

Love Letters

Week 16: 2 Timothy 2

The Strength of Grace ~

Read 2 Timothy 2

1. According to vs 1, who did Paul recognize as the source of Timothy's strength? When in a situation where clarity of mind is needed, why would this be important to remember?

The command "be strong" is translated *endunamou*, which means to "be empowered" or "strengthened," implying that help is supplied by someone else—in this case that someone else is God.

2. What does the Bible have to say about the best condition in which to receive the Lord's strength?

a. 2 Corinthians 12:9:

b. Colossians 1:11:

c. Philippians 4:13:

3. According to vs 2, what was Paul encouraging Timothy to do?

Endure All Things ~

Reread 2 Timothy 2:3-13

1. Paul uses several illustrations in vs 2-6. Name them along with the point that you determine is applicable to the Christian life.

a. Vs 3-4: Consider the hardship a soldier on active duty must endure for the sake of his safety & success. Think too of your own spiritual warfare. What can you apply on the front lines of your battle?

b. Vs 5: Sports were popular in Paul's day. Athletes trained vigorously in the hopes of competing for the prize. What aspects of an athlete's training, if applied, can help you reach the finish line in your race?

c. Vs 6: What thoughts come to mind about long hours, hard work & persistence in order to realize the rewards of ministry?

2. What powerful reminders does Paul seek to point out to Timothy?

a. Vs 8-9:

b. Vs 10:

3. Vs 11-13 are put in the negative, speaking of those who only profess to know Christ, but who do not actually follow Him by becoming identified with Him. Finish the thought...

a. If we died with Him _____

b. If we endure _____

c. If we deny Him _____

d. If we are faithless _____

Honorable & Dishonorable Servants, Part 1 ~

Reread 2 Timothy 2:14–19

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (verse 15)

1. Rather than contending over unimportant details or engaging in foolish discussion, Timothy was to be diligent about certain things...

a. Present himself to God in what manner?

b. As what kind of a workman? What does this look like in everyday life?

c. Skillfully handling what? What do you think Paul meant by this?

2. Who is mentioned as negligent in these areas? What were they teaching and what was the result?

3. What does the Bible teach us about the importance of the doctrine of resurrection? (1 Corinthians 15:12–20)

a. What does 2 Corinthians 4:14-15 have to say regarding the hope of every believer?

b. How do these verses underscore the importance of giving Scripture its rightful place in our belief system?

“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His.”

& “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” (verse 19)

Honorable & Dishonorable Servants, Part 2 ~

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all,

able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition...” (vs 24-25)

1. The servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all. How is that possible? Only by following the example of Jesus, who spoke of himself in Matthew 11:29, “Take My yoke upon you & learn from Me, for I am gentle & humble in heart”. (NIV).

a. Take a moment to consider your demeanor & dialogue with others when sharing the good news of Christ. Are you timid & fearful; kind & matter-of-fact; or assertive & quarrelsome?

b. Have you ever placed your strengths & weaknesses before the Lord in this regard? Is there an adjustment you realize you could make to strengthen your witness?

c. Following the example of Jesus, Paul shares a similar comparison in 1 Thessalonians 2:7; what does he say? How powerful is this illustration when applied?

2. The servant of the Lord must be able to teach...

a. In your home, neighborhood, workplace, church community where & how is God currently using you?

b. What are the areas of communication you find most difficult.

3. The servant of the Lord must be patient when wronged.

a. The best model for this is found in Isaiah 52:13-14 & Isaiah 53:1-10. Note what stands out to you.

b. 1 Peter 2:21-24 again shows the attitude & response of Jesus. Summarize the content of these verses.

In Touch with Jesus ~

1. LISTEN: In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.

2. LEARN: How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?

3. LIVE: What step of obedience will yo