

# Gleanings of Grace

## 2 Timothy 2

### Lesson 16

The second letter to Timothy was written during Paul's second Roman imprisonment which would end with Paul's martyrdom. As he penned his last words to Timothy, Paul *reminded* Timothy of his calling both as a pastor and a believer. He called him to perseverance in the gospel in spite of resistance and suffering. Chapter 2 both challenges and encourages all believers - *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. There can be no perseverance in the face of resistance and suffering without it.

#### OBSERVATION: Read 2 Timothy 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus* and *God*, the Father.  
Key Words: *Jesus*, *God*, and *if*
3. 2 Timothy 2 contains many contrasts and conclusions. The contrasting words *but* and *nevertheless* are used 8 times. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. Paul used the term of conclusion *therefore* four times in this chapter. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what it is based upon.

**Background:**

1. Throughout this second letter to Timothy, Paul expressed his loneliness while in Roman chains. What do each of the following Scriptures reveal about those who had ministered with Paul?

**2 Timothy 1:4**

**2 Timothy 1:15**

**2 Timothy 1:16-18**

**2 Timothy 4:9**

**2 Timothy 4:11**

**2 Timothy 4:13**

**2 Timothy 4:16**

**2 Timothy 4:21**

Challenge: Identify some of the men mentioned in this letter.

- a. What do you think it was like for Paul during these days of prison captivity?

2. As Paul wrote his final instructions to Timothy, record what was important to him (note: we will cover chapter 2 after this section:

**2 Timothy 1:6**

**2 Timothy 1:8**

**2 Timothy 1:13**

**2 Timothy 3:14**

**2 Timothy 4:2**

**2 Timothy 4:5**

- a. Consider these instructions as they would personally apply to you. In what ways do they challenge you?

## Read 2 Timothy 2:1-6 – The Soldier, the Runner, and the Farmer

1. Paul gave Timothy many instructions in this letter. What did he write in 2 Timothy 2:1?
  - a. Peter had similar words for the church in 2 Peter 3:18. What were they?
    - 1.) Define *grace*.
  - b. What do you think it means to *be strong* and *grow in grace*?
2. Paul instructed Timothy to *commit the things* he had *heard from me among many witnesses*. What do you consider the most important things to *commit* to those you want to be most effective for the Lord?
3. 2 Timothy 2:3,4 compares our Christian lives to that of a *soldier*. What do they say?
  - a. What kind of *warfare* might a Christian in the United States face?
  - b. In what ways might *entangling* ourselves *with the affairs of this life*, hinder our ability to successfully fight?
    - 1.) Ponder something you have chosen that has hindered you in your *fight* of faith. What have you learned?
4. 2 Timothy 2:5 compares our Christian lives to that of an athlete. What does it say?
  - a. How might you use this verse to speak to someone who claims there are many ways to God or they can live as they please?
5. 2 Timothy 2:6 compares our Christian lives to that of a *farmer*. What does it say?
  - a. Spiritually speaking, a possible meaning of this verse could be: those who teach must first “eat”. Why is this an important reminder?

## Read 2 Timothy 2:7-13 - If...

1. Consider the words of 2 Timothy 2:7. You can probably remember times when you have not *understood* God's Word. What advice would you give someone who is struggling in that area?
2. In verse 8, Paul *reminded* Timothy to always keep the facts of this verse as top priority in his teaching. What did he say is important?
  - a. What is the significance of *Jesus Christ* being *raised from the dead* to you?
3. Paul was *in chains*. *But the word of God is not chained*. What do you think Paul meant by this statement?
  - a. Add to you understanding by summarizing Paul's words in Philippians 1:12-14.
    - 1.) Why is it important to remember this when you find yourself in a place where you just can't see the purpose?

3. 2 Timothy 2:11-13 begins with the words, *This is a faithful saying*. Using these verses, complete the chart:

If...	We know...

- a. In what ways are you personally encouraged by these verses?

## Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19 - Be Diligent

1. Paul used the word *remember* in verse 8; here he used the word *remind*. Notice that in his last days, Paul did not attempt to teach anything new. Read some of the last words of Peter in 2 Peter 1:12-15. Summarize what was important to Peter.

- a. Notice that one of the purposes of *reminding* is to *stir up*. Sometimes we have the attitude that only something new can *stir* us. Share one example of a time you were *reminded* of something you already knew from God's word that *stirred* you.
2. In 2 Timothy 2:15-16, Paul *reminded* Timothy to *be diligent* in his execution of several responsibilities. Define the word *diligent*.
    - a. Reflect upon each one and record what they are *reminding* you personally to do.
 

*present yourself approved to God*

*a worker who does not need to be ashamed*

*rightly dividing the word of truth*

*shun profane and idle babblings*

      - 1.) How can *profane and idle babblings* increase to more ungodliness and spread like cancer (verses 16,17)?
  3. The message of Hymenaeus and Philetus was an example of a *message that spread like cancer*. What was their message?
    - a. What was the effect of *their message*?
      - 1.) In what *ways* does false teaching *overthrow the faith of some*?
        - a.) Share an example of how a Christian can be detracted by *profane and idle babblings*.
  4. Note the glorious word that begins 2 Timothy 2:19. What is it?
    - a. What *solid foundation of God stands*?
    - b. We may not be able to know who belongs to the Lord and who does not. But God is not sitting in heaven wondering who belongs to Him. What are some evidences in your life, that confirm to you that *you are His*?
      - 1.) Why do you think that God does not want us to wonder or worry about whether or not we are saved?

c. Using the last phrase of 2 Timothy 2:19, what is *everyone who names the name of Christ* to do?

1.) Carefully write the words of Proverbs 3:7.

a.) What advice would you give to someone who felt unable or unwilling to obey those words?

### **Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26 – Vessels of Honor**

1. Paul just used the picture of God's building (*the solid foundation of God stands*). Now he thinks of that building as a great house that has a variety of *vessels* in it – bowls, plates, vases, and other such things. Paul is speaking of the house of God which contains those who "profess" to be Christians on this earth. What does Paul say about the *vessels*?

2. 2 Timothy 2:21-23 contain the words *cleanses*, *flee*, and *avoid*. What actions did he associate with these words?

a. In contrast, what are we to *pursue*?

1.) What is it like to *call on the Lord out of a pure heart*?

3. Paul closed this chapter revealing his concern for those who *are in opposition*. What behaviors did Paul encourage?

a. According to 2 Timothy 2:25,26, what was Paul's desire?

b. Describe your perspective of the *snare of the devil*.

### **REVIEW: Read 2 Timothy 2**

1. Share one thing you have gleaned from 2 Timothy 2.

*For not he who commends himself is approved,  
but whom the Lord commends.*

*- 2 Corinthians 10:18*

# Observation Worksheet

## 2 Timothy 2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. <sup>5</sup> And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. <sup>8</sup> Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. <sup>12</sup> If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. <sup>13</sup> If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. <sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup> And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, <sup>18</sup> who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." <sup>20</sup> But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. <sup>21</sup> Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup> Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. <sup>24</sup> And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, <sup>26</sup> and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.