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2 **Boldly Pass On Your Faith
Part 2**

Fanning the Flame, Part 3
2 Timothy 2:1-7

3 **Background and review**

- 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).
- Most probably, this is the last book written by the Apostle Paul.
- Timothy needs to train faithful men to take over the work of the ministry.

4 **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.*

5 **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.*

6 **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.

7 **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.

8 **What is a faithful man?**

- Frugal
- Attentive
- Industrious
- Teachable
- Humble
- Focused

- Unselfish
- Loving

9 **The Christian soldier**

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

10 **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

11 **3. 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.

12 **What are entanglements?**

- πραγματεῖαι
 - activities involved in one's behavior or conduct—'affairs, pursuits.'
 - οὐδεις στρατευόμενος ἐμπλέκεται ταῖς τοῦ βίου πραγματείαις '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.

13 **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.

14 **4. Expect suffering if you serve**

15 **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.

16 **5. Please the commander**

- “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.

17 **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.

18 **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.

19 **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)*

20 **So was Paul entangled?**

- Paul is not prohibiting all secular jobs, but would prohibit becoming entangled, or over-grossed 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.

21 **6. 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.”

22 **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)

23 **Stay connected**

- To the Lord
 - For commands
 - For support
 - For encouragement
 - For wisdom
- To one another
 - For support
 - For love
 - To encourage one another
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24 **The Christian athlete**

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

25 **7. 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.

26 **8. Strive for mastery**

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

27 **The Christian farmer**

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

28 **9. Work hard; expect a reward**

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

29 **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.

30 **3 Pictures**

31 **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