

Letters to Lead By

2 TIMOTHY 2:1–13

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Hebrews 4:16 exhorts us, as believers, to *come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*. God's great grace is the strength and ample supply of everything and anything we need in life! Paul endured and persevered through upheavals, persecutions, and imprisonments—all by the grace of God. He testified, *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me* (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Paul, knowing the great responsibilities and perilous times that lay ahead for Timothy, instructed the young pastor to *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. Paul commended Timothy to the same grace that had sustained, compelled, and worked through the older apostle. Timothy was to pass down this same grace to the next generation of faithful men, who in turn would pass it down to the following generation.

Divine grace is so tremendously powerful that it would enable Timothy to: endure hardship, obey God, and be authentic and patient in ministry. God's grace would supply Timothy with understanding, empower him to continue in the Word of God, and ultimately, to reign with Christ.

This same grace that is in Christ Jesus is availed to you! At God's throne, by way of prayer, you can receive all the grace you need. Whatever crisis, problem, deficit, or need that arises, there is an ample supply of divine grace waiting in the presence of God for you.

Ask God to make you strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

SECOND DAY: Read 2 Timothy 2:1–2

1. After commending the godly example of Onesiphorus, Paul earnestly exhorted his spiritual *son*, Timothy, to likewise *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus* (2 Timothy 2:1). A more literal reading is, *be strengthened inwardly by the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. Why do you think this is such a necessary exhortation for believers?

a. Use the following verses to comment on the strength God's grace imparts:

(1) Zechariah 4:6–7

(2) Acts 20:32

(3) 2 Corinthians 9:8

(4) 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

- (a) From these verses, what correlation do you note between *grace* and strength?
- (b) Why do you think Paul urged Timothy to find his strength *in the grace that is in Christ Jesus* rather than from another source?
2. Not only did Paul encourage Timothy to be strong in grace, but also in the *things* (the gospel) he had *heard*. Use 2 Timothy 2:2 to answer the following about these *things*:
- a. Who was Timothy *among* when Paul told him these *things*?
- b. What was Timothy to do with these *things*?
- (1) Why do you think Paul emphasized *faithful* character rather than gifts and abilities? See also Luke 16:10.
- c. What were these *men* to do in turn?

- (1) What does this convey about the responsibility of believers? See also Psalm 78:4.

- (2) Recall that everyone in Asia had *turned away from* Paul and his teaching (2 Timothy 1:15). Therefore, why was this commitment so important?

3. List a few of the great *things you have heard* in Christ that you want to pass on to others.

THIRD DAY: Read 2 Timothy 2:3–7

1. According to 2 Timothy 2:3a, what must Timothy *endure*?
 - a. Link this with the following Scriptures and share your insights:
 - (1) John 16:33

 - (2) James 5:11

2. Use the following chart to understand Paul's exhortation in 2 Timothy 2:3–6:

| EXAMPLE | ATTRIBUTES | APPLICATION |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| <i>Soldier</i> (verses 3b–4) | | |
| <i>Athlete</i> (verse 5) | | |
| <i>Farmer</i> (verse 6) | | |

- a. From your findings above, answer the following questions:
- (1) What would you consider to be *entanglements*? See also Mark 4:19.

 - (2) What connection do you see between an *athlete* competing *according to the rules* and our service to Christ? See also John 14:21 and 1 Corinthians 9:24–27.

 - (3) What similarities do you see between the *farmer* and a believer? See also James 5:7.

3. In 2 Timothy 2:7 (NLT) Paul urged Timothy, *Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.* Why do you think biblical meditation is so important? See also Joshua 1:8.

4. Which of the examples you studied today ministers to you the most?

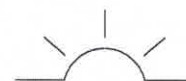
FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Timothy 2:8–10

1. What important truth did Paul urge Timothy to *remember* in his preaching? 2 Timothy 2:8
 - a. Use the following Scriptures to note why this should be a focal point for believers:
 - (1) Romans 6:8–11

 - (2) Romans 8:11

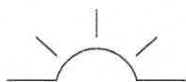
(3) 1 Corinthians 15:14–20

- b. Pointing out that Jesus was *of the seed of David* affirmed that He was the promised Messiah. Why was this important for Timothy to emphasize in his preaching?
2. When Paul referred to the gospel as *my gospel*, he meant that the gospel was the good news that he had personally received. Use 2 Timothy 2:9a to note the cost of preaching the gospel.
3. What remained true in spite of Paul's *chains*? 2 Timothy 2:9b
- a. Link this with the following Scriptures to remark on the power of God's Word:
- (1) Psalm 147:15
- (2) Isaiah 55:11
- (3) Hebrews 4:12



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The title *Christ* means *Messiah* and refers to the promised, anointed one prophesied in the Old Testament. By ascribing this title to Jesus, the New Testament emphasized that Jesus is the *Messiah* of the Scriptures.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

While Paul was in chains, he was able to share the gospel with captors, kings, and governors (Acts 26; Philippians 1:7–14).

(4) 1 Peter 1:23

(a) How does this encourage you concerning God's Word?

4. Knowing the power of God's Word, what did Paul willingly do? 2 Timothy 2:10a

a. From 2 Timothy 2:10b, comment on why Paul did this.

(1) What do you find remarkable about Paul's motivation?

b. What does this convey to you about the gospel?

5. According to 2 Timothy 2:10c, what would be the final result of salvation in Christ?

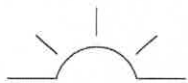
a. How does this bless you? See 1 Peter 5:10.

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Timothy 2:11–13

1. In 2 Timothy 2:11–13, Paul reminded Timothy of a *faithful saying*. Use this *saying* to fill in the chart:

| WRITE OUT | REFERENCES | THOUGHTS |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>2 Timothy 2:11</i> | Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3–4 | |
| <i>2 Timothy 2:12a</i> | Romans 8:17; Revelation 5:9b–10 | |
| <i>2 Timothy 2:12b</i> | Matthew 10:33 | |
| <i>2 Timothy 2:13</i> | 2 Thessalonians 3:3 | |

- a. According to Bible scholars, this *faithful saying* was probably part of a hymn or statement of faith that circulated through the churches. Considering that many believers were persecuted for their faith during this time, how do you think this *saying* would have ministered to them?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During the times of the early church, scrolls and Scripture parchments were expensive and not readily available. Therefore, many of the essential doctrines of the church were put in songs, hymns, and faithful sayings. In this way, all the believers would have access to biblical doctrine.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The phrase, *a faithful saying*, literally means *trustworthy is the word*. This phrase is used only five times in the New Testament. Paul used this phrase four times in his epistles to Timothy.

(1) Write *a faithful saying*, or line from a hymn or song that has brought you comfort.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, write a short statement concerning:
 - a. The grace that is in Christ Jesus
 - b. The things you have heard
 - c. A good soldier
 - d. An athlete
 - e. The hardworking farmer
 - f. Understanding
 - g. The Word

2. Take a moment to pray for the leaders and laity in your church *to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*.