

2Timothy 2:1-7

God's Man, Doing God's Work, God's Way, in God's Strength

Monday, May 1, 2023 ▫ Read Romans 6:12-13

Questions from the Scripture text: What must we not let do what (v12)? Where? Lest we should do what to sin? In what? What must we not present as what (v13)? To what? To Whom, instead, must we present ourselves? As being in what condition? What, specifically, are we to present to Him? As weapons for what?

In the war between sin and God, what do Christians do? Romans 6:12-13 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek meeting. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christians are to offer themselves as owing God a life-debt, with every part of who they are as a weapon for righteousness.**

Keep sin off the throne. Though we are spiritually alive in the risen Lord Jesus, we do not yet have resurrected bodies like His. We have mortal bodies. As long as we are in these bodies, we are afflicted with sin (cf. 7:24). Not only mustn't we continue in sin (cf. v1-2), but we must combat sin. It has no right to the throne of our body, so must not let it usurp that throne (v12a).

Even though we are no longer in sin or in Adam, sin is still in us, and it is constantly offering its desires to us ("its lusts" as v12b says). If you are a Christian, don't you find that to be true? Isn't sin constantly suggesting its desires to you? If you give in, if you obey these desires, then you let a horrible usurper sit on the throne of your mortal body.

Offer nothing to sin. This refusing of sin is more than a general refusal to let it be king. There is no amount of sin that is permissible while having God as King. If we even present any part of who we are to sin (v13a), it is the same as offering a weapon to an enemy. But, having counted ourselves dead to sin, let us not give it our thoughts, our desires, our tolerance, our smile, our opportunities. Give it no room. Give it no quarter. Calculate everything to suffocate it and starve it. Do not let sin reign, and do not present your members to it!

Keep God on the throne. Finally, believers have not only counted ourselves dead to sin, but we have counted ourselves as alive unto God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We owe Him a life debt. He has both created us from nothing and now redeemed us from death, so our entire life must be dedicated to Him. But this is more than just a general condition. Just as with disavowing sin, the enthronement of the rightful King is a continuous action. If we are presenting ourselves to God as our King, then we must enlist every part of who we are as weapons in the service of righteousness. This we must do, for our rightful king is the God of righteousness!

Offer everything for righteousness. So offer every moment to God for righteousness. Offer every desire. Offer your thoughts. Offer your goals. Offer your energies. Offer your time. Offer your money. All of it. These mortal bodies will soon be consumed. A glorious, resurrected body will be ours in the last day. But there will be no battle then. Let us glorify our redeemer by enlisting our entire self, for our entire life, in our King's service in the war against sin.

When have you found yourself sinning? What parts of your life could you combat this by offering it to righteousness?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and mercy to make us in Your image, and to redeem us to be Your servants and children. Forgive us for how much we still let sin usurp the throne by being negligent with one part of our life or another. Renew us by grace, and grant unto us to dedicate every aspect of who we are unto God for righteousness, by Your Spirit, through Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH446 "Be Thou My Vision"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

2nd. Timothy 2 verses 1 through 7. These are god's words. You. Therefore my son. Be strong in the grace. That is in christ, jesus. And the things that you have heard from me, Among many witnesses. Commit these to faithful men. Who will be able to teach others also.

You, therefore must Endure hardship. As a good soldier of jesus christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself. With the affairs of this life. That he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, He's not crowned unless he competes, according To the rules.

The hard working farmer. Must be first. To partake of the crops. Consider what i say? And may the lord give you understanding. In all things.

So far the reading of god's inspired and inherent word. In which the apostle is reminding. Has protegee. His son in the faith and in the ministry. That he must be god's, man. Doing god's work. In god's way. Depending upon God's grace.

Begins by saying you therefore my son. This takes us back by the word therefore. Into the end of chapter 1, where we are reminded That everyone has abandoned paul. And opposed him. Except for this. And as a forest, we'll find out by the end of the book. That also luke.

Is. Staying true to paul and john mark. Um, But, Largely speaking. The church as a whole. Has rejected. The apostle. And so when he says you, therefore my son, He's both expressing his confidence that Timothy having the faith in him. Is not going to reject paul, but consider him as a son, considers a father, but he's also warning him.

