



2 Timothy 2:1-7

STAYING FAITHFUL TO THE MISSION

In an age when facilities for rapid communication of the Gospel are available to the Church as never before, we are actually accomplishing less in winning the world for God than before the invention of the horseless carriage. Yet in appraising the tragic condition of affairs today, we must not become frantic in trying to reverse the trend overnight. Perhaps that has been our problem. In our concern to stem the tide, we have launched one crash program after another to reach the multitudes with the saving Word of God. But what we have failed to comprehend in our frustration is that the real problem is not with the masses—what they believe or how they are governed. All these things considered so vital can ultimately be manipulated by others... Here is where we must begin just like Jesus. It will be slow, tedious, painful and probably unnoticed by men at first, but the end result will be glorious, even if we don't live to see it. Seen this way, though, it becomes a big decision in the ministry. One must decide where he wants his ministry to count—in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of his life in a few chosen men who will carry on his work after he has gone. Really it is a question of which generation we are living for.

—Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* (1963)

2 Timothy is Paul's final exhortation to Timothy. Facing death, Paul exhorts Timothy to not give into fear and to not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ nor of himself, Christ's prisoner. Instead, Timothy must stand strong in God's grace as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION? (2:1-2)

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- **Be _____ in the grace of Jesus Christ.**

This is a _____ practice.

This is a _____ practice.

This is a _____ practice.

God's abundant grace is totally sufficient for my past salvation, my present sanctification, and my future glorification!

- **Be _____ in making disciples for Jesus Christ.**

True discipleship must be _____ in biblical truth.

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

—Stephen Covey

God never gives strength for tomorrow, or for the next hour, but only for the strain of the minute.

—Oswald Chambers

Strong. Grk, *endynamoō*, "in + strengthened; to render strong."

It is better for us to have God's strength than our own; for if we were a thousand times as strong as we are, it would amount to nothing in the face of the enemy; and if we could be weaker than we are, which is scarcely possible, yet we could do all things through Christ. —Charles H. Spurgeon

Nothing would come Timothy's way as he guarded the gospel that he would not have the graced strength to handle—no person, no pain, no problem, no responsibility, no tragedy. If he calls you to do something, he will supply sufficient strength through his grace.

—R. Kent Hughes

True discipleship must be _____ in future generations.



Who is my Paul? _____

Who is my Timothy? _____

DON'T BE _____! (2:3-4)



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. —Ephesians 6:10-11

DON'T BE _____! (2:5)



Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. —1 Cor. 9:25-27

DON'T BE _____! (2:6)



And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. —Galatians 6:9-10

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (2:7)

Find someone who knows more than you and learn from that person. And find someone who needs what you know and teach that person. Every Christian is a student; every Christian is a teacher.

—Grady Jolly

The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.

—E. M. Bounds

Single-mindedness, the ability to focus, to shut everything out when necessary, is the key to success in virtually every area of life.

—R. Kent Hughes

Military service is either perpetual warfare or perpetual preparation for it.

—Alfred Plummer

Entangle. Grk, *emplekō*, “to be involuntarily interlaced to the point of immobility.” Used of sheep whose wool is caught in thorns.

A loyal soldier may find that he will have to give up certain things, certain interests, certain habits, certain amusements, even certain friends—not because any of these are wrong in themselves, but because they are a snare, an entanglement, to him; they get in the way of his success as a soldier.

—D. Edmond Hiebert

One thing is true in all three pictures. The soldier is upheld by the thought of final victory. The athlete is upheld by the vision of the crown. The farmer is upheld by the hope of the harvest. Each submits to the discipline and the toil for the sake of the glory which shall be.

—William Barclay

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

—Jim Elliot