

October 22, 2017

“The Process of Discipleship”

Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 2:1-13 (NASB)

Cross References: Matthew 28:19-20; John 16:15-17; 1 Corinthians 9:12, 24-27; 2 Timothy 4:8-9; 1 John 2:15-17

Lesson Idea: We need to grow in the truths and grace of the Gospel and share those truths with others, so that the Gospel continues to bear fruit.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Oct 15 Mark 1-3	Oct 16 Mark 4-5
Oct 17 Mark 6-7	Oct 18 Mark 8-9
Oct 19 Mark 10-11	Oct 20 Mark 12-13
Oct 21 Mark 14	Oct 22 Mark 15-16

Background: In this passage, Paul lays out the process of discipleship. He instructs Timothy to teach those truths that Paul had entrusted to him to other faithful people. As we grow in the grace of Christ Jesus, we also need to teach others what we have learned. Our Gospel work is not finished until those we disciple are mature enough to teach others as well. As we teach others, then they teach others, who will also teach others; then, the process of multiplication carries the Gospel around the world.

2 Timothy 2:1-13

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so

that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. 11 It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

DISCUSSION:

- v 1. What is the “therefore” there for? Look back at chapter 1—why did Paul encourage Timothy to be “strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus?” How can you be strong in grace?

NOTE: from David Guzik, *2 Timothy 2:1:*

Be strong: This was an important encouragement. Paul knew that Timothy would need strength and endurance to fulfill the calling God gave him. Again, this is one of the twenty-five times Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong and endure in his work in Ephesus. It seems that Timothy was naturally timid and easily discouraged so he needed to be told often, “Be strong.”

Be strong: God is always there to give us strength; He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might, He increases strength . . . *those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength* (Isaiah 40:29, 30). However, we must receive this strength, therefore Paul had to encourage Timothy to be strong. God makes the resource of His strength available to us (Ephesians 6:10-11). Yet it does not come as we sit back passively and suppose that God will simply pour it into us. He brings His strength to us as we seek Him and rely on Him instead of our own strength.

... Paul knew what it was like to receive the strength of God’s grace, as he explained in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: And He said to me, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*” *Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* He could encourage Timothy like this from his own life experience.

- v 2. What things had Timothy heard from Paul? How would Timothy “entrust” these to faithful men? How would these become able to teach others also?
- How does this describe the discipleship process? (see Matthew 28:18-20) How are you making disciples?

NOTE: from Guzik:

Commit these to faithful men: God gave ministry to Timothy, not for him to keep, but for him to pass on to others. An essential part of his work as a pastor was to pour into others what God had committed to him. One may say that everything that a pastor does in his ministry he should train others to do. There are no duties of a pastor so holy or so secret that he should keep them all to himself. He should always seek to spread ministry about to others, and to train others to do the work of the ministry.

Timothy was not to teach others his own particular ideas or theories, but simple Apostolic doctrine and example (the things that you have heard from me). What was poured into him by Paul, he was responsible to pour into others. The job of training leaders is simply part of a pastor's job description. He should not only train leaders when the need for a leader is obvious; nor should he only train leaders for the needs of his congregation alone. He should train leaders for the Kingdom of God in general, whether they are used in ministry at the particular pastor's congregation or not.

To faithful men: When Timothy looked for those whom he could pour Apostolic doctrine and practice into, he was to look for the quality of faithfulness. He didn't need to find smart men, popular men, strong men, easy men, perfect men, or good-looking men; Paul told him to look for faithful men.

Who will be able to teach others also: This job of training leaders was so important that it could not be restricted to Timothy alone. Those whom he had trained must also be given the job to teach others also.

- V 3. Why would Paul want Timothy to suffer hardship?
- V 3-4. How are Christians to be like soldiers of Christ Jesus? Why should we not get tangled up in the affairs of everyday life? (see 1 John 2:15-17)
- V 5. How is the Christian life supposed to be like that of an athlete? What prize should we be trying to win? (see 1 Corinthians 9:12, 24-27; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:8-9)
- V 6. How is the Christian life like that of a farmer? What would we hope to share? (see 1 Corinthians 3:6-15)

NOTE: from Guzik:

Hard-working: Paul knew the value of hard work. He could say, comparing himself with the other apostles, I

labored more abundantly than they all (1 Corinthians 15:10). Paul wasn't just called, he wasn't just blessed, he wasn't just anointed; Paul also worked hard. And his ministry would have been far less than it was if he had not worked hard.

Some people expect something for nothing. But wise people know that you often get out of things according to the measure you put into them. If you are putting forth little effort in your Christian walk, you should expect little result. Yet at the same time, Paul knew that all the work he did was the gift of God's grace in him: *I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me* (1 Corinthians 15:10). Paul knew the balance of working hard, yet always knowing it is all of grace.

- V 7. What does it mean to "consider" something? How would considering Paul's words today enable the Lord to give us understanding? (see John 16:15-17)
- V 8. Timothy wasn't likely to forget Jesus, so why did Paul tell him to "remember Jesus Christ," and what did he emphasize about Jesus? What was Paul's gospel?
- V 9-10. Why was Paul willing to suffer hardship? What was Paul's driving motivation of his life?
- V 11-13. Explain the phrases behind Paul's trustworthy statement:
 - *For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;*
 - *12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him;*
 - *If we deny Him, He also will deny us;*

APPLICATION:

- ✓ Since the Great Commission calls us to "make disciples," who are you discipling and/or who is discipling you?
- ✓ We have discipleship material available in the church office if you would like to enter a discipleship relationship with someone.