That what Tim what paul has endured timothy can expect also to endure if he is faithful in the ministry. Faithful ministers should expect from age to age in the church to be a remnant. Within the church. There are times in god's mercy and pleasure in his providence and which they're all renewals and revivals, and the godly multiply For a season.

But those are not the seasons for which the scriptures. Are preparing us. Considering the proportion of the instruction that is given. And thus far in god's work, he has not brought Such seasons. Rather, as we will hear, Um, Later. Everyone who desires to live godly in christ jesus. Will suffer.

Persecution. And therefore he says you, therefore my son. And this will be comfort to him. When he suffers. To remember that he has this. In common with his father, in the faith with his father and mentor in the ministry just as for us. Are suffering is something we have in common with christ.

If our master was hated, if our master suffered, shall we really expect To fair better. Than he did in those things. So you must be god's, man. And we know that god will have men. Because christ is building his church and the gates of hell are not Able to a stand it which means that they're always will be a remnant.

They're always will be faithful men. An apostle like paul or a minister like Timothy or we in whatever age and day we are in. Are not at liberty to say Uh, the foundations are destroyed. What can the godly do? Uh, like psalm 11 quotes, the panicking believer saying, but we must immediately say the lord sits and thrown on high.

In his holy mountain. As Psalm 11 answers that objection. And we know even more by the pouring out of the spirit, by the initiation of the age of the gospel by christ's pledge to build his church that he will always have a remnant. And so we are not to wonder if there are or will be any faithful.

We are to watch for and labor for Those who are and those who will become. Faithful. And so the apostle tells him the things you have heard from me among many witnesses. Commit these to faithful men. Who will be able to teach others? Also. There is something of an implication here probably that There are the younger men.

Who are not of the generation who have heard and now most of whom have apostatized, but that there are those who are under timothy's ministry already whom the lord will raise up in faithfulness because this is the age of the gospel. This is the age of grace. This is the age of the spirit.

This is the age of the building up of the church. And we have our hope in him who has said that he will do it. And so even when there are discouragements of generations that have turned away, We are to look for the faithfulness of god to his word as we labor among the next generation to find those who are faithful.

Knowing that they won't all be faithful, but watching for those in whom the lord is working. So that we can, especially focus up on them and disciple them. And that they may then arise. These faithful men who end of verse 2 will be able to teach others also. Some of us are the younger generation.

And we should be seeking from the lord, that we would be those With whom grace prevails. That we would be the remnant of the next generation that we would be those who as those who are obeying. Second, Timothy, 2 verse 2 are looking for the faithful ones to whom to entrust the deposit of the gospel.

The deposit of the truths of scriptures that you would be those And perhaps the lord blessing a generation. He will multiply you. Into a great multitude. But if not, if there be few That you would seek from god, that you would be one of those few. Because then you must identify the next faithful then.

And teach them. For this is how the lord will work. In his church. She wants to be god's man, and you must be doing god's work. You do not have time. To have many daydreams and infatuations with the wonderful things that you will enjoy in this world and the wonderful things that you will do in this world.

Now. The lord may give you to enjoy much and you will bless us name for all of those things. And he may give you to have influence with others and many friends, and high position and comfort and, and ease, and success. He may give you all of those things.

But you cannot be in love with those worlds. You cannot entangle yourself. But with those things, you cannot untangle yourself with going after those things. When he's talking about, Those who abended him in a couple of chapters. He's going to talk about demos. Of whom we read and other places as a faithful helper in the ministry.

And one who receives orgives greetings among the faithful. And yet here paul is at the end of his ministry and he's going to write to Timothy and say demos in love with this world. Has abandoned us. And that follows immediately after. Talking about the crown of righteousness that has laid up for those who have loved christ's appearing.

And so you must have christ's priorities in your life. You may have other earthly vocations, they're not wrong, they're not unholy. Or wicked to pursue. But your primary role in this world. Is to know christ and to make him know to participate in his church to be part of the gathering in and building up of the body of christ.

Even if you're not an Even if you're not an apostle, even if you're not a minister These are. Uh, these are the primary things. For the believer in this world to know christ in all even of your earthly vocations and to make him known. Uh, as a result of and often even in the midst of All of your.

Earthly callings. You're a soldier. You are not to treat. Your military mission as something that you squeeze in during short leave. Isn't that what he's describing here? You therefore must endure hardship. As a good soldier of jesus christ. So number one, you're a soldier. Don't expect it to be easy.

