



## **MESSAGE/SERIES:**

### **Graduation service 2020**

*“PASS THE BATON” 2 Timothy 2:1-7*

**DATE:** June 7, 2020

## **SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:**

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**2 Timothy 2:1-7**, Proverbs 20:29, 1 Corinthians 9:7, **Luke 9:61-62**, 1 Timothy 4:10, James 5:7, Hebrews 6:7

## **OPENING SCRIPTURE:**

**[2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7]**

*“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be **able to teach** others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*

***No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits**, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.*

***An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.***

*It is **the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops**. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”*

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## BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

**(v3-4) Historical context of the Soldier in Paul/Timothy's day-** “Soldiers were not even allowed to marry during their term of service (although some had unofficial concubines while they were stationed somewhere) and were to be strictly devoted to their service for over twenty years; only about half survived to retire.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 2 Ti 2:3–4.

**(v5) Historical context of Athletes in Paul/Timothy's day-** “Athletes were pledged by oath to ten months of such preparation preceding their participation in the Olympic games.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 2 Ti 2:5.

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## OUTLINE:

### **Summary:**

Strengthened by the Lord to Stand in His Grace and the God given ability to understand the need to share in suffering... are crucial in passing the Baton which is the ministry of the teaching of the Gospel of Christ to the next generation of Christian leaders...

### **A. BE COMMITTED TO PASSING ON THE BATON**

- a. (v1) “*You then, my child...*”
  - i. Paul challenges Timothy as a believer= fellow believer in Christ
  - ii. Paul challenges Timothy as a Spiritual Son to Pass the Baton= “my child”
    - 1. Paul had led Timothy to Christ and was now committed to holding Timothy accountable to Passing Along the Discipline He had learned from Paul
  
- b. (v1) *be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus...*”

- i. Paul Challenges Timothy to receive his strength from God for the task of passing the Baton
- ii. Paul challenges Timothy to be courageous because God has made him capable to disciple and prepare others
  - 1. The Holy Spirit is causative in His activity towards those He has appointed to lead others
  - 2. Through The holy Spirit we are able to equip the next generation
  - 3. **2 Corinthians 3:5-6** “Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup> who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
    - a. Timothy could not use the excuse of not being good enough--- Timothy’s sufficiency was not sourced in himself but Timothy’s sufficiency/**source was within the Spirit of God**
  - 4. We are strengthened by the outworking of grace (God’s unearned)
    - a. God determined to call and equip you and it is based on His own good will not your deserving or works

## **B. BE COMMITTED TO PASSING ON THE BATON TO THE FAITHFUL TEACHERS**

- a. (v2) *“<sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men...**”*
  - i. Paul challenges Timothy to take what was invested into Him by Paul and give it to Faithful men
    - 1. “Entrusted”- What has been put into your care and protection
      - a. **Care**= was guarded and placed carefully into your life (Timothy)
      - b. **Protection**= now to be guarded by the one you are giving the Gospel message to (the faithful men)
    - 2. “Faithful Men”- reliable, believing, trustworthy, those whom the the whole church can place trust in their handling of the word of God
      - a. Men who have shown fruit of salvation (repentant life)

- b. Men who have shown fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace)
- c. Men who have shown a love for the Lord and His ministry/mission

## C. BE COMMITTED TO PASSING ON THE BATON TO PERSISTENT SOLDIER

- a. (v3) <sup>3</sup> *Share in **suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.***
  - i. **Sharing in the Sufferings**= Partake, join in the sufferings ( an acknowledgement that sufferings will come when you sign up as a soldier of Christ
    - 1. Willful and determined service to the Lord (in spite of the known trials ahead)
    - 2. A suffering with Christ in the Already and not yet world where
      - a. The kingdom of God is present in the hearts of believers now and is gaining
      - b. The kingdom of Satan is present and overlapping the reign of Christ
        - i. Is gaining in the present eschatology (Linear timeline)
        - ii. is fading in eternity (big picture/eternal/counting down)
    - 3. Prepare these men and women for war as the faithful teacher of the word will draw fire from the enemy (guaranteed)
    - 4. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** <sup>3</sup> *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...*
      - a. The persistent soldier understands the war is against our own flesh

