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2 **Boldly pass on your faith**

Fanning the Flame, Part 2
2 Timothy 2:1-7

3 **Background and review**

- Paul wrote to encourage a struggling and discouraged preacher. He told him to:
 - Fan the flames of ministry
 - Share in suffering service
 - Keep a grip on sound words
 - Guard the good deposit of faithful ministry

4 **Background and review (2)**

- Paul is nearing the end of his life and wants Timothy to leave Ephesus, even before his work is done, so Paul can see Timothy one last time (4:9).
- But Timothy must first teach faithful men to take over the work in Ephesus in order to ensure the integrity of the Gospel message.
- Timothy's call to "soldier" service recorded in Acts 16:3.

5 **Fan the flame of ministry**

6 **The cycle of fear**

- The Christian life is not a playground.
- It is a battleground.

7 **Share in suffering service**

8 **Keep a grip on sound words**

The Word of God

9 **Guard the good deposit**

Ministry

10 **2 Timothy 2:1-3**

- *You, therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these things to faithful people who will be competent to teach others also. Suffer together with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*

11 **2 Timothy 1:4-7**

- *No one who serves as a soldier is entangled in the activities of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him. And also if anyone competes he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The farmer who works hard must be the first to receive a share of the crops. Consider what I am saying, for the Lord will grant you understanding in all these things.*

12 **2 Timothy 2:1-7**

- 第2章 1 我兒啊，你要在基督耶穌的恩典上剛強起來。2 你在許多見證人面前聽見我所教訓

的，也要交託那忠心能教導別人的人。3 你要和我同受苦難，好像基督耶穌的精兵。4 凡在軍中當兵的，不將世務纏身，好叫那招他當兵的人喜悅。5 人若在場上比武，非按規矩，就不能得冠冕。6 勞力的農夫理當先得糧食。7 我所說的話，你要思想，因為凡事主必給你聰明

13 **A personal message**

- " YOU then..."
- Phygellus and Hermogenes had deserted Paul
 - They had a wrong self-focus
 - The sin of idolatry that plagues the modern world is a "me first" attitude that gives God the leftovers in thought and life. – W. Werning
- Paul exhorts Timothy in light of positive and negative examples in chapter 1.

14 **A personal message (2)**

- Negative examples: Phygellus and Hermogenes
- Positive examples:
 - Paul is a "father" figure who set the example for Timothy. Dads, are you doing that?
 - Onesiphorus had been faithful
- "In light of these examples, YOU then (Timothy) should become strong in grace.

15 **"I" is the problem**

- Every church conflict, every personal spiritual struggle, every S-I-N has "I" at the center.
 - The standard of belief today has become the individual, not the teaching of the church and the Word of God.
 - Many Christians are best described as "Burger King Believer's" or "Cafeteria Christians" who pick and choose what they will believe and practice.

16 **Why church?**

- One thousand church attendees were asked the question, "Why does the church exist?"
 - 89% said that the church's purpose was "to take care of MY family's and MY spiritual needs." O
 - 11% said that the purpose of the church was "to win the world for Jesus Christ."
 - Spirit of Revival & Awakening, June 1999, p. 27-28.

17 **1. Be strengthened in grace**

- σὺ οὖν, τέκνον μου, ἐνδυναμοῦ ἐν τῇ χάριτι τῇ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, "You, therefore, my child, be continually strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Become strong in the desire and ability to serve the Lord
 - Strength for ministry must come from the Lord.
 - Verb indicates that this is a daily empowerment.

18 **2. Entrust to faithful men**

- 2:2 -- Traveling with Paul, Timothy had heard the apostle address scores of diverse audiences.
- Faithful men = those who by willingness of heart and readiness of mind can teach others when they have been enlightened and trained
- Entrust = To commit something to someone that they can care for it.

