

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Handout: 5/21/2017

Study: 05/28/17

Fearless—Be Strong

In 2 Timothy 2, Paul uses several analogies from secular life to show Timothy what it looks like to be strong. Three of the examples are—the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer. Paul used the same three examples in 1 Corinthians 9. There the examples of the soldier and the farmer illustrated how the workman is worthy of his hire (1 Corinthians 9:7). The example of the athlete emphasized the need for rigorous discipline and training (1 Corinthians 9:24–27). In 2 Timothy the main emphases are on hardship and effort and on future reward.

- The **soldier** gives his undivided attention and loyalty to his commanding officer and does not allow himself to be distracted by outside concerns. The soldier of Christ likewise concentrates on his commander, Christ.
- The **athlete** competes by the rules. In the Olympic games, the rules prescribed a rigorous training period of ten months before one could participate in the games. The successful athlete received a victor’s crown.
- The **farmer** likewise could expect to receive from the fruits of his labor.

Many comparisons to the Christian life can be drawn from these metaphors, but the ideas of concentrated service, discipline, and hardship are the strongest emphases in the three metaphors. The servant of Christ can expect a share in hardship.

The greatest example available to the believer is Christ himself (2:8–13). Christ suffered and died; the faithful servant of Christ must be willing to share in suffering. Paul often saw his ministry in terms of sharing Christ’s sufferings (cp. Romans 8:17; Colossians 1:24). He was doing so now in the confines of a Roman prison, treated like a common criminal (v. 9). Yet, though he was in chains, the gospel itself remained unchained, just as it had in an earlier imprisonment (Philippians 1:12–18), just as it had in his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30–31). Paul had no doubts about his own salvation; God would hold him in trust until the final day (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul wanted all God’s chosen to experience the same assurance of salvation, and so he boldly shared the gospel, willing to endure whatever hardship might result, whether chains or even death. He urged Timothy to have the same resolve, the same willingness to suffer.

(edited excerpt from Paul and His Letters, John B. Poolhall)

KEY VERSE

2 Timothy 2:1

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 24-25

Be Strong and Teach

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? What did you like about him/her?

What was Timothy supposed to teach?

What kind of person does Paul tell Timothy to teach? Why is that important?

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Be Strong and Endure Hardship

In what ways do soldiers endure hardship? How can this analogy apply to our lives?

How can we keep our focus on our commanding officer, Jesus, and not the concerns of life?

How can we keep our focus on Jesus when we endure trials and hardship?

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Be Strong and Get in the Game

What does it take to be a successful athlete?

How can we apply this analogy to our lives?

Thursday: 2 Timothy 2:6-13; Matthew 9:37-38

Hardworking Farmer

What does it take to be a good farmer?

What happens if a farmer takes time off from tending his fields?

How can we apply this analogy to our lives?

What should we sow and what is our harvest?

Friday: 2 Timothy 2:14-18

Approved Worker

How would you characterize an approved worker?

What sorts of things does an approved worker do?

What does an approved worker avoid?

What does it mean to rightly divide the Word of God?

We've seen this week that Paul instructs Timothy to be like a teacher, a soldier, an athlete, a farmer, and an approved workman. Which analogy was most meaningful to you?

In what areas do you need to be strong?