

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

Week 10: Fidelity in Ministry

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.



COLLECT FOR
FOR ENDURANCE

FIDELITY IN MINISTRY

Outline

- Be Strengthened by God's Grace (2 Tim 1.15–2.2)
- Metaphors for Faithful Ministry (2 Tim 2.3–7)
- An Honorable Ministry (2 Tim 2.14–26)
- The Fidelity of God (2 Tim. 2.8–13)

**BE (CONTINUALLY!) STRENGTHEND
BY GOD'S GRACE**

BE STRENGTHENED BY
GOD'S GRACE

2 Timothy 1.15–2.2

You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains...may the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! And you know very well how much service he rendered in Ephesus. You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

BE STRENGTHENED BY
GOD'S GRACE

Be Continuously Strengthened

- Paul has been abandoned by all Asian Christians due to his imprisonment.
- Paul encourages Timothy
 - to be *continually strengthened* in God's Grace.
 - And entrust what I've taught to faithful people who will teach others as well.

METAPHORS FOR FAITHFUL MINISTRY

- **A Good Soldier**
- **An Athlete**
- **A Farmer**

METAPHORS FOR
FAITHFUL MINISTRY

A Good Soldier

An Athlete

A Farmer

2 Timothy 2.3–7

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops.

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

METAPHORS FOR
FAITHFUL MINISTRY

> **A Good Soldier**

An Athlete

A Farmer

A Good Soldier

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METAPHORS FOR
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METAPHORS FOR
FAITHFUL MINISTRY

A Good Soldier

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> **A Farmer**

A Farmer

It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops.

METAPHORS FOR
FAITHFUL MINISTRY

A Good Soldier

An Athlete

A Farmer

A Faithful Ministry

- The pleasure of the enlisting officer
- The crown of victory
- Participation in the harvest

AN HONORABLE MINISTRY

AN HONORABLE MINISTRY

Rightly handles the Word of Truth

Avoids Stupid Controversies

Ready for Good Works

2 Timothy 2.14–26

Remind them of [what I have so far written] and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly [handling] the Word of Truth. Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene...

AN HONORABLE MINISTRY

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Ready for Good Works

2 Timothy 2.14–26

In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work. Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Have nothing to do with stupid controversies; you know they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness.

AN HONORABLE MINISTRY

> **Rightly handles the Word of Truth**

Avoids Stupid Controversies

Ready for Good Works

A Faithful Ministry...

Rightly Handles the Word of Truth

- Correctly interpreting Scripture,
- *And* living in light of those interpretations.
- Both contrary to the false teachers

AN HONORABLE MINISTRY

Rightly handles the Word of Truth

> **Avoids Stupid Controversies**

Ready for Good Works

A Faithful Ministry...

Avoids Stupid Controversies

- Appears 3x in this passage:
 - 2 Timothy 2.14
 - 2 Timothy 2.16–17
 - 2 Timothy 2.23–26
- By contrast, an honorable minister
 - Is not quarrelsome, but kindly to everyone,
 - an apt teacher,
 - patient,
 - corrects with gentleness

AN HONORABLE MINISTRY

Rightly handles the Word of Truth

Avoids Stupid Controversies

> **Ready for Good Works**

A Faithful Ministry...

Is Ready for Good Works

- “honorable” vs. “dishonorable” vessels
- “set apart” for use in the temple.

“Beyond all controversy, we are called to holiness. But the question about the calling and duty of Christians is totally different from the question about their power or ability. We do not deny that it is demanded from believers that they purify themselves; but elsewhere the Lord declares that this is their duty while he promises...he will send clean waters, that we may be cleansed. Wherefore we ought to supplicate the Lord to cleanse us, instead of vainly trying our strength in this matter without his assistance.” – John Calvin

THE FIDELITY OF GOD

THE FIDELITY OF GOD

2 Timothy 2.11–13

The saying is trustworthy:

*if we have died with him, we will also live
with him;*

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

*if we are faithless, he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.*

TODAY'S SOURCES

- John Calvin, *Commentary on Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*.
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*. Vol. 46 in Word Biblical Commentary.