

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****2 TIMOTHY 2****2 Timothy 2**

After reminding Timothy of his great heritage in the faith and urging him to be faithful to the things he had been taught, and to remember those who had been encouragement to both of them, he immediately gets down to final instructions to his task at hand.

***"You, therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard me say among many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be qualified to teach others as well."*** (vv.1-2)

Paul instructs Timothy to be strong, in contrast to those who had turned away from their faith in Jesus, the Messiah. That the teachings Timothy had heard from the Apostle down through their years together to commit to faithful, reliable men who will be able to turn around and then pass on their training to others. Paul is not asking Timothy to just robotically pass on a set of teachings but rather to pass on a life of obedience. The concept of hearing in both the Old and New Testaments is not just to hear as in audibly hearing but rather listening. Hearing with a mind of obey. For if all one does is audibly hear for knowledge's sake and not obey, he is not going to be a faithful

disciple of Jesus. This is the heart of discipleship. We do not just read, study, and hear God's words to gain knowledge, but rather we do all of this in order to know God better and love Him more.

Remember the guideline for teaching and presentation I have given to you before, namely, the more complex the concept, the more numerous and vivid the illustrations that are used to concretize the concept. Illustrations are like windows into a dimly lit room, they bring in light to see. Paul presents three illustrations that Timothy and anyone would readily identify with, the Soldier, the Athlete, and the Farmer. He used the soldier to emphasize total loyalty to the King, focusing on whatever is the assignment given and not getting distracted no matter how hard the assignment might be. The Athlete, who trains to win understands that there are guidelines and rules to follow if indeed he is to be rewarded. Finally, the Farmer, understands the laws of the harvest. The soil preparation, the sowing, the watering and care, the reaping of the harvest, and being a partaker of the bounty. There is a promotion in rank waiting, a crown to be won, and a harvest to be shared. Paul ends with a prompter to Timothy's spirit, ***Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.*** (v.7)

**Prayer and Action Steps**

***Thank you, Lord for Paul's words, to Timothy to remind us that what we have received from our mentors, we are to diligently pass on to others so that they might live a life pleasing to you. Help us to learn from the lessons of the Soldier, the Athlete, and the farmer.***

***Amen***