- b. The persistent soldier understands the war is to tear down every stronghold and argument that comes against the knowledge of God
- c. The persistent soldier understands that we are to spread the truth at all costs (As is God's desire and command/church as His means to save)

**As we are watchful for the young people the new converts those whom God has put His hand upon... Paul gives further examples as to what these faithful will look like...**

## **D. BE COMMITTED TO RECEIVE AS A SOLDIER**

Verse 4 "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him"

**-Key Phrases; Civilian pursuit, Soldier, Enlisted!**

### **E. BEING A SOLDIER;**

- a. -you must honor the fact that you're enlisted and understand the meaning of your position
- b. A soldier is not only a person who serves in an army but also a synonym for persevere!
- c. A soldier is willing to do anything to complete the mission of the one who sent him.
- d. Have you forgotten the mission you're supposed to be on?

### **F. CIVILIAN PURSUIT;**

- a. Chasing after the outside that a person of the world would chase after.
- b. A civilian is considered someone not in the army or battle, and if they are not on God's side then they must be fighting against Him.

**Romans 8:6-7 says, “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.”**

- c. When you set the mind on the flesh, you begin to become a civilian and comfort could be dangerous for a soldier.
- d. A comfort that makes you take your gear off, drop your weapon, and let your guard down (So now you don’t even pick up His word anymore or hardly ever pray!)
- e. -You’ve dropped the “sword of truth,” removed the “breastplate of righteousness” and have taken the shoes of readiness to spread the Gospel, all to run with civilians and make yourself at home in the world.
- f. Are you a civilian or a soldier?
- g. A civilian’s aim is to please the crowd called society, while a soldier in God’s aim is to please God.

**G. BE COMMITTED TO RECEIVE AS A AN ATHLETE**

- a. Verse 5 “An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”

**-Key Phrases; Crowned, competes, according to the rules**

- b. -First, he compares us to being soldiers in His army now we're athletes competing for His team. EVERYTHING WE DO SHOULD BE FOR HIM.
- c. 3 things athletes do; they train, they compete by the rules (try to), and they lead
- d. Are you training yourself to be able to sit in Heaven with Jesus Christ one day or are you in constant delay of the forever phrases “I’m not ready yet or I will when I...”
- e. Are you competing by the rules?

- f. Are you leading in the kingdom?
- g. The only way to have a shot at the championship (Heaven) is to be a part of the winning team.
- h. Know who you play for because there are “sheep in wolves clothing.” There are people wearing a “Gospel Jersey” playing for Satan.

#### H. A TEAM

- a. What really separates a team is the identity a team plays with.
- b. -IDENTITY; is What you are.
- c. Some of us have not changed who we are, we’ve just been covered up not understanding that your fruit would reveal it all
- d. On the road to Emmaus- Jesus made himself unrecognizable but the moment He broke bread his identity was revealed because you can’t hide who you truly are. He is the Bread of Life!
- e. If you're not on His team you need to make some changes, if you're not enlisted you need to make some changes.

#### I. BE COMMITTED TO RECEIVE AS A SOWER

- a. Verse 6 “It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.”  
  - Key Phrases; Hard-working, first share, ought
- b. In other words you reap what you sow. You get out what you put in.
- c. When it comes to sowing of any kind I just want you to think of this phrase “**commitment over convenience**”
- d. If you allow convenience to override your commitment to God, how can you ever sow anything?
- e. - If you're not committed when the Baton is passed to you, you may forfeit the race due to complications.

- f. The crazy thing is that some of you have been passed the Baton and have not even taken a step yet because you have yet to commit to what God has for you because what you want for you is more convenient.
- g. Commitment does not mean Convenience

Verse 7 “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

-Key Phrases; Understanding, everything, the Lord gives

- God has promised to give us everything we need; He has given us a focus/aim, instruction, and He promised to give us understanding in it all.
- I don't know how this false belief has been created -that you need a resume that impresses God- and that is the only way He will use you.

That's not true.

- What you have is enough.
- Pick up your gear!

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## [Interactive Application]

1. Where are you in the race? (circle one)
  - a. *A believer but not running yet*
  - b. *A believer and active in ministry (Running)*
  - c. *A Believer, Active, and Preparing others (Discipler)*

