

2 Timothy 2:3-9

Worth Striving For

They can put us in chains ...

- I. Unstoppable Laborers
 - A. Select Soldiers
 - B. Qualified Athletes
 - C. Industrious Farmers
- II. Will Advance the Kingdom
 - A. The True Gospel
 - B. Understood
 - C. Unleashed

... but they can't bind the Word.

Children, Listen ...

1. What three groups of people does Paul use as examples in our passage?
2. What is something that they all need to have in order to be successful?
3. Do you have a hobby or talent that you are working hard to get better at?
4. How can you make sure you are strengthening your faith and service to the Lord?
5. Paul worked hard as a preacher of God's Word, but he landed in jail. Though they had him bound in chains, what does he say about the Word of God?

Worth the Effort?

If you have ever tried to master a talent, or have at least tried to become good at something, you know it takes effort. While honing abilities to reach a goal, there may be obstacles and challenges along the way. So not only do you have to work on getting better, but you also have to deal with the problems. But if you are aiming at something worthwhile, you know the end result will have been worth the disciplines and the struggles. Paul is coaching Timothy for his task of ministry – Timothy in turn is to coach other men with the same calling. But the principles Paul conveys in his illustrations in our passage are not solely for individuals formally called to the ministry. Each Christian is to strive, disciplining themselves and courageously facing trial in the process of growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. The end result of such a faithful and dedicated effort will be the glory of God, the good of our own souls, and will serve as a witness to the goodness of God to those in our lives.