

## Be Strengthened by Grace

Sermon Delivered on January 5th, 2020  
AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

### Text:

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2: And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 3: Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4: No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 5: And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 6: The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. 7: Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

### Introduction

In 2 Timothy 4:6 we read these words from the apostle Paul, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”

The Apostle Paul is ready to leave this earth. He is in prison and he knows his life and ministry are coming to an end.

Then in verse 7, he goes on to say, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Paul had fought a good fight of faith. He had been faithful to his calling. He had **preached the Gospel for 30 years since his Damascus experience** and now he knows his days are numbered. But he is concerned about the future. His great concern is that **the truth of the Gospel may be passed on to the next generation**. So he charged young Timothy to carry on the work; to be ready to pass on to faithful men and women, to faithful boys and girls the sound doctrine that has been entrusted to him.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

The things that Timothy has heard and learned from Paul takes us back to ...

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words (doctrines), which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14: That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

**Timothy is obligated** to pass on the good thing entrusted unto him, specifically the Gospel to the next generation. **But Timothy would have to rely on God’s grace and strength.**

Church, brothers and sisters, **God is now calling us also to carry on the work.** We have received the sound doctrine and our mission; **our great and solemn obligation** is to pass on to

the next generation the sound doctrine that we have received from faithful men who had gone before us.

We have been given a **great privilege** and a **heavy responsibility** to pass on to the next generation God's truth. Our mission is clear: **Train others to train others.**

Psalm 145:4 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

Our missions as a church is the passing on of sound doctrine from one generation to another. What an awesome privilege! What a heavy responsibility! **We have to be good stewards** and **pass that treasure**; that sound doctrine; that Biblical Gospel on to faithful men. **But how are we going to carry out this awesome responsibility?** For the business of training others to train others would mean **hardship** and **opposition**. And not only are there hardship and opposition, there is **also the danger of apostasy**. In this letter, Paul reminded Timothy that **some had already deserted Paul and turned away from the truth.**

2 Timothy 1:15 This thou knowest, that **all they which are in Asia** be turned away from me; of whom are **Phygellus** and **Hermogenes**.

2 Timothy 4:10 For **Demas** hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; **Crescens** to Galatia, **Titus** unto Dalmatia.

**Demas** who **once was a faithful companion of Paul** has deserted him. The love of this world, is often the cause of turning back from the truths and ways of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4: And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Webster defines **apostasy** as “a renunciation of religious faith”; “an abandonment of previous loyalty”; “total desertion of the principles of faith.”

The words renunciation or abandonment or desertion is **deliberate act**. So when people apostatize, it is **not because they have no knowledge of the truth**. An apostate knows the truth **but has deliberately renounced them**. They intentionally turned their ears from the truth and turned unto fables. **They are not able to bear sound doctrine**; the solid truths of the Gospel, **so they turn to myths**. The danger of apostasy is very real.

Charles Simeon introduces his sermon on this text asking -

*“How shall it be that all of us, who are assembled here this day, should ever get to heaven, so weak as we are, and so corrupt, and in the midst of so many and great dangers? I look back to the Apostle's days; and find, that when he was in prison at Rome, “all the converts that were of Asia, turned away from him;” but that one pious man, “Onesiphorus, sought him out with great diligence,” to relieve his necessities, and to comfort his soul. Now, if reduced to such straits as the Apostle Paul was, for the Gospel's sake, how should we hope to stand? How should we avoid the apostasy of the many, and retain the fidelity of the few? This instruction the Apostle gives to*

*his beloved Timothy: "Thou, therefore, my son, (seeing how hard it is to stand in times of severe trial,) be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus:" that is, 'know that there is grace treasured up for thee in Christ: and, in dependence upon that, thou shalt be able to sustain all the trials that shall come upon thee.'*"

So, how are we going to carry out this awesome responsibility of passing the sound doctrine to the next generation? The Apostle Paul tells us in ...

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

That's what I want to talk about today. If Timothy is to engage in this task of training others to train others, Timothy must be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **The Gospel ministry is not for fainthearted.**

**Be strong ...**

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

In this chapter Paul uses terms pertaining to warfare.

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4: No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

We are at war. We are engaged in spiritual warfare. Paul warns Timothy that in spiritual warfare **he will experience spiritual resistance**, especially as he seeks to transfer the truth of the Gospel to others. If our archenemy, the devil cannot keep us from becoming believers, he will seek to keep us from truly making disciples of Jesus because he knows that this will produce a spiritually dynamic church. **Timothy's greatest need as well as ours is to be empowered for life and ministry.**

**Be strong in the grace ...**

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.

In commanding Timothy to be strong, Paul is not telling Timothy to be strong in his own strength. He is not telling him to be strong in his own natural strength. **Passing on truth to the next generation is not a natural work but a supernatural work.** We are not selling vacuum cleaners; we are not selling life insurance; we are passing on eternal truths to faithful men and women who in turn will pass on to others. **Supernatural work can only be carried out by supernatural strength.** So what Paul is saying to Timothy is that he must completely rely on God's grace and strength. And that is what this verse is saying to us Church; **we must live our life and do our ministry acknowledging our desperate need of God and His grace**, which is by the way the only way to live the Christian life.

Timothy is to let the Lord's grace give him the needed strength.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Paul wants Timothy to understand that the source of strengthening comes from without that is from the grace that is in Christ.

**Brothers and sisters, if we rely on ourselves;** if we rely on our natural strength to accomplish spiritual work, **we are in trouble; we are doomed** to a work of futility at best and failure at worst.

**Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus ...**

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

**Here lies the true source of our strength.** The apostle declares that grace is available through the Lord Jesus Christ. We are **saved** by the grace of God, we are **kept** by the grace of God and we are **empowered** by the grace of God each and every day. **God's grace is made available** to all believers only **through the Lord Jesus Christ.** As Dr. Widen would say, *"It's the greatest unused resource in all the world."*

It is God's grace that strengthens us to carry on God's work especially when we just feel like giving up. But **the resource for our strength will never come from us.** We must always remember it is God's divine grace made available through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Closing Thoughts**

Let me close with three practical exhortations. Brothers and sisters, we have been entrusted an awesome responsibility and a gracious privilege to carry on the work of training others to train others. This must be carried out by daily seeking to be strengthened by grace. Seeking to be strengthened by grace must be ...

#### **1. Consciously sought for**

There must be a conscious effort. There must be a conscious deliberate effort. This is not like the act of breathing – we breathe without conscious effort. Strengthened by grace **will not come to us automatically.** It is not simply *"Let go and let God."* It is not simply sit, relax, and wait. No, **we must not be passive but we must be actively engaged in this.** Strengthened by grace must be consciously sought for.

#### **2. Constantly sought for**

To be strengthened by grace is **not an experience which we attain and then we rest.** No, we must constantly and continually be seeking to be strengthened by grace. This command to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus is to be carried out continually. There must be **persistence.** There must be endurance especially in time of affliction, opposition and desertion.

2 Timothy 2:3: Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Remember that **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble** and that **when we are weak, then and only then are we strong!**

### **3. Carefully sought for**

Not only are we to consciously and constantly seek to be strengthened by grace, lastly we carefully seek to be strengthened by grace. We must have a clearly defined way you seek for it. And God has given as the means of be strengthened by His grace. To be strengthened by grace is through loving obedience to His Word, maintaining a disciplined prayer life, and loving and living interaction with brethren.

Are you diligent in your efforts to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus? How is your Bible reading? How is your prayer life? How is your relationship with fellow church members?

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

**AMEN!**