



**Sunday May 14, 2017**  
**2 Timothy Series**  
**Chapter 2 : Be a Vessel for Honor**

**Read 2 Timothy Chapter 2**

**1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

"be empowered by grace in Christ Jesus"

Grace of God empowers us, makes us strong.

We draw strength from His grace.

As we progress in this chapter we will see many things that Paul states about being a man of God. Sometimes we may feel that these are too much for us. But we are to be empowered by grace.

**2 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.**

Paul now charges Timothy to turn around and pass on to succeeding 'generations' the truth he has been taught.

This is something all of us must do.

What are you doing with the things you have learnt about your walk with God? Are you passing it on?

**3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

**4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.**

**5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.**

**6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.**

**7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.**

Four lessons from these analogies:

Endure hardships - being a man of God is not an easy things. You are now like a soldier.

Don't get entangled with wrong things - keep yourself free to do what God has called you to do.

Compete by the rules - God has His standards for His call. Live by that.

Work hard - without hard work there can be no harvest to enjoy.

**8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,**

**9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.**

**10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**



This is the Gospel we preach and for which we are also willing to endure hardships, so that others can obtain salvation.

**11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.**

**12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.**

**13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

So this is our hope, in the midst of enduring hardships...if we die, we live, if we endure, we reign. On the other hand the consequences of denial is also severe.

Our denial and us becoming faithless, impact us - but does not change anything from His end. Which means that if any one of us, has had moments when we denied the Lord or did go through moments of 'faithlessness' you can always get back - He has not changed. He still remains faithful to you.

**14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.**

We must teach and exhort God's people in the church community about these things - enduring hardships for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We must also teach and exhort God's people to stay away from engaging in useless things, fighting over words, ideas, arguments that do not bring any benefit.

**15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Be diligent...this is an ongoing, continuous work, that has to be pursued carefully, with earnestness...:

A, present yourself approved to God : live in a manner that is right before God

B, be a worker who does not need to be ashamed : work in a way that you need not be ashamed before God

C, rightly divide the Word of truth : be careful how you handle the Word of God, "make a straight cut", "rightly dissect"

**16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.**

**17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,**

**18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.**

We don't know who these two men are. Hymenaeus is mentioned by Paul in 1 Timothy 1:20. All that we know is that these men were engaging in useless and ungodly talk that was spreading destructively and destroying the faith of some of the people. Paul had dealt with them as he mentioned in 1 Timothy.

**19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."**



**20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.**

**21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

The apostle Paul draws an analogy from utensils used at home. There are vessels that are used for regular, day-to-day ordinary use, and then there are special vessels, that are used for special occasions and purposes. The owner is 'proud' of these vessels, puts these on display and uses it to serve honored guests, and serve special food, etc.

To be a vessel for honor, meaning a vessel that can be used for special purposes, for honorable use, and a vessel that brings honor.

We see four important requirements to a vessel of honor:

- #1, cleansed (departing from sin)
- #2, sanctified (set apart unto the Lord, holy)
- #3, useful (available, easily used)
- #4, prepared (equipped, ready)

"if anyone"....the opportunity to be a vessel of honor is open to all...anyone can step in work on these 4 requirements and become one....and remember verse 1, it is possible by the grace that is in Christ Jesus...

**22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

In view of becoming a vessel of honor, we have only one choice that is to stay away from ungodly lusts and instead pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.

Do this "with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart"....meaning do this in a community of people who are also doing the same.

- 1, So we live out our live in community - along with others who are doing the same
- 2, if you want to become a vessel of honor, then be with those who are doing the same.

**23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.**

**24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,**

**25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,**

**26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

Don't get into foolish and ignorant disputes, and things that produce strife.

Instead as a servant of the Lord, be gentle and patiently teach people. Correct in humility, even those who are in opposition.

Understand that people who are in opposition are actually ensnared by the devil. They are currently in a state where they are held captive by the devil.



It is God who will have to work in their hearts drawing them to a place of repentance and acknowledging of the truth, to that they can come out of the devil's hold over them.

This also show us the importance of prayer.

While we can do our part of sharing, teaching the truth in love, gentleness and patience, we must engage in prayer so people can be brought out of the snare of the enemy over their lives.

### **KEY TAKE AWAY**

**21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

Be a vessel of honor.

Every instruction in this chapter is directed toward this one very important call.

### **MINISTRY TIME**



## **LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE**



### **2 Timothy Series** **Chapter 2 : Be a Vessel for Honor**

The is a simple guide for use in the Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours.

### **Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) available online at [apcwo.org](http://apcwo.org) . You can also review the Sunday Sermon PDF notes. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

### **LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passage: 2 Timothy chapter 2

### **INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights:



- A) Review four lessons Paul communicates through the analogy of a soldier, athlete and farmer (2:3-7)
- B) In the midst of enduring hardships what hope do we hold within ourselves as expressed in 2:11-13?
- C) How does one practically be diligent in the three areas mentioned in 2:15?
- D) Review four important requirements to be a vessel of honor as stated in 2:19-21
- E) How do you engage people who oppose the Gospel as instructed in 2:23-26?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning from the Scriptures read today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

### **FELLOWSHIP** by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

### **ENCOURAGE** by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Close by getting back together as a group and thanking God together.