



MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: MAY 30, 2021

**Tough issues for leadership: Entrusting & Suffering
2 Timothy 2:1-7**

We must experience the enabling power of God's grace (1).

2 Tim. 2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

- 1. Grace is the instrument by which we experience God's power.**
- 2. This grace is available to us because of our union with Christ.**
- 3. Strengthening grace is experienced when we humbly trust God & His promises.**

James 4:6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Z Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 Cor. 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

This grace enables us to serve faithfully in two vital arenas (2-6).

- 1. To perpetuate the leadership chain for the church's ongoing life (2).**

2 Tim. 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

a. Some simple observations from the verse:

b. Paul had already entrusted to Timothy the gospel truths.

2 Tim. 1:13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

c. Paul's spoken & written words were understood to be the Word of God.

1Thess. 2:13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

2 Thess. 2:15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

1 Cor. 14:37 If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

2. To suffer well for the Savior & His gospel (3-6).

a. Live like a soldier: to please the Savior by avoiding entanglements (3-4).

2 Tim. 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

b. Live like an athlete: to live according to the life & principles of Jesus (5).

2 Tim. 2:5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

c. Live like a farmer: to work hard with an eye on the harvest (6).

2 Tim. 2:6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

We must ponder seriously this grace & its implications (7).

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

Discussion & Reflection Questions

- Review the notes related to 2 Timothy 2:1 & parallel passages.
 - How would you explain to a younger believer HOW to experience God's grace in its ability to strengthen you to do what you otherwise cannot? What does the internal process look like? Or, how does it work?
 - Try to pinpoint a specific example from your own life when you experienced God's enabling grace. How did you feel in the aftermath?
 - Can you identify an area of your life where you need God's strengthening grace afresh? What steps can you take to prepare to access His grace?
- Read 2 Timothy 2:2 a number of times and respond to the following.
 - Put into your own words (paraphrase) the meaning of Paul's words in this verse.
 - Why does Paul single out the two specific qualifications of "faithful" and "able to teach others also?"
 - Why is this portion so important to the ongoing life & health of Jesus' church?
 - Give some ideas on how Paul "entrusted" his teachings to Timothy. What would this look like?
 - If you were Timothy, what would you most appreciate about Paul's investment in you? Has anyone passed on to you (like a deposit) the truths about Jesus and His gospel? How was this done? Have you been involved in investing in others? Please explain.
- Review 2 Timothy 2:3-6 and identify Paul's key characteristics of one who "shares" in suffering for the sake of Christ. For you what is the most important characteristic that Paul lists? Why so? What does suffering look like in our culture?
- Summarize what Paul tells us to do with these truths found in 2 Timothy 2:1-6 as described in his words, "Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything" (7). What steps can you take in the next few days to accomplish what Paul says here?

SONGS

"Your Grace is Enough" - Matt Maher

"Come Thou Fount" - Chad Gardner and Robert Robinson

"Way Maker" - Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

"O Praise The Name (Anástasis)" Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, and Benjamin Hastings

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$23,671.90

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$641,978.90

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$740,712.00