



Remember the purpose of studying scripture together in community is much more than simply the gaining or sharing of knowledge about God. We read, study and discuss not just for information, but for formation. Our goal is to meet with Him and become more like him as we engage with His Word.

As you unpack scripture together we encourage you to:

1. Pray for God to be at work as you open the Word.
2. Read the passage aloud together.
3. Discuss:
  - a. Ask if anyone would like to bring up a theme or has a question that immediately comes to mind... see where the conversation goes.
  - b. You may like to explore some of the prepared commentaries/discussion questions too.
4. Is there something that the Holy Spirit is prompting me in? Share this with the group.
5. Pray for God to transform your heart and mind in his ways.

### **2 Timothy 2:1-13 (NIV)**

**2** You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. **3** Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. **5** Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. **6** The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. **7** Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

**8** Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, **9** for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. **10** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

**11** Here is a trustworthy saying:

*If we died with him,  
we will also live with him;*

<sup>12</sup> *if we endure,  
we will also reign with him.  
If we disown him,  
he will also disown us;  
<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless,  
he remains faithful,  
for he cannot disown himself.*

### **From Dwayne's Message:**

- God is calling us to build His kingdom in this world. This requires effort, even sacrifice on our part.
- Invariably, advancing God's kingdom involves opposing an adversary, the kingdom of darkness.
- If there is an enemy kingdom, then we must expect we will experience opposition in this world.

**Verse 1: Be strong in Grace** – (Don't do it in your own strength, you won't be able to).

**Verse 2: Find faithful people** – (Pass it on to others).

**Verse 3: Suffer hardship with me** – (Following Jesus will involve hardships).

### **3 Examples: Soldier, Athlete and Farmer – Key Characteristics...**

- Hard worker, Persevering, Faithful, Self-disciplined, Sacrificial, Self-denial

### **Summary:**

- Let's be a people who join with Jesus to build His kingdom
- Let's transition from being spectators to becoming participants in building the Kingdom.
- Let's be willing to pay the price, to get out of our comfort zone, even to suffer so that God's name may be glorified through our lives.

### **An Additional Comment from Ben Witherington:<sup>1</sup>**

*The structure of this part of the discourse is set up by three imperatives (2 Tim 1:3, 7, 8), to which is appended supporting material—examples, maxims and the like. "Thus the appeal to Timothy is buttressed by the use of general principles, by appeal to the example of Christ and to the suffering of Paul himself, and by a trustworthy saying about the need for union with Christ in*

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<sup>1</sup> Ben Witherington, Letters and Homilies Series Volume 1, (IVP Academic, 2010).

suffering. The motif of readiness for suffering and the consequent need for perseverance thus runs through the section and dominates it."

### Theological Insight from Hutson:<sup>2</sup>

#### *On Cultivating Leadership*

*A leader should cultivate other leaders. If you think of yourself as indispensable, you may cut off the creative energy that will keep the group going in the next generation. When a community is strong, a key leader—even you—may be removed unexpectedly, and the community will move forward because other leaders are functioning. As a Christian leader, you should seek "trustworthy people" to whom you commit the tenets of the faith.*

### Discussion

1. What does it mean to be "strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (v.1), and how can we rely on God's grace instead of our own strength in daily life? In what areas do you find yourself trying to serve God in your own strength?
2. Paul uses the examples of a soldier, athlete, and farmer to describe the Christian life. Which of these images speaks most to you, and why? How do these examples challenge your current walk with Christ?
3. Verses 11–13 speak of dying with Christ, enduring with Him, and His unwavering faithfulness. How do these truths encourage you when facing opposition or discouragement in your faith?
4. Dwayne said that building God's Kingdom will involve effort, sacrifice, and opposition. What "civilian affairs" (v.4) might be distracting you from fully engaging in the mission God has for you?
5. What would it look like for you personally to move from being a "spectator" to a "participant" in building God's Kingdom? Is the Holy Spirit prompting you in anything as you chat through with others? What step can you take this week toward that?

Remember to pray for each other:

***Jesus, strengthen us by Your grace, as we seek to be faithful witnesses for you. May we endure hardship as good soldiers of Christ, never entangled by the things of this world. Let Your Word remain alive in us, unchained and powerful, bringing salvation to those You have called. Thank you that You remain faithful, even when we falter, and thank you for the promise and future hope of glory that we have in you. Amen.***

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<sup>2</sup> Hutson et al., *First and Second Timothy and Titus* (Baker Academic, 2019).