



Women's R&R Bible Study 2024-2025

"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME THE JOY AND REJOICING OF MY HEART."

JEREMIAH 15:16

LIVING IN HOPE LESSON 16

Paul ends chapter one on a sorrowful note, mentioning that many in Asia have turned away from him. He commands Onesiphorus for standing with him, being unashamed of his chains. Here in chapter two Paul seems to exhort Timothy that even if everyone forsakes him and the truth, Timothy should stand strong. This is my favorite chapter in this book. Paul does a great job in using metaphors to describe a Christian and challenge Timothy to rise to the occasion. I enjoy Paul's use of words to paint us a picture that we all can understand.

Someone once said that 2 Timothy chapter two should be read weekly by every person involved in Christian ministry. It's very rich with application. I pray that this chapter gives you a better understanding of what being a Christian is all about. And don't forget that Paul is writing this from prison!

Memory Verse of the Week: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." 2 Timothy 2:22

1. Read 2 Timothy 2 in one sitting. What is your first impression of the chapter? Main point?
2. Make a list of the metaphors that you find, along with the Scripture reference.

3. Which metaphor specifically spoke to your heart as you read this chapter for the first time? Why?
4. What challenges do you find in this section?
5. What is the very first thing Paul reminds Timothy in verse one? Why?

In chapter one, Paul told Timothy that he was to hold on to the faith and guard the deposit (2 Timothy 1:13-14), but that wasn't enough. Timothy was also supposed to pass it on! He was to teach "faithful men" who would then pass it on to others. The truth went from Christ to Paul, from Paul to Timothy, from Timothy to faithful men, from faithful men to others. The truth is like a torch that we hand off from generation to generation. These faithful men are considered "stewards" of God (Titus 1:7), because God's Word and His people would be committed to their trust (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

6. Are you passing on the truth? Is His Word burning like a torch in your life, affecting all those around you? Paul tells us to be examples to all believers (1 Timothy 4:12). Are you committed to telling all your family and friends the truth?

There's so much in this chapter, it's incredible. In order to get through this lesson, we may not be able to go as in depth as we would like. Please take the time for additional study in those areas that God is speaking to you.

7. How is a "good" soldier supposed to endure hardships?
8. What do you think Paul may have learned from watching the soldiers in his prison?

9. Notice that Paul doesn't just say to be like any soldier. What can be the difference between a "good" soldier and a "bad" soldier?

10. How do we get "entangled" with the affairs of this life?

11. What is the goal of the soldier, according to verse 4?

A soldier is supposed to be "single-focused." He should have both eyes on the goal so he won't be distracted. A Christian should also have both eyes focused on the Lord, so he won't become distracted with the things of the world.

12. Is there anything that is entangling you right now? How does one get "untangled"?

13. What is Paul trying to say in verse 5?

14. What rules might an athlete be called to follow? Are there any rules Christians are supposed to be following?

15. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How do we "run to win"?

You know me. If I could, I would spend the entire lesson on the similarities between a Christian and an athlete. Don't worry, you're safe. But spend some time today meditating on all the ways we are supposed to be like an athlete. (Endurance, perseverance, diligence, commitment, loyalty, etc.) Let God speak to your heart as you continue to "train yourself in godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7).

16. Why is a farmer considered a "hard worker"? Why is Paul saying that Christian service is hard work? Do you find that to be true in your own life?

Paul says that a teacher must be faithful, a soldier must be single-focused, an athlete must play fair, and farmer must work hard. Bishop Moule describes a farmer like this: “totally devoid of excitement, remote from all glamour of peril and applause.” A farmer receives no harvest unless he works hard at his work. Paul often tells us that Christian service is hard work (1 Timothy 5:17, Colossians 1:29-2:1, 1 Timothy 4:10). Paul says that a farmer must be first to partake of his crops. A minister must first receive from God before he can give to others. He also must know the blessings of the truth before he can explain that to others. “The preacher must get great joy out of seeing planted seeds bear fruit in the lives of others. Farming is hard work, but the rewards are worth it.” (Warren Wiersbe)

In verse 7, Paul is telling Timothy to consider, think over, reflect on, or ponder what he’s saying, and the Lord will be faithful to give him understanding.

17. Why does Paul bring up Jesus Christ in verses 8-9?

18. List the ways that Jesus was the example of everything that Paul had been saying.

Paul knew that Jesus Christ and His Resurrection would be a great encouragement and example to Timothy. Paul reminds him that Jesus rose from the dead, proving His deity. He was from the seed of David, speaking of His humanity. When we are tempted to avoid pain, suffering, or hard work, we should think of Jesus, that “fragrant forget-me-not.”

19. How was Jesus a:

- A.** Faithful teacher?
- B.** A focused soldier?
- C.** An obedient and fair athlete?
- D.** A hard-working farmer?
- E.** A victorious minister?

