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Mentoring



2 Timothy 2 – Fit to Serve

Exercise is not only important it has become an industry. Whilst exercise is crucial for bodily fitness so too there are resources that God provides to help us in our Christian lives. Paul in his second letter to Timothy inspired by the Holy Spirit shares his insight on this.

- Draw upon God's strength

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2.1 NLT

- As a disciple – disciple

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. 2 Tim 2.2

- Learn lessons from life

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. ⁵ And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. ⁶ And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labour. ⁷ Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

Paul uses 3 examples

- I. The soldier – endures hardship & is under orders.
- II. The athlete – competing according to the rules.
- III. The farmer who can expect to enjoy the harvest.

- Remember the power of God.

⁸ Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach. ⁹ And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. ¹⁰ So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen. 2 Tim 2.8-10

God's power raised Jesus from the dead – He is alive.

God's word cannot be chained – It is active.

- Rely on reliable words

¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

*If we die with him,
we will also live with him.*

*¹² If we endure hardship,
we will reign with him.*

*If we deny him,
he will deny us.*

¹³ *If we are unfaithful,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny who he is.*

Whatever happens God will remain faithful – that's just who he is.

- Study God's Word

¹⁵ *Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth. 2 Tim 2.15 (Amplified)*

This is a favourite verse for some theological and bible colleges. It does highlight the importance of learning about our faith and how to live our lives for God.

- Keeping your life clean

²⁰ *In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹ If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honourable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. Paul here is telling Timothy that how we live our lives determines how god is likely to use us.*

- Knowing which way to run

²² *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*

There are things to run from for eg Joseph running away from Potiphars wife who was trying to seduce him Gen 39.12. There are other things to run towards v22 lists what some of this means.

- Treating people the right way

²⁴ *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. ²⁵ Gently instruct those who oppose the truth.*

Kindness, an ability to teach, patience and gentleness are four qualities that Paul highlights as important in providing leadership within the church.

Jesus is alive.

2 Tim 2.1. Be strong

2. Tim 2. 2. training others- mentoring

3 pictures – the soldier on active service. – willing to endure suffering pleasing their officer

Athlete – has to compete according to the rules otherwise disqualification

Farmer should be able to enjoy the fruit of their labour.

Paul endures suffering for the sake of Christ – he is in chains,

The word of God is not chained.

Trustworthy saying

Be a good worker –

God's truth – explain

Being available – being made of ...?

Running from – youthful lust and run to

Be kind to everyone, be able to teach and be patient with everyone.

Gently correct those who oppose the truth.

2 Timothy 2

New Living Translation (NLT)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

2 Timothy 2

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

³ Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. ⁵ And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. ⁶ And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the

fruit of their labor. ⁷ Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

⁸ Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach. ⁹ And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. ¹⁰ So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

If we die with him,
we will also live with him.

¹² If we endure hardship,
we will reign with him.

If we deny him,
he will deny us.

¹³ If we are unfaithful,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny who he is.

¹⁴ Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.

An Approved Worker

¹⁵ Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. ¹⁷ This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. ¹⁸ They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.

¹⁹ But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The LORD knows those who are his,"^[a] and "All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil."^[b]

²⁰ In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹ If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who

call on the Lord with pure hearts.

²³ Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴ A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. ²⁵ Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Footnotes:

- a. 2 Timothy 2:19 Num 16:5.
- b. 2 Timothy 2:19 See Isa 52:11.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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The Message (MSG)

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2 Timothy 2

Doing Your Best for God

¹⁻⁷ So, my son, throw yourself into this work for Christ. Pass on what you heard from me—the whole congregation saying Amen!— to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others. When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did. A soldier on duty doesn't get caught up in making deals at the marketplace. He concentrates on carrying out orders. An athlete who refuses to play by the rules will never get anywhere. It's the diligent farmer who gets the produce. Think it over. God will make it all plain.

