

2 Timothy Part 2

Note:

In this teaching, the following terms are used: “new creation”, “new man” or “new self”, “Christ in You”, “holy spirit” and “gift of holy spirit”. All these terms refer to that which is received and born in a person when he or she becomes born again.

Turn to 2 Timothy 2

The context we are studying is set by 2 Timothy 2:1 and 2

- 1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,
- 2 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.

Paul is instructing Timothy how he is to conduct himself as he teaches those faithful men who are able to teach others also.

Timothy was a visionary; he was one man, one person. The work that needed to be done in the body of Christ was more than one person could do. Timothy was not directed to build an organization, or to attract followers to his side. He was directed to teach teachers who could and would teach others also.

In 2 Corinthians 4:5, Paul (by revelation) documents his practice, his example:

“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants (*slaves*) for Jesus' sake”.

A visionaries work is not about him or herself. This is not “self-service”! The visionary promotes the Lord who does the calling. He or She promotes the gospel of the grace of the living God who saved us by way of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 2:22:

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (*no hypocrisy, no hidden agendas*).

Timothy is to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, in the company of other, genuine believers.

2 Timothy 2:23

23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being **captured by him** to do **his will**.

Turn to Acts 13

2 Timothy Part 2

The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome. That does not mean that he, or she, does not stand for and speak the Truth, the opponents are corrected with gentleness. Paul taught Timothy how to do this as they traveled and worked together.

Acts 13:44

Paul and Barnabas had taught the gospel of the grace of God in the synagog at Antioch in Pisida. The people who heard his preaching begged to hear him preach again on the next sabbath.

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:47

47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Turn to Acts 19

Did Paul and Barnabas quarrel with those who opposed the gospel? Did they attempt to win the argument? Did they try to appease the religious faction? No, they parted company with them. Paul and Barnabas worked with those who God had sent them to work with. They did not get distracted, and the word of the Lord was glorified.

Acts 19:8

8 And he (*Paul*) entered the synagogue (*at Ephesus*) and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them (*not quarreling*) about the kingdom of God.

9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.

10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Turn to 2 Timothy 3

Paul did not quarrel in Ephesus either. He did not relentlessly pursue the hardhearted unbelievers in an attempt to win them over, but continued to work with those who wanted the word of the Lord. This work continued on for two more years with a great prevailing impact.

This is the example Paul provided for us as he preached the word of the Lord and walked by the spirit.

2 Timothy Part 2

2 Timothy 3:1

1 But **understand this**, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

All the days since the day of Pentecost in the 1st century are "...the last days...". We too, experience times of difficulty.

Verses 2 through 5 is the figure of speech "asyndeton" which means, "...no ands"; it is a list with no "and" which could separate each item in the list. The emphasis is on the statement which follows the list.

2 Timothy 3:2

2 (Why?) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money (*remember, the love of money is the root of all evil*), proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents (*or, their own people*), ungrateful, unholy,

3 heartless (*no natural affection*), unappeasable, slanderous (*false accusers*), without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

4 treacherous (*traitors*), reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having the **appearance** of godliness, but **denying its power**. Avoid such people.

Such people maintain an appearance of godliness which covers and hides their true character. As we will see, these people are false teachers and leader who are moving hidden agendas.

Outwardly, they appear to be godly leaders; but remember, our physical senses can be fooled and are not reliable. Appearances can be deceiving. Jesus said to his opponents in John 7:24:

24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

God has equipped us with spiritual resources so we can accurately discern such people and their activities. We are not limited to our physical senses and physical appearances, because God has equipped us so we can judge with right judgment.

Once such a person has been accurately identified, avoid that person; don't attempt to reform them!

2 Timothy 3:6

6 For among them (*the counterfeit religious leaders and teachers just mentioned*) are those who creep (*sneak, hiding their true identity and intentions*) into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

These people are exorcists, operating and exercising various devil spirits. The spirits of iniquity do the planning, deceiving spirits do the sneaking or deceiving, sensuous spirits and familiar spirits work on the various passions to lead them into error, which holds the door open for the spirits of bondage. The spirits of slumber keep them blinded so they never obtain a knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:8

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

2 Timothy Part 2

Jannes and Jambres are not mentioned anywhere else in the scriptures. They are held to be the magicians who were able to duplicate some of the plagues in Egypt. These men were exorcists as well, exercising devil spirit power to oppose Moses.

2 Timothy 3:9

9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that (*the folly*) of those two men.

Although Pharaoh's magicians were able to duplicate some of the plagues, they were not able to stop any of them. It was plain to all that their abilities were useless and unreliable.

In the next verse is another figure of speech, "asyndeton". Remember, the emphasis is on the last phrase in the list.

2 Timothy 3:10

10 You (*Timothy*), however (*in contrast to these counterfeit teachers and leaders*), have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,

11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—**which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.**

Certainly Paul had his share of difficulties and troubles from such people and the devil spirits they operated. Paul endured the persecutions and the Lord rescued him from all the difficulties. At Lystra, where a mob murdered Paul, God raised him from the dead so he could continue ministering. As Timothy continues to follow Paul's example he will endure difficulties of his own. Experiencing hardship is not a ritualistic requirement for any believer. We don't have to suffer for the Lord in order to grow spiritually or to obtain salvation. Hardship is a reality of this life. If we are to continue to walk by the spirit, serving in the body of Christ, we will have to endure hardships.

