

## ~2 Timothy~

## Lesson 5 – Teach the Word of Truth

We are continuing our study of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy. This was a letter written by Paul to his son Timothy as a letter of encouragement to preach the Word, hold fast to the Truth and proclaim the gospel even unto sufferings and persecutions.

- There was a major problem in the church of Ephesus because people were abandoning the faith because of false teachings. They were ashamed of the Gospel and they weren't standing up for the Truth.
- And as we learned last week, the first letter to Timothy was Paul training Timothy to deal with and expel the false teachings that were leading so many astray in all of Asia.
  - Timothy was charged with the responsibility to strengthen the church in sound doctrine by teaching the Word of God
  - Now in this second letter, we see things haven't gone so well and Paul reminds Timothy to stir up the gift inside him and hold fast and keep the pure Words of Jesus Christ that were parakatatheke, παρακαταθήκη, deeply committed, deposited and entrusted to him
- The root of these problems in Ephesus were a result of tolerating false teachings in the church. And in this we discover a pattern. This is what Satan has been doing for 2,000 years and we can still see it at work today. It's the attack on the Word of God
  - We see this pattern in the parable of the sower in Mark 4.
- This is exactly what was happening to the Ephesian church and we need to pay attention and guard the Truth, lest we fall away as they did, **Mark 4:14-17**
  - The church of Ephesus received the Word with gladness, Acts 19:8-10. He stays with them 3 yrs
  - Paul continues on his journey and leaves elders in charge at Ephesus warning them of false teachings, Acts 20:29-31. The eldership in Ephesus didn't hold fast the pure word and this allowed the doctrine of demons to infiltrate the church. Because the leaders weren't teaching the Truth, it resulted in shallow roots with no depth of the Word, 1 Tim 4:1-2.
    - These deceiving spirits and the doctrine of demons lead to false teachings that distorted the Truth, 1 Tim 1:3-4; 6:20
  - Then when tribulation and persecution arose for the Word's sake, namely from Rome, the hostility of the Jews, the Gnostics, and the pagans, because there was no root, they abandoned the faith and turned away from God and the Truth, 1 Tim 1:6; 2:19; 6:3-5; 2 Tim 4:3-4
- This is why we must proclaim the Truth and teach the Truth
  - We must hold fast, guard and teach the pure Word of Truth knowing that persecution will arise for the Word's sake
    - But *fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life*, 1 Tim 6:12
  - Now as we begin studying chapter 2, this is the message that Paul is giving Timothy

**2 Timothy 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> 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.

- The pure Gospel is the foundation to eternal life, but without the teaching of the Gospel, no one would know or have eternal life, 2 Tim 1:10, so this is why Satan attacks the gospel.
  - Since the beginning of time, this has been his tactic. This is how he got Eve to sin in the garden. He got her to doubt the Word of God, "has God said?" Gen 3:1
- Proclaiming and teaching the pure Words of Jesus Christ by the power of God will supernaturally change

people's hearts, if they receive these words. It will set them free and give them eternal life, John 10:10- *The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly;*

- **Luke 4:18-19**- Jesus was anointed and sent to the earth to manifest the gospel and eternal life
- This is why Paul is so adamant about Timothy holding fast and teaching the pure Word of God
  - What does it mean to hold fast the purity of the Gospel? To hold fast sound words and keep them?
    - It means we do not compromise the Gospel message. We don't change it to make it seem more appealing to sinners or to conform it fit our lifestyle
    - It is us that needs to conform to the Word- *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind*, Rom 12:2
    - The Gospel message that we preach is Christ and His gift of grace and love. This message is controversial.
      - It is not peace and harmony with all people, but rather showing them that Jesus is the only Way to eternal life and everlasting joy and happiness.
    - And no matter the consequence, we do not compromise that message
    - And in the church, we do not tolerate false teaching. This is what Paul was exhorting Timothy to stand strong and hold fast the pure Gospel.
  - **2 Timothy 1:6-14; 2:1-2**

2 Timothy 2:1 †You therefore, my son, †be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

† *You therefore, my son...*

- This “therefore” is focusing specifically on the empowerment of God to teach the pure doctrine of the Word of Truth
- *...my son*- Paul is about to give Timothy another imperative command to “be strong” but before he says this, he balances his statement with love, saying, “my son”

† *...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

- Timothy was given the charge to hold fast and keep that which was committed to him, namely, the pure doctrine of the Word of God.
  - To reject and expel false teachings, stand on the sound doctrine of the Words of Jesus Christ and expect sufferings and persecution while doing so
  - But Paul gives Timothy such good news and encouragement. We don't have to do this alone. In fact, there is no way we can do this by our own works and our own strength.
    - Our un-ashamedness, our courage, our strength only comes according to the power of God, by the Holy Spirit who is dwelling inside us, 2 Tim 1:7-9.
- *Be strong*- endunamou, ἐνδυναμοῦ, this is the verb form of the noun- dunamis, δύναμις, the supernatural ability of God that gives us eternal life.
  - endunamou, ἐνδυναμοῦ, is in the present tense, in the passive voice and the imperative mood.
    - The passive voice tells us God is the one doing the empowering, but the imperative mood tells gives us we have a command to carry it out.
      - A good translation would be to “keep on being empowered”
    - This is what Paul has been encouraging Timothy with this whole letter. Stir up the gifts inside you, ignite the flame, use the resources God gave you.
      - Eph 6:10- *be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*
    - It is not by our works and strength, but only by the power and grace that God has given us can we fulfill our ministry, 2 Tim 1:8, 9; 2:1
  - It is an amazing thing to understand that God depends on men to preserve, guard and pass on

His Word and His Truth, and He gives us His grace and power to do so.

