

FIRST BAPTIST **ROGERS**

valiantwarrior

A CALL TO COURAGE

2 TIMOTHY STUDY

introduction

TO VALIANT WARRIORS

In the Old Testament, certain groups of men were noted as “valiant warriors” or “men of valor.” These men displayed courage and determination in battle. King David had his “mighty men.” These men proved themselves to be trustworthy in battlefield situations. These brave warriors were not limited to one tribe or people group. They were only limited by their courage and determination.

Valiant means possessing or showing courage or determination. Obviously, a warrior is one who is engaged in a war. A war has been underway since the Garden of Eden. The kingdom of God has been under assault by the kingdom of darkness. Satan’s temptation to Adam and Eve that led to their sin resulting in the Fall of all mankind was the declaration of war against God’s kingdom.

Biblical manhood and masculinity was also attacked in the garden on that day. Adam had been created first, given dominion over the earth and even named his wife. Satan did not initially go to Adam but to his wife, Eve with the temptation. It is understood that Adam was most certainly right there while his wife was being tempted. Adam abdicated his leadership responsibility in protecting his wife. He then followed her into the same sin that she had committed. Since then, God’s people have battled against the kingdom of sin and darkness. But also, men have battled for biblical manhood and masculinity.

Men are at their best when they are valiant warriors, battling for the kingdom of God and rescuing the disadvantaged in the name of the King. Robert Lewis subtitled “Men’s Fraternity,” A Quest for Authentic Manhood. Valiant Warriors hopes to be another leg in the race or step in the journey in this quest. David challenged his son, Solomon in 2 Kings 2:2-4, “I am going the way of



all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’”

We hope to show men how to be men, valiant warriors through this study. We believe that the key to men being transformed is first by the Word of God. Another key is men in small groups for discussion, prayer, accountability and encouragement. As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. It is out of that desire and vision that we have embraced the following guidestones.

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Valiant Warrior Mission

To disciple men to follow Christ and to live and lead in their homes, churches, and communities for God’s glory.

Valiant Warrior Vision

To see an army of men devoted to Christ leading their families and this church to serve Christ and bring Him glory until Jesus returns.

Valiant Warrior Strategy

To disciple men in small groups to lead their families and their church to serve Christ and bring Him glory until Jesus returns.

Valiant Warrior Promise

Judges 6:12 “The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior.”

Valiant Warrior Code of Honor

To grow in Christlikeness personally. To be committed to my family and Christ’s church. To intentionally encourage other men in Christlikeness and commitment to the church.

Valiant Warrior Scripture References

2 Chronicles 14:8 "Now Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors."

Deuteronomy 3:18 "Then I commanded you at that time, saying, 'The Lord your God has given you this land to possess it; all you valiant men shall cross over armed before your brothers, the sons of Israel.'"

Joshua 1:14 "Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them."

Joshua 8:3 "So Joshua rose with all the people of war to go up to Ai; and Joshua chose 30,000 men, valiant warriors, and sent them out at night."

Joshua 10:7 "So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant warriors."

Judges 6:12 "The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.'"

Judges 11:1 "Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior..."

Judges 18:2 "So the sons of Dan sent from their family five men out of their whole number, valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it;"

1 Samuel 10:26 "Saul also went to his house at Gibeah; and the valiant men whose hearts God had touched went with him."

1 Samuel 14:52 "Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any mighty man or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff."

1 Samuel 18:17 "Then Saul said to David, 'Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight the Lord's battles.'"

1 Samuel 31:12 "All the valiant men rose and walked all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there."

2 Samuel 2:7 "Now therefore, let your hands be strong and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

2 Samuel 17:10 "And even the one who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will completely lose heart; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and those who are with him are valiant men."

1 Chronicles 28:1 "Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the commanders of the divisions that served the king, and the commanders of thousands, and the commanders of hundreds, and the overseers of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, with the officials and the mighty men, even all the valiant men."

2 Chronicles 13:3 "Abijah began the battle with an army of valiant warriors, 400,000 chosen men, while Jeroboam drew up in battle formation against him with 800,000 chosen men who were valiant warriors."

VALIANT WARRIOR

A CALL TO COURAGE: A STUDY OF 2 TIMOTHY

Paul's second letter to Timothy would be his last known letter recorded in Scripture. Paul had completed his three missionary journeys, written twelve of his thirteen epistles, and had been released from Roman house arrest only to be captured later and brought back this time to a Roman dungeon prison. He is writing from a place of persecution and physical pain. He is also writing from a perspective of a full life that had accomplished much. These are his closing remarks and in some ways a summary of all his writings and experiences.

This book has always been one of my favorite books. It is a book for men especially. It is a book for strong and courageous men. It is like the book of Joshua ("Be strong and courageous...") in the New Testament. It is also filled with imperative verbs which are simply commands. Most men just want to know what to do. This book is simple. It is tough. It is clear. It calls for courageous men. It calls for Valiant Warriors. Weak, passive men will not cut it spiritually in the day we live with the kingdom assignment God has given to His men.