2 Timothy 3:12

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (*Paul*)

15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Carefully note what these verses DO NOT SAY! They do not say that you will be persecuted if you do something wrong, or if you don't apply the scriptures just so. They do not give instructions on how to stop the attacks from happening, or how to stop the evil people and counterfeit leaders from deceiving others. Timothy is instructed to continue in what he has learned from Paul and what he has firmly believed. He is to continue on walking by the spirit and working the word of God.

2 Timothy Part 2

2 Timothy 3:16

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Carefully note that there is no mention of religious law or commandments contained in ordinances. The revealed word of God, given by revelation is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, NOT for training in LAW. This profitable word of God is given with the purpose that the one who speaks for God (man or woman) may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Remember the context which was set in 2 Timothy 2:1, 2

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men (*and women*) who will be able to teach others also.

The every good work is in the context of entrusting the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery to faithful men and women who will be able to teach others also.

This word of God is not for figuring out how to establish a religious corporate organization, or how such an organization is supposed to work, or how the believers are to conduct themselves in such an organization. The scriptures do not exist so that a man or woman of God can figure out how to handle each and every situation they may encounter. However, it does exist so that the visionary can be equipped with the spiritual resources they need to move accurately with the power of God.

The context from 2 Timothy 2:1, 2 continues.

2 Timothy 4:1

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season (*whether it's convenient or not, accepted or not*); reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Who is to receive the preaching, reproof, correction, exhortation and teaching? The faithful men and women who will be able to teach others also, the believers and the gentiles who have not heard before.

When is the visionary to do these good works? NOW, whether it is convenient or not, as guided by the spirit of God.

Remember, these instructions are not law. We cannot read these verses and move the word by "auto-pilot". Again, in Acts, Paul provides an example of how he applied this wisdom.

Turn to Acts 16.

At the end of Acts 15, Paul decided to return to the areas where he had held forth the word of the Lord to see how the believers were doing. On their journey, Paul and Silas picked up Timothy to travel and help with their work.

2 Timothy Part 2

Acts 16:6

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

Didn't Paul say that the visionary, Timothy, was supposed preach the word whether its convenient or not, whether its accepted or not? Didn't Jesus say in Mark 16 that the apostles were to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation"? So why isn't Paul obeying these instructions? Actually, he IS obeying these scriptures! He accurately obeys the scriptures as he walks by the spirit. The revelation from the Lord indicated that they were not to speak the word in Asia, nor in Bithynia. They don't quit, but they keep moving.

Acts 16:8

8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Now, by revelation, Paul has received the guidance as to where they should go to speak the word.

Acts 16:11

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,

12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord** (not Paul) opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Turn to 2 Timothy 4.

It was very profitable for Paul, Silas and Timothy to follow the guidance they received by revelation. Its noteworthy that the vision showed a man asking for help, but the first person that received the word of the Lord was a woman. Paul did not get distracted by the imagery of the revelation, the purpose of the vision was to tell him where to go, not specifically who to speak to. He understood exactly what was being communicated to him. Paul provides a great example of a visionary moving the word of the Lord. He did not move the word of the Lord haphazardly or by guesswork.

2 Timothy Part 2

Continuing on in 2 Timothy chapter 4 – its urgent for Timothy to continue to preach and teach the word of the Lord, because:

2 Timothy 4:3

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears **they** will accumulate for **themselves** teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

5 As for you, always be sober-minded (*sound minded*), endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

The time is coming when people won't even bother to listen to the truth, but will find teachers who will tell them what they want to hear and agree with their error and doctrines of devils. As Timothy continues to follow what Paul has taught him, and his example, he will fulfill his ministry.

By the new self of the spirit, with the power of God, Paul has strengthened and prepared Timothy for what he must do to fulfill his duty of service as a visionary.

God has also strengthened Paul.

2 Timothy 4:6

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

In the temple at Jerusalem, the drink offering accompanied the burnt offering which was offered in the morning and in the evening. A burnt offering was a sacrifice that was entirely consumed by fire. The pouring out of the drink offering at the alter was the signal to the Levites to begin singing praises to God.

At the end of his days Paul is pouring out his life in service to God in the body of Christ. God continues to work in him mightily, enabling him to serve to the end.

2 Timothy 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

This is wonderful revelation to know that he has indeed fought the good fight, he has completed the race, he has kept the faith. What a comfort to Paul to know that he has fulfilled his duty of service as a visionary. Paul did not function by guesswork. He did not blindly follow the scriptures or serve by auto-pilot. Paul served by the operation of the power of God within, by the gift of holy spirit, by the new spiritual self. This is what enabled him to finish the race.

2 Timothy 4:8

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

God even reveals to Paul some information about his eternal rewards which he will receive on that Day when we are gathered together to meet the Lord in the air. All those believers who have loved his appearing will receive the crown of righteousness as well (*see Galatians 5:5,6*).

2 Timothy Part 2

2 Timothy 4:9

9 Do your best to come to me soon.

Paul does not know the exact time when he is to be executed, so he asks for Timothy to come to him and assist him.

2 Timothy 4:10

10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

12 Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

Only Luke is with Paul.

2 Timothy 4:13

13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.

16 At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!

17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

20 Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus.

21 Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.

22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

God has provided us with Paul as a wonderful example of the service of a visionary in the body of Christ. Regardless of the circumstances it's available to stay spiritually fired up. In spite of the challenges, the word of the Lord is NOT bound!

2 Timothy 2:1

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

2 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.

2 Timothy Part 2

2 Timothy 4:2

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season (*whether it's convenient or not, accepted or not*); reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

These are simple instructions for the visionary to follow as he or she serves within the body of Christ, walking by the spirit.