.
 2. Athletes have to stay faithful to the rules of the competition to get their award.
 3. Farmers don't get to eat from the crops they have raised, until after they have worked a long time to grow them.
- Paul is showing Timothy that he too will have to work hard to achieve good service to Christ.

Timothy Needed to Work Hard at Teaching God's Word

- To be a worker that wouldn't be ashamed, Timothy had to work diligently, work very hard at studying God's Word and using it properly.
- Timothy must keep following "sound doctrine", and that means "good, wholesome, healthy teaching". It's teaching that really comes from God and isn't just men's ideas.
- Some of the Christians that Paul and Timothy had known had quit following the truth and were teaching things different from what Paul and Timothy taught.
- That kind of doctrine would destroy them. It would be like having a terrible disease like cancer or a bad infection.
- Timothy would need to keep teaching God's Word in a good way, but be patient with people and try to get them away from following the devil's ways.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Paul Writes a Second Letter to Timothy

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ by God's will, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.

2 To Timothy, a son who I love very much: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I am so thankful for you and constantly remember you night and day in my prayers to God – the God who has been served from the times of my ancestors and who I serve in a clean conscience.

4 When I remember your tears, I have such a great longing to see you again so that I can be filled with joy.

5 I have a memory of a sincere faith dwelling in you. The same faith that dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, but I am convinced it dwells in you, too.

Don't Be Ashamed or Timid About Standing Up for the Lord

6-7 Because of this I will remind you about the gift of God which was placed in you when I laid hands on you -- Stir up the fire on that gift, because God hasn't given us a spirit of fear or timidity, but of power and love and good judgment.

8 So don't be ashamed of testifying about our Lord, and don't be ashamed of me as His prisoner, but be willing to suffer hardship with me for the gospel according to God's power.

9-10 God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own grace and His own purpose which He desired to show. God granted us this calling and grace in Christ Jesus before time began, but it has been shown in our time by the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. He has truly made death ineffective, and by means of the gospel has shined the light on life and immortality.

11 This gospel was the reason I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12 Teaching and preaching has caused me to suffer persecutions and trials, but that doesn't make me ashamed because I know the One I have trusted in. And I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that Day.

Timothy Must Hold to Paul's Teachings

13 Hold to the pattern of healthy teaching which you heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

14 The excellent gift that was entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit that dwells in us.

15 You know that all who are in Asia, Phygellus and Hermogenes, have turned away from me.

Paul Was Thankful for Onesiphorus

16 May the Lord grant mercy to Onesiphorus' household, because he was not ashamed of me being imprisoned and often did what he could to refresh my spirit.

17 When in Rome, he diligently looked for me, and found me.

18 May the Lord grant him to find the Lord's mercy in that day. Timothy, you know very well how much help and service he was to me in Ephesus.

Staying Strong and Diligent About God's Work

2:1 So, my son, you be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And all those things you heard me preach before me witnesses, you set those same truths before faithful men so that they will be able to teach others, too.

3 To keep doing your work, you must be willing to endure suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No soldier going to war gets tangled up in the everyday affairs of life because he wants to please the one who enlisted him to be a soldier.

5 And anyone who enters into athletic competition with the hope of winning an award will not be awarded if they don't compete by the rules.

6 Anyone that raises a garden of fruits and vegetables must be willing to work hard first if they are going to have anything to eat from it.

7 Think about what I'm saying here, and I'm sure the Lord will help you understand it.

8-9 Remember that my gospel, the preaching that Jesus Christ is the rightful descendant of David's throne and the preaching that Jesus was raised from the dead, is the reason I have endured suffering being put in prison like a was a criminal. Thankfully, the Word of God is not imprisoned.

10 But I am willing to endure all these things for the sake of those who have been chosen, so that they, too, can receive the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11-13 Now this is another statement that can be believed: “If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him. If we endure under trials, we will also reign together with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us. If we don’t remain faithful, He will remain faithful not denying Himself.”

14 Remind the brethren about these things.

Diligently Study and Follow God’s Word

Testify to them seriously that they must not fight with each other over words. That won’t lead to anything useful, but will just end up being a catastrophe to those listening to it.

15 Work very diligently at presenting yourself acceptable to God, a worker that has no reason to be ashamed, making the cut straight as you study and teach the Word of God.

16 But turn your back to empty discussions that are not part of properly serving God. Those kind of discussions will only cause more disrespect for God.

17-18 Words like that are like an infection that spreads disease to the rest of the body. Hymenaeus and Philetus are examples of this because they have missed what we should be aiming for -- the resurrection of the dead. They are teaching that the resurrection has already come to pass. And that has overturned some people’s faith.

God’s Solid Foundation

19 It is a certainty that the foundation of God is solid. It has this seal upon it: “The Lord knows those that are His.” And “Everyone that names the name of Christ stands apart from unrighteousness.”

How to Be Useful to the Master

20 But in a great house, there are different types of containers (plates, bowls, jars, vases, cooking pans, flower pots, etc.). Some are made of fine materials like gold and silver, and others from less expensive materials like wood or clay. Some are used for things you value and honor (like a beautiful vase that holds flowers), while others are used for things we don’t value or honor at all (like a trash can).

21 But if anyone cleanses themselves from these, they will be a vessel used for honorable things, set apart for God, useful to the Master, and ready for every good work.

22 So run away from youthful lusts, but run after righteousness, faith, love, peace, along with all others who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Requirements for the Lord’s Servant Who Teaches

23 But reject all questions and debates that are foolish and show a lack of good instruction. These kinds of controversies only give birth to fights and strife.

24 So the servant of the Lord must not be contentious and quarrelsome, but must deal gently with everyone, be able to teach, and be patient even if he is mistreated.

25 Even when someone is in opposition to you, show meekness as you teach and correct them, if perhaps God might grant them repentance to know the truth.

26 These who oppose the truth have been captured by the devil to do he wants them to do. Hopefully they will come to their senses and be rescued out of his trap.