No one engaged in warfare, entangles himself, with the affairs of this life. Yeah, the soldier is not checking his stocks and doing his transactions and You know, paying attention to all of the other things that That someone who is not on mission. Is able to do. He may. Uh, there may be room within whatever.

His mission is for those things, but they are secondary. And not to entangle. Um, Hidden and keep him from his mission. So his god's man and he is to give himself to do. God's work and he has to give himself to do god's work in god's way. And also if anyone competes an athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

You cannot take a shortcut to the finish line. You cannot. Uh, fake it or cheat. There's no. Hardship, less effort less. Way. To do what God has called you to do in this world. You must take the path that the lord has assigned. Uh, which also means Um, Also means not only doing things the right way so you don't come up with what church looks like what missions looks like would evangeline looks like and certainly not what worship looks like.

But also, You do it in god, strength. So, we were a soldier, and then we were an athlete. Now, we're a farmer. In verse 6. The hard working farmer must be first to partake of the crops. You will not be able to produce many crops for others. If you say, You know what?

I've got a great idea. I'm gonna stop eating so that i have more time to make food. That's the way to get a sick dead farmer and no food for anybody. So, christ's way. That the athlete must not try and cheat or Or depart from, or consider himself wiser than the one who established the the way of running.

Christ's way is for us to be sustained by him. In the means of grace first. So that when he says you're there for my son in verse 1, he says you therefore my son be strong in the grace. That is in christ, jesus. And so you must depend upon grace.

And this depending upon grace comes. In two ways, especially Through the word. And prayer. And that's what we have in verse 7. Consider what i say? Meditate upon the apostolic words, meditate upon the words, from the holy spirit. Consider what i say? This is how we partake. Of the crop first.

Whatever it is that god has called you to do in life, cannot be done at the expense of your own spiritual well-being. You must meditate upon the word of god feed upon the grace of the lord jesus christ by the words of the lord jesus christ through his servants.

So the word first and then prayer second. We have the apostolic prayer in verse 7 and is implied. Of course that this is what Timothy is is going to pray for others who are under his ministry, but what he ought to pray also for himself. And may the lord give you understanding in all things, in other words.

Just thinking about the bible is not going to. Is not going to shape our minds to think like the bible. The lord has to graciously change the mind. So that thinking about the bible, Independence, upon the lord, who is the spirit applying it to us. Turns that thinking about the bible into a person who thinks like the bible.

And this is how. We have fellowship with christ because this is how he does things through our union with him by his life and us by his strength and us by his goodness, and us, And as he shapes our minds to think like he does so that we live according to the way he thinks and the way that he speaks we will live more and more independence upon the grace that is in christ jesus and we won't try to be strong in our own strength.

Which is just to say be strong and weakness, which is nonsense. But The continual attempt of so many of us. But we will be strong. In the grace that is in christ. Jesus. So very timely word, i think for us and Uh, really for it for Most believers and most seasons in the history of the church.

How do you live in a time? Where even those who seem to be something in the church are turning away from god, and turning away from the truth and rejecting his faithful servants. Well. You must be god's, man. Doing god's work. God's way. By god's grace. And you seek that grace and you live by that grace, especially Through the word.

And prayer. The lord give us. To do so. Does not complex. The christian life is pretty simple. It was very difficult because of remaining sin. And failure to. Behold. And to know. The lord. The triune god. And so, let us ask him. To help us. Let's pray.

Our father in heaven. We do pray for your church that you would bring A season of repentance. Revival. Reformation. And yet, oh lord, whatever you do. With your church, grant that we would be the faithful. Of this generation. And that you would use us. Not only to. Rear children, who will be faithful in the next generation?

But to be, Those who But to be those who participate. In your producing, the next generation in the church. And you're gathering in and building up. Of those whom you will keep faithful. For the generation that follows. And so we pray that you would help us not to be wise.

In our own eyes or strong. In our own strength. But that you would give us to Submit ourselves to the simple means, and way. That you have designed and instructed your church to operate. Trusting your wisdom. And that you would therefore give us to depend upon your strength by your word to depend upon your strength by prayer.

To look to you.

To look to you. To shape our hearts and minds. So that we not only think about your word. But that we would come to be those who think like your word Granted, we ask in jesus name, Amen.