⁸⁻¹³ Fix this picture firmly in your mind: Jesus, descended from the line of David, raised from the dead. It's what you've heard from me all along. It's what I'm sitting in jail for right now—but God's Word isn't in jail! That's why I stick it out here—so that everyone God calls will get in on the salvation of Christ in all its glory. This is a sure thing:

If we die with him, we'll live with him;
If we stick it out with him, we'll rule with him;
If we turn our backs on him, he'll turn his back on us;

If we give up on him, he does not give up—
for there's no way he can be false to himself.

¹⁴⁻¹⁸Repeat these basic essentials over and over to God's people. Warn them before God against pious nitpicking, which chips away at the faith. It just wears everyone out. Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won't be ashamed of, laying out the truth plain and simple. Stay clear of pious talk that is only talk. Words are not mere words, you know. If they're not backed by a godly life, they accumulate as poison in the soul. Hymenaeus and Philetus are examples, throwing believers off stride and missing the truth by a mile by saying the resurrection is over and done with.

¹⁹Meanwhile, God's firm foundation is as firm as ever, these sentences engraved on the stones:

god knows who belongs to him.
spurn evil, all you who name god as god.

²⁰⁻²¹In a well-furnished kitchen there are not only crystal goblets and silver platters, but waste cans and compost buckets—some containers used to serve fine meals, others to take out the garbage. Become the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to his guests for their blessing.

²²⁻²⁶Run away from infantile indulgence. Run after mature righteousness—faith, love, peace—joining those who are in honest and serious prayer before God. Refuse to get involved in inane discussions; they always end up in fights. God's servant must not be argumentative, but a gentle listener and a teacher who keeps cool, working firmly but patiently with those who refuse to obey. You never know how or when God might sober them up with a change of heart and a turning to the truth, enabling them to escape the Devil's trap, where they are caught and held captive, forced to run his errands.

The Message (MSG)

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New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

2 Timothy 2

¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

⁴ No-one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs— he wants to please his commanding officer.

⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,

⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

A Workman Approved by God

¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection

has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: The Lord knows those who are his, and, Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.

²⁰ In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.

²¹ If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

²² Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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2 Timothy 2

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

¹ Timothy, my child, Christ Jesus is kind, and you must let him make you strong. ² You have often heard me teach. Now I want you to tell these same things to followers who can be trusted to tell others.

³ As a good soldier of Christ Jesus you must endure your share of suffering. ⁴ Soldiers on duty don't work at outside jobs. They try only to please their

commanding officer. ⁵No one wins an athletic contest without obeying the rules. ⁶And farmers who work hard are the first to eat what grows in their field. ⁷If you keep in mind what I have told you, the Lord will help you understand completely.

⁸Keep your mind on Jesus Christ! He was from the family of David and was raised from death, just as my good news says. ⁹And because of this message, I am locked up in jail and treated like a criminal. But God's good news isn't locked in jail, ¹⁰and so I am willing to put up with anything. Then God's special people will be saved. They will be given eternal glory because they belong to Christ Jesus. ¹¹Here is a true message:

"If we died with Christ,

we will live with him.

¹²If we don't give up,

we will rule with him.

If we deny

that we know him,

he will deny

that he knows us.

¹³If we are not faithful,

he will still be faithful.

Christ cannot deny

who he is."

An Approved Worker

¹⁴Don't let anyone forget these things. And with God ^[a] as your witness, you must warn them not to argue about words. These arguments don't help anyone. In fact, they ruin everyone who listens to them. ¹⁵Do your best to win God's approval as a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed and who teaches only the true message. ¹⁶Keep away from worthless and useless talk. It only leads people farther away from God. ¹⁷That sort of talk is like a sore that won't heal. And Hymenaeus and Philetus have been talking this way ¹⁸by teaching that the dead have already been raised to life. This is far from the truth, and it is destroying the faith of some people.

¹⁹But the foundation that God has laid is solid. On it is written, "The Lord knows who his people are. So everyone who worships the Lord must turn away from evil."

