

The Focus of an Upstream Disciple-maker

2 Timothy 2:3-10
Upstream Discipleship, part 8

A picture tells a thousand words. The Bible is not a picture book, but it is full of words that paint pictures to our mind. Here Paul paints three pictures for Timothy to focus him to the task of being a disciple-maker.

1. Focused Dedication of a Soldier, v.3,4

- Soldiers sacrifice with deep loyalty and unselfishness and seek to please their commanding officer while potentially paying the ultimate price. Soldiers...

A. Suffers without Quitting: “endure hardness...”

B. Separates without Complaining

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life...”

C. Submits without Questioning

“that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

- The FOCUS through which a soldier derives SATISFACTION: he pleases His Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Focused Discipline of an Athlete, v.5

A. The Necessity of Discipline:

B. The Blessing of Discipline:

- The FOCUS through which an athlete derives SATISFACTION: he receives the crown.

3. Focused Diligence of a Farmer, v.6

- His labor is unglamorous and often in loneliness and sometimes disappointing.

A. Labor must be in Love

B. Labor Leads to Reward

- The FOCUS through which a farmer derives SATISFACTION: he tastes the fruit of his labor.

The world we live in is like a vast battlefield, and we are in a war. The world we live in is a vast athletic field, and we are in a contest. The world we live in is like a great field and we are farmers. This is the continuous focus of the disciple-maker!