I pray you will be challenged and energized and courageous to be the man God calls you to be.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous... Joshua 1:9

The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior. Judges 6:12

Valiant Warrior Studies

- Semester 1: Spiritual Armor
- Semester 2: Biblical Leadership: A Study of Moses
- Semester 3: A Vision Plan
- Semester 4: A Man After God's Heart: A Study of David
- Semester 5: Engaging the Culture: A Study of Daniel
- Semester 6: Restored: A Study of Nehemiah
- Semester 7: A Man of Courageous Vision: A Study of Joshua
- Semester 8: Providence and the Higher Purpose: A Study of Joseph
- Semester 9: Men in the Hands of God: Six Men God Used
- Semester 10: The Man who God Blesses
- Semester 11: Flawed, Faithful, and Fruitful: A Study of Simon Peter
- Semester 12: Spiritual Armor (Revised)
- Semester 13: Abraham: A Man of Faith
- Semester 14: Spiritual Boot Camp
- Semester 15: A Call to Courage: A Study of 2 Timothy

week one

UNASHAMED

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18

VALIANT WARRIOR

A CALL TO COURAGE

Have you ever received an important phone call? Has there ever been an important letter of notification that kept you running to the mailbox every day? Maybe an email or text reply that causes you to keep looking at your phone or your inbox?

This Valiant Warrior study is about hearing and obeying the voice of God. The last book written by the apostle Paul was written to his young protégé in the faith. For Star Wars fans, this was Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi mentoring young Skywalker.

These last words of instruction were preparing Timothy for hearing and following the voice of God in pastoring and shepherding and leading the church at Ephesus. It would not be long until Paul would be off the scene. These are his last words to someone he cared a lot about on the subject matter he cared a lot about.

We are framing this first chapter in terms of God's calling to be unashamed. We are called to be unashamed of Jesus Christ, our calling to follow Him, His teaching, and His Gospel. This calling was particular to Paul and to Timothy. But it is also specific to all believers in some ways including Valiant Warriors.

Valiant Warriors are called to courage and in that calling is a call to be unashamed. We will make a summary statement after many sections, "Don't be ashamed of..."

In God's calling to courage, and in this chapter's calling to be unashamed, are several things we need to do as Valiant Warriors that lead to having this unashamed courage.

God's calling to Valiant Warriors is a personal call to prayerful and joyful gratitude. 1-2

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

His call is to us individually.

The salutation is personal to Paul and to Timothy.

Paul is an apostle with a special authority to speak for and act on behalf of God unlike "sent ones" do today. He had apostolic authority. It was not by his education, work, or skill, but it was by the will of God. The sovereign choice and pleasure of God within His grace was displayed in saving and calling Paul. This divine calling within the will of God was according to the promise of life in Christ. The preposition "according" (kata) points to the direction or intention of his apostolic appointment and calling. The promise of life in Christ is the content of his message and the purpose of his ministry. This also reflects that "life," true life is only found and expressed and experienced in Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

The recipient of this letter was Timothy, the young pastor at the church in Ephesus. He was also considered here as Paul's beloved son where in 1 Timothy, he was called his son in the faith.

He is calling you personally.

His call is to gratitude. 3

I thank God,...

Paul begins his final letter with gratitude in his heart. This epistle is reflective as well as instructive.

Whether Paul recognized this as his last inspired writing could be debated, but it does appear he had some sense of it in how he closes with 4:6-8. Godly people are grateful people. That is the reason we love the expression, "God is good all the time," or the song that has the line "God has been so, so good to me." The song "Goodness of God" that expresses "I live and sing in the goodness of God."

This God is Who Paul has served with a clear conscience the way his forefathers did. This speaks of the faithfulness of God transforming Paul from a persecutor to a faithful servant.

His call is to prayer. 3

...as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

Paul is in a constant state of prayer for Timothy. He prays for Timothy because he is his beloved son. We pray for those who we love. He wants to see him (longing). He longs to see him. He misses him. He thinks about him (I recall) and is concerned about him (your tears).

He prays for Timothy because he is doing an important work (son in the faith). He prays for Timothy because he is doing a difficult work. He prays for Timothy because he is doing something close to the heart of Paul, something he cares about.

His call is to joy. 4

...so that I may be filled with joy.

Timothy is doing what is dear to the heart of Paul, so Timothy's success will bring joy to Paul's heart. He will have joy because of the success of his son in the faith. He will have joy because of the fruit and eternal results rendered by Timothy's faithful service. So, Paul prays for all these reasons and so many more. The purpose or result of his prayer is to be filled with joy. God's plan and presence and power is filled with joy. "In Your presence is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11); "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10); "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice" (Phil. 4:4); "So that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11).

Do not be ashamed of joyful, grateful prayer.

Discussion Questions: What are some of the results of grateful prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)? What are some other verses of Scripture that speak of praying with gratitude or having gratitude? Why is it important to sense a calling according to the "will" of God as Paul expresses in verse 1?

God's calling to Valiant Warriors is thoughtful. 5

For I am mindful...