²⁰In a large house some dishes are made of gold or silver, while others are made of wood or clay. Some of these are special, and others are not. ²¹That's also how it is with people. The ones who stop doing evil and make themselves pure will become special. Their lives will be holy and pleasing to their Master, and they will be able to do all kinds of good deeds.

²²Run from temptations that capture young people. Always do the right thing. Be faithful, loving, and easy to get along with. Worship with people whose hearts are pure. ²³Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble, ²⁴and God's servants must not be troublemakers. They must be kind to everyone, and they must be good teachers and very patient.

²⁵Be humble when you correct people who oppose you. Maybe God will lead them to turn to him and learn the truth. ²⁶They have been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape.

Footnotes:

- a. 2 Timothy 2:14 *God*: Some manuscripts have "the Lord," and others have "Christ."

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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Amplified Bible (AMP)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

2 Timothy 2

¹SO YOU, my son, be strong (strengthened inwardly) in the grace (spiritual blessing) that is [to be found only] in Christ Jesus.

²And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.

³Take [with me] your share of the hardships and suffering [which you are called to endure] as a good (first-class) soldier of Christ Jesus.

⁴No soldier when in service gets entangled in the enterprises of [civilian] life; his aim is to satisfy and please the one who enlisted him.

⁵And if anyone enters competitive games, he is not crowned unless he competes lawfully (fairly, according to the rules laid down).

⁶[It is] the hard-working farmer [who labors to produce] who must be the first partaker of the fruits.

⁷Think over these things I am saying [understand them and grasp their application], for the Lord will grant you full insight and understanding in everything.

⁸Constantly keep in mind Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] risen from the dead, [as the prophesied King] descended from David, according to the good news (the Gospel) that I preach.^(A)

⁹For that [Gospel] I am suffering affliction and even wearing chains like a criminal. But the Word of God is not chained or imprisoned!

¹⁰Therefore I [am ready to] persevere and stand my ground with patience and endure everything for the sake of the elect [God's chosen], so that they too may obtain [the] salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with [the reward of] eternal glory.

¹¹The saying is sure and worthy of confidence: If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him.

¹²If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny and disown and reject Him, He will also deny and disown and reject us.

¹³If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself.

¹⁴Remind [the people] of these facts and [solemnly] charge them in the presence of the Lord to avoid petty controversy over words, which does no good but upsets and undermines the faith of the hearers.

¹⁵Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

¹⁶But avoid all empty (vain, useless, idle) talk, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness.

¹⁷And their teaching [will devour; it] will eat its way like cancer or spread like gangrene. So it is with Hymenaeus and Philetus,

¹⁸Who have missed the mark and swerved from the truth by arguing that the resurrection has already taken place. They are undermining the faith of some.

¹⁹But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands, sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it.^(B)

²⁰But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use].

²¹So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.

²²Shun youthful lusts and flee from them, and aim at and pursue righteousness (all that is virtuous and good, right living, conformity to the will of God in thought, word, and deed); [and aim at and pursue] faith, love, [and] peace (harmony and concord with others) in fellowship with all [Christians], who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart.

²³But refuse (shut your mind against, have nothing to do with) trifling (ill-informed, unedifying, stupid) controversies over ignorant questionings, for you know that they foster strife and breed quarrels.

²⁴And the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome (fighting and contending). Instead, he must be kindly to everyone and mild-tempered [preserving the bond of peace]; he must be a skilled and suitable teacher, patient and forbearing and willing to suffer wrong.

²⁵He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth [that they will perceive and recognize and become accurately acquainted with and acknowledge it],

²⁶And that they may come to their senses [and] escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, [henceforth] to do His [God's] will.

Cross references:

A. 2 Timothy 2:8 : Ps 16:10

B. 2 Timothy 2:19 : Num 16:5; Isa 26:13

Amplified