

2 TIMOTHY

Week 3: Discipline & Discipleship (2:1-13)

1. Read for context

- a. Timothy would have been familiar with the soldier image (v. 4) which Paul had described in Ephesians 6 (“the whole armor of God”). This is Paul’s second letter to the Ephesian church, though this epistle is specifically addressed to Timothy.
- b. In addition to the soldier allusion, the images of the athlete and the farmer would have been common images as well. Athletic and farming motifs had been used by Paul in other letters to illustrate the Christian life and its expectations for the Christian.
- c. The “saying” Paul alludes to in verses 11-13 is a common literary device for that time. A break from narrative to verse in a sense distills the ideas down. John uses a similar form in 1 John 2:12-14.

2. Watch Video

3. Discuss

- a. Read 2:1-2. Think of verse 1 in terms of discipline and verse 2 in terms of discipleship.
 - i. Verse 1 – Though grace is something given to us by Christ, to be *strengthened by grace* requires our actively receiving it. What spiritual disciplines are you using, or have you used to be strengthened in grace? (e.g. prayer, Bible reading & meditation, silence & solitude, fasting, serving, etc.)
 - ii. In what way(s) have these helped shape you as a Christian?
 - iii. Verse 2 – What example of discipleship do you see illustrated here in Paul’s instruction to Timothy?
 - iv. Are you doing this yourself (or aspiring to do this)? This would include examples outside the church setting, such as home and workplace etc.
- b. In verses 3-7, Paul repeats his instruction for Timothy to ‘share in suffering’ and then provides three examples: a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. Read these verses aloud. Discuss each example separately and share what lesson you learn from each.
- c. Read verses 8-10.
 - i. In verses 8-9a, Paul is reminding Timothy of something Timothy is already aware of. How does the last sentence of verse 9 then stand out and for what purpose?
 - ii. Verse 10 is Paul’s response to verses 8-9. What do you learn about evangelism in this verse?
 - iii. Can you relate to Paul’s deep desire to see others come to Christ? What do you learn from him that you’d like to see in yourself?
- d. Read verses 11-13. What is both the comfort and the warning in these verses?
- e. **Application:** In this week’s passage, you’ve been challenged in the areas of discipline and discipleship. What is the one thing that you are being challenged to do in the week ahead. Write it down and share it with your group so that they can hold you accountable.

4. Preparation for next week (choose one)

- a. Step: Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15
- b. Walk
 - i. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15
 - ii. Choose one spiritual discipline and commit to do it at least 5 of the 7 days this week.
- c. Climb
 - i. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15
 - ii. Who is God calling you to disciple (2:2) or share the gospel with (2:10)? Take time this week to prayer and respond in faith to where God is moving you to make this investment. Be ready to share with your life group what you’re learning in the next week or two.