Nurturing God’s Family

Planting, Establishing, and Leading Local Churches

Practical Principles from The Pastoral Letters

"Enduring the Flame, Passing the Torch"

2 Timothy 2:1-13

This passage is as closely packed and intense as any in Paul’s letters. He is making every word, every phrase count,

impressing upon young Timothy both his duties and the realities of ministry, including suffering. This section is central in

understanding the whole book, sum-

marizing what a leader’s motives should be as well as the perspectives necessary to raising up the next generation of church

leaders.

What are Paul’s key points?

✓ Resource: Leaders are strengthened by relying upon God’s grace in fulfilling their ministries in partnership with

others. v. 1

✓ Task: Leaders fulfill their ministries as they build God’s word into faithful men who will likewise teach others. v.

2

✓ Challenge: Leaders will suffer in ministry, and therefore must be single-minded, disciplined, hard-working, and

serious. vv. 3-7

✓ Model: Leaders must pattern their ministries after Jesus, who suffered for His people, knowing that glory will

attend all who identify with Him in doing likewise. vv. 8-13

What is the Big Idea?

A church is sustained by leaders who, relying on God’s grace, dedicate themselves to training others to teach the next

generations, following Jesus in embracing suffering for God’s glory in saving His people.

How do we apply these principles?

1. Do we take grace for granted? We are so used

to "grace" that we may miss its necessity and reality in

everyday life. What are the implications of Paul telling Timothy to be "strengthened by the grace that is in Christ

Jesus"? What are some other "resources" for strength? That is, where do we turn for strength when we don’t look

to His grace? Ephesians 1:3-14

2. Do we outsource discipleship? Before following Jesus became "Christianity" and all of its institutions,

churches were training centers for leaders, pastors, and teachers. Why aren’t they now? Why do we assume that

Bible colleges and seminaries should do all of the training for men in ministry? What are some advantages to

church-based training? How can these institutions partner with local churches in mutually beneficial, meaningful

ways?

3. What about these three images? Paul uses the analogies of soldiering, farming, and athletic competition

in helping Timothy to relate to his tasks. List at least two implications of each of these pictures for leaders and

would-be leaders.

4. God’s Sovereignty or Man’s Responsibility?

We tend to make these mutually exclusive categories, but

Paul works hard so that "the elect" might be saved! Why is

it so important to believe and apply BOTH? And how do God’s CERTAIN glory and plan motivate us to be faithful

and responsible?

Lownes Free Church Bible Study Notes

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Next: Staying On Task 2 Timothy 2:14-26