19 **What is a faithful man?**

- Frugal
- Attentive
- Industrious
- Teachable
- Humble
- Focused
- Unselfish
- Loving

20 **The Christian soldier**

1. Willing to suffer
2. Avoids entanglements
3. Pleases the commanding officer to whom he is loyal

21 **What makes a good soldier?**

- Self-sacrificing
- Serves his Commander with love, loyalty, and obedience
- Submits his will to the Commander's will
- Suffers hardship
- Strikes bravely at the enemy
- Stays in the heat of battle
- Strives for victory
- Spiritually equipped for a spiritual battle

22 **Striving for victory**

He pants for honor, seeks for glory. On the field of strife he gathers his laurels, and amidst a thousand dangers he reaps renown. The Christian is fired by higher ambitions than earthly warrior ever knew. He sees a crown that can never fade; he loves a King who best of all is worthy to be served; he has a motive within him which moves him to the noblest deeds, a divine spirit impelling him to the most self-sacrificing actions. Thus you see the Christian is a soldier, and it is one of the main things in Christian life, to contend earnestly for the faith, and to fight valorously against sin.

-- C.H. Spurgeon

23 **A GOOD soldier**

- Not every soldier is a good soldier
 - *There are men who are but just soldiers and nothing more; they only need sufficient temptation and they readily become cowardly, idle, useless and worthless; but he is the good soldier who is bravest of the brave, courageous at all times, who is zealous, does his duty with heart and earnestness. (CHS)*
- 2 Samuel 23:23 – Benaiah was a great warrior but he “attained not unto the first three.” There were better soldiers.

24 **Why a soldier?**

CHS – “Paul does not appear to have pictured true believers as sluggards sound asleep upon the

downiest beds; his description of a Christian in the text is that of a soldier, and that means something very far different either from a religious fop, whose best delight is music and millinery, or a theological critic who makes a man an offender for a word, or a spiritual glutton who cares for nothing but a lifelong enjoyment of the fat things full of marrow, or an ecclesiastical slumberer who longs only for peace for himself. He represents him as a soldier, and that, I say, is quite another thing.

25 **Get your marching orders**

We should not practice an ordinance merely because our church teaches it, or our parents believed in it; we must read the Scriptures, and search the question for ourselves, or we are not respectful to our Lord. The soldier who did not take the trouble to read the orders of his superior, might justly be suspected of mutinous intentions. Disobedience rankles in any heart where there is carelessness about knowing the Lord's will.

26 **Avoid entangling detractors**

- Soldiers avoid entanglement with things not related to the duties of battle.
- A Roman soldier's single-minded purpose, rigorous discipline, and unquestioning obedience to his commanding officer combine to make the figure of a soldier an apt one for a servant of the gospel.
- Entangled = To become so involved in something as to detract from your true mission or to have your availability and service restricted by that thing.

27 **What are entanglements?**

- πραγματεΐαι
- activities involved in one's behavior or conduct—'affairs, pursuits.'
- οὐδεις στρατευόμενος ἐμπλέκεται ταῖς τοῦ βίου πραγματεΐαις 'no soldier gets mixed up in the affairs of daily life' 2 Tm 2:4.
- We get "pragmatic" from this word.
- A pragmatic solution is often one in which you compromise on one value in order to do that which is "practical" to suit another goal.

28 **Everyday detractors**

- *in the pragmatics of life*
- These are often the routine things we feel we must do.
 - However, many of these things could have been avoided if we had taken a less common approach to life.
- The more stuff you own, the more it owns you.

29 **Ideas to avoid detractors**

- Avoid buying a house; rent instead.
- Consider starting a business rather than looking for a job.
- Avoid installment payments (Proverbs 22:7)
- Don't say YES to every social obligation.
 - Avoid activities that take you away from God's house.
 - Make worship and service and witnessing a priority and then work other things around it.

30 **Ideas to avoid detractors (2)**

- While you shouldn't unnaturally delay marriage, don't make marriage your goal.
 - Make serving the Lord your goal and let the Lord know that marriage is something you desire. Then let him bring the right person along. He loves to give good gifts to His children.
- Maintain a "mobile mindset"
 - How can your family be available to serve the Lord together?

31 **Ideas to avoid detractors (3)**

- How can you help someone become more mobile and available to the Lord?
- Declutter
 - Things
 - Time
 - Relationships
- Seek significance, not success.