20. What did Paul mean by the phrase, “the Word of God is not chained”?

21. Why is that such an encouragement, especially to Paul and Timothy?

22. Read the “faithful sayings” in verses 11-13. Why does Paul call it that? Rewrite this section in your own words. Which phrase is especially meaningful to you today?

In the next two sections, Paul uses three more metaphors to describe the Christian and the ministry: a diligent workman, a vessel of honor, and a gentle servant.

23. What “things” is Paul referring to in verse 14?

The phrase “rightly dividing” means “to cut straight.” It has been translated as “cutting a path or a road in a straight direction, so the traveler may go directly to his destination.” When used in ploughing terms, it can mean “dividing a straight furrow in your proclamation of truth.” (Stott) The teacher is to handle the Word of God accurately and carefully, not confusing it or falsifying it. He stays on the straight path, making it easy for others to follow.

Paul compares a good workman who has been approved with a bad workman, who has reason to be ashamed. The word “approved” means to have been tested like metal and has been found “tried and true.” They have passed the test. Those who have not been approved have failed the test and have reason to be ashamed. Paul uses Hymenaeus and Philetus as examples of this. Hymenaeus was mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:20.

24. Compare a “**good**” workman with a “**bad**” workman. What are the characteristics of each?

Good Workman

Bad Workman

25. What is an example of “striving about words to no profit,” “profane and idle babblings,” or “foolish and ignorant disputes”?

26. How should a Christian respond? (2 Timothy 2:15, 16, 21-22, 23-25)

Those who “strayed concerning the truth” believed that the resurrection had already past. These false teachers were denying any bodily resurrection to come. They believed in spiritual resurrection only. (Compare this with verses 8 and 11.)

27. What did Paul say about the resurrection of the dead? Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why is this such a central part of the Gospel?

28. Why does Paul compare false teaching with cancer? What does he mean? Have you ever been witness to this?

Paul reminds Timothy that even though man may be in error, God remains secure. Paul says that the church is the solid foundation. (1 Corinthians 3:9-17, Ephesians 2:19-22). Warren Wiersbe said, “The foundation of the house is safe and secure because God’s seal is on it.” God’s true church is made up of those who are His (John 10:14), and it is immovable. Remember that Paul said the church was the “pillar” or “support” of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15)

At that time, there was an ancient practice of engraving inscriptions on buildings to portray their purpose. (Guthrie) God’s foundation has a two-fold inscription, or seal. One is invisible, one is visible. The first is that the “Lord knows who are His,” and He will keep them safe forever. The next one is public; “let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” His life will be proof that he belongs to the Lord. Most scholars believe that this is referring to the story of the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, in Numbers 16:5, 26. A seal implies authority,

ownership, protection, and guarantee. This seal reminds of God's decree. His divine ownership and protection seal us. The seal also reminds us of man's responsibility. Those who are His will choose to depart from sin!

Paul now paints a picture of a house with many types of utensils, pots and pans, etc. He puts them in two categories.

- 29.** Describe the different kinds of vessels found in the house of God.
- 30.** What is Paul's point in verses 20-24? What does this have to do with verses 16-19 and 23-26?
- 31.** How does a vessel become sanctified and useful?
- 32.** Are you a vessel of honor? Have you allowed God to make you useful? Have you been cleansed, emptying yourself of your own will and desires? (Are you still sitting on the shelf?) How is God using you?

The Lord called Paul a "chosen vessel of Mine." (Acts 9:15) Paul also said that we have this treasure (the Gospel) in earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7). We are all vessels, of some kind.

- 33.** What kind of vessel are you? Write a description of what you would look like if you were a "vessel"?
- 34.** According to verses 22-23, what are we supposed to be pursuing? Avoiding?

The vessel in the house now becomes the servant, or slave. He is under the authority of God. He is not only called to teach, but to correct error. How he does that is an important issue.

35. How does Paul describe a servant of the Lord? Why are the characteristics he lists in verses 24-25 so important for a minister (or any Christian)?

36. Think back over the week. When you had to correct someone, did you do it in humility, gentleness, and patience?

37. What is the goal of correction?

Behind the scenes, there is always a spiritual battle. Satan is like a hunter who tries to capture, snare, or trap his game. A servant of the Lord is to try to rescue those who have been taken captive by the enemy, using the truth of God's Word. People translate verse 26 one of these three ways: (1) they are delivered from the snare of the devil who took them captive to do his will; (2) they are taken captive by God's servant to do God's will; (3) they are delivered out of the snare of the devil, who took them captive, to do God's will. I personally prefer the first interpretation.

38. Has anyone ever come alongside you to "rescue" you from the snare of the enemy? How did they do it? Did you receive it?

39. From this chapter, what are some traps that we should avoid? What are some things that we should follow?