- *...in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*
  - We are empowered by God with this life-giving, resurrection power, dunamis, δύναμις, that is only found in His grace and this grace was placed in Christ Jesus before time began, **2 Tim 1:9**
    - The gift of grace is apart from any of our own works, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, Christ died for us and gave us resurrection life
      - This is the power of grace- **Eph 1:19-21; 2:4-10**
    - You have to understand, everything concerning our salvation and eternal life was placed in Christ Jesus and the only Way we access this grace is through faith in Him.
  - 7 times in this letter alone Paul writes the statement “in Christ Jesus”, ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ:

1:1- the promise of life in Christ Jesus

1:9- His grace was given to us in Christ Jesus

1:13- Faith and love are in Christ Jesus

2:1- Our grace is in Christ Jesus

2:10- Salvation is in Christ Jesus

3:12- We live Godly in Christ Jesus

3:15- Salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

- Philippians 4:13- *I can do all things through in Christ who strengthens*, endunamoō, ἐνδυναμώω, *me*
  - *The gospel is the power*, dunamis, δύναμις, *of God unto salvation*, Rom 1:16
    - The Gospel message is Jesus, we preach Jesus and Him crucified, **1 Cor 1:18-25; Col 1:26-29;**

**2 Timothy 2:2** †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.

† *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses ...*

- This is the second time Paul mentions the statement “that which you have heard from me”
  - We saw this in **2 Tim 1:13** concerning the sound, pure words
- Now in verse 2:2 he says this again, but he adds the statement, “*among many witnesses*”
- *Among many witnesses*- dia pollon marturon, διὰ πολλῶν μαρτύρων, through many witnesses or testimonies
  - In the original Greek, the word translated “among” is διὰ, which means through.
  - The translators were probably thinking of the words that were spoken to Timothy at his ordination in Ephesus, considering him to be “among” the witnesses at this event, 1 Tim 4:14
  - But these things that Paul is entrusting to Timothy are far greater than just one speech.
    - This is the gospel, the Words of Jesus Christ that Paul is parakatatheke, παρακαταθήκη, to his son Timothy.
    - Paul says these are things that you have heard “from me” through many witnesses
      - So, it is more than just Timothy’s ordination that is being addressed.
  - Another way to interpret this verse- these are the words of Paul that other men have confirmed as the Word of God.
    - Paul’s teachings are being supported by the confirming testimonies of other teachers.
    - That all are testifying together with Paul that this was, indeed, the gospel truth.
      - Peter even states that Paul’s writings are Scripture, 2 Pet 3:15-16
  - I would also conjecture another point of view, that these witnesses are not people, but his testimonies of the Word of God
    - 1 Corinthians 2:1- *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.*
    - As Timothy traveled with Paul for over a decade, he would have heard countless “testimonies” of the Gospel from Paul.

- This, I believe, better aligns with what the Greek is saying, “you have heard from me through many testimonies”

† *...commit these to faithful men...*

- **Commit-** paratithemi, παρατίθημι, meaning to deposit or entrust
  - This is a reduced form of the word we read in **1 Tim 6:20** and **2 Tim 1:14**- parakatatheke, παρακαταθήκη
  - That which was deeply committed, deposited, and entrusted to Timothy was the pure words of Truth that Paul received from Jesus Christ Himself
    - Timothy was charged to keep these words pure, guard them and proclaim and teach others. This word shows that intense entrusting commitment to Timothy
    - Now Paul charges Timothy to entrust, paratithemi, παρατίθημι, faithful men with these same words of Truth
      - The Greek implies there was a bigger responsibility placed on Timothy, but nonetheless, Timothy must entrust the Gospel to other faithful men to further the Gospel
- *...faithful men...* - Entrust and deposit the Word of Truth into faithful, trustworthy men
  - Hand selected by Timothy to help him carry on the work of the gospel

† *... who will be able to teach others also.*

- This verb is in the future tense. Timothy is sowing and teaching the Word to these men. They don't need to be able to teach now, but in the future, they need to be competent and qualified to teach others also.
  - These are men who must be committed to study and training, 2 Tim 2:15- *Study to show yourself approved...rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*
- This is the perpetual cycle that spreads the Word of God and makes disciples unto all nations.
  - This is the great commission- Matt 28:18-20.
- The only way to make disciples is to first learn the Truth and then teach the Truth, **Matt 11:28-30; Jn 8:31-32;**
- Every Christian has this responsibility to keep the Word of God pure and teach what we have learned through His Word.
  - In summary, Paul is saying, “Guard and teach the pure Word of God, and in doing so, you are going to suffer evil affliction and reproach. Keep on being empowered and stand strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. For this is your duty, this is your ministry. You have been entrusted with the pure Words of Jesus Christ, so therefore guard them, teach them and entrust these words to other faithful men who will be able to teach others also and fulfill our great commission to preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations”
- I am so blessed to have this opportunity to teach the Word to you every Sunday because I find it is when I teach the Word, that is when it stays with me.
  - So I encourage you also to teach the Word. Teach it to your wife or husband, kids, family, friends, anyone God leads you to speak His Word to.

Guard the Word of God and keep it pure with no compromise. Magnify Jesus as Lord because it is only through these Words that life and immortality can be revealed.