32 **Expect suffering**

Before the battle of Waterloo, Picton had had two of his ribs smashed in at Quartre Bras, but he concealed this serious injury, and, though suffering intensest agony, he rode at the head of his troop, and led one of the great charges which decided the fortunes of the day. He never left his post, but rode on till a ball crushed in his skull and penetrated to the brains. Then in the hot fight the hero fell. How few among us could thus endure hardness for Jesus. (CHS)

33 **Expect suffering if you serve**

34 **What difficulties do we have?**

- In what ways would my life be easier if I weren't serious about Christian discipleship?
- What differences does Christ make in our lives?
 - Too often the "differences" abound in trivia: "We don't drink, and we don't chew, and we don't go with girls who do."
 - We have become masters of majoring on minors.

35 **Please the commanding officer**

- "The one who speaks strategy"
 - The commanding officer has a plan; has a strategy for battle; takes strategic losses to achieve crucial victories.
 - Enlisted soldiers don't see the battle plan. They only know their assigned duties and objectives.

36 **For the young among us...**

- Don't focus on making things happen for your future.
- Instead, focus on:
 - Developing your character and walk with Jesus.
 - Discover and follow God's strategy daily.
 - Never try to make the Gospel relevant to your lifestyle. Make your life relevant to the Gospel.

37 **Getting the mission objectives**

- Frederick the Great overheard his favorite general engaged in prayer, and was about to

utter a sneering remark. Then his general said, *"Your Majesty, I have just been asking aid from your Majesty's great ally."* He had been waiting upon God.

38 **What about Paul**

- He had a job or trade – tent-making (Acts 18:1-3)
 - *After these things he departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus who had arrived recently from Italy along with Priscilla his wife, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome, and he went to them. And because he was practicing the same trade, he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. (Acts 18:1-3)*

39 **So was Paul entangled?**

- Paul is not prohibiting all secular jobs, but would prohibit becoming entangled, or over-engrossed therewith.
- The good soldier avoids activities and possessions that restrict his abilities to carry out the duties assigned by the commanding officer who knows the complete battle strategy.

40 **Stick to the objective**

The Christian man, in order that he may win for Christ the souls of others, may make known Christ's truth, may establish Christ's church on fresh ground, is quite as ready to suffer or die as is the boldest member of the most renowned regiment. To do this he disentangles himself as much as he can from all other ambitions and aims, "for he that warreth entangleth not himself with the affairs of this life."

41 **Stick to the objective (2)**

With a good soldier of Christ the master passion is to spread the gospel, to save souls from perishing, and he would sooner do this and be poor than be rich and neglect it; he would sooner be useful and live unknown than rank among the great ones of the earth and be useless to his Lord. (CHS)

42 **Stay connected**

- To the Lord
 - For commands
 - For support
 - For encouragement
 - For wisdom
- To one another
 - For support
 - For love
 - To encourage one another
-

43 **The Christian athlete**

1. Runs for the prize
2. Knows and obeys the rules to avoid disqualification

44 **Run for the prize**

- Run for the prize (suffer in training)

- *stephanos* -- the victor's laurels
- Obey the rules
- Winning isn't enough.
- You aren't crowned unless you compete in accordance with the rules.
 - rules = law (same Greek word)
 - Competitors in the Olympic games, for example, were required to swear that they had trained diligently for at least 10 months.

45 **Strive for mastery**

- Over your own lusts and impulses
- Over your bad habits
- Over your lack of self-control

46 **The Christian farmer**

1. Works diligently
2. Relies on God
3. Reaps a harvest

47 **Work hard; expect a reward**

- A farmer; literally "one who works the earth"
- Works diligently
- Endures trials
- Relies on God
- Reaps a harvest

48 **Think about it, Timothy**

- Think over what I'm saying, Timothy. Let God show you how to apply it to your own life.
- The diligence Paul has just described in each case has its reward (cf. vv. 11-12): A diligent soldier gains the approval of his commanding officer; a diligent athlete wins the victory; a diligent farmer wins the first share of the crops.

49 **3 Pictures**

50 **Fanning the flame of ministry**

- Expect suffering
- Practice discipline
 - Discipline in one area has a tendency to carry over into other areas of our lives.
- Be single-minded
- Avoid entangling distractors
- Eyes on the prize