He reminds Timothy to remember his roots from the faith of his mother and grandmother. Remember where you came from. Remember those who laid a foundation for you. Remember those who prayed for you and taught you and gave you opportunities. Remember those who were proud of you and pulled for you and helped you. Be a thinking person. Be self-aware.

Do not be ashamed of your spiritual heritage.

Discussion Questions: How can we be a thinking and thoughtful Christian man? What does that mean? Who laid a foundation of “sincere faith” in your life (1:5)? How are you passing that spiritual heritage to others?

God’s calling to Valiant Warriors is to renew spiritual giftedness. 6

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

He reminds Timothy to remember to fan the flame of his calling and his giftedness. This gift does not come from man or education or hard work. It is the gift of God. He is to rekindle, refresh and revisit this giftedness. It is not that Timothy was about to lose his gift, but that it certainly would be draining to serve and that a continuous fanning of the flame is necessary. The word for gift is charisma in the Greek. In particular, it was a giftedness received from the laying on of Paul’s hands. Some consider this a supernatural endowment of power for the work to which he had been called. Paul certainly carried an apostolic authority is not present today in the same way. I do not believe Paul was not teaching an ongoing principle that people today have some kind of power to bestow upon others. Rather, there was an outward affirmation and even participation by Paul’s laying on of hands in the administration of this giftedness. Paul knew Timothy had this gift within him. He was appealing to Timothy and affirming him in this giftedness. Paul was expressing his leadership and responsibility for his son in the faith. He was cheering him on while holding him responsible at the same time.

I heard Erwin Lutzer use this what if story. What if you were given \$1,440 every day, but at the end of the day, your account went back to zero? In other words, if you did not spend it, you would lose it. There was no accumulating balance. Most of us would be highly motivated to spend that money every day. We all have been given 1,440 minutes every day to spend, then a new day starts. I think we can also apply that to our spiritual giftedness. We have today to spend or use our spiritual giftedness and then the day is over. Every day we do not use what God has given us is a wasted day.

Do not be ashamed of your spiritual giftedness and calling.

Discussion Questions: What are your spiritual gifts? Are you exercising your spiritual giftedness? How are you exercising your spiritual giftedness? What daily habits can help you “kindle afresh” (fan into flame) the gift of God when you feel spiritually drained (1:6)?

God’s calling to Valiant Warriors is to power, love, and discipline. 7

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

He reminds Timothy of the spirit he has and the spirit God has not given him. There is some discussion whether the “spirit” is his human spirit and attitude and confidence. The choice of “spirit” with a lowercase in most modern translations indicates that many modern translators consider this the case. The case for the Holy Spirit seems to be equally valid. If we consider the “charismata” gift that Paul appeals to is certainly a spiritual gift. The Holy Spirit is considered a Gift who gives gifts, spiritual gifts. God has given us this Gift. We do not earn it or develop this Gift. We know the sign of the Holy Spirit of believers in the book of Acts is that they spoke the Word of God with boldness. So, God not giving a spirit of fear or “timidity” affirms this trait of Spirit-filled believers. Also, considering what God has given us in power and love and discipline is easily attributed to an enabling and gifting of the Holy Spirit.

Do not be ashamed of showing courage for Christ.

Discussion Questions: In what settings are you most tempted to feel timid or ashamed of the gospel, and how does 1:7 help combat that fear? Remind yourself of Joshua 1:1-10. What is the primary and repeated command of the Lord to Joshua and the Israelites in these verses? Discuss the statement: You lead by fear or faith.

These words precede an invitation and warning about joining Paul in suffering for the cause of Christ in 1:8-12. So, Timothy will need the power of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate love and discipline in the midst of the certain coming suffering.

Attention can be given to developing the power required to love in the last days and to live a spiritually disciplined life in the last days.

2 Timothy 1:8-18 reflects a theme of unashamed suffering. So, God is calling Valiant Warriors to "unashamed suffering."

("Don't be ashamed" (8), "I am not ashamed" (12), "Onesiphorus is not ashamed of my chains" (16), "Join in suffering" (8), "I also suffer" (12))

No matter how gifted a person may be, or how well trained, biblically literate, astute, or articulate, and no matter how much opportunity or privilege he may have, if he lacks spiritual courage and commitment, he will not speak and act effectively for the Lord. (John MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy, 11)

The heart of the message or greater calling to Timothy, the young pastor, is a call for him to have an uncompromising, unflinching commitment to proclaim Jesus Christ regardless of difficulty or danger (Romans 1:16). Unfortunately, we like possibly Timothy and certainly Peter, have been guilty of not showing courage and confidence in the gospel in certain settings. The encouraging thing is we can be forgiven of this sin of being ashamed of the Lord just like Peter. We can return to fellowship and faithful and powerful service just like Peter.

On a recent trip to Prague, some of us saw the statue of John Hus. In 1415, John Hus was burned at the stake for preaching the true gospel. As the flames engulfed his body, he quoted Psalm 25:2 praying "O my God, in Thee I trust, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies exult over me." He was not afraid of dying, only of being ashamed of Christ.

God calls Valiant Warriors to embrace the powerful work of suffering. 8

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

Remember the setting in 66AD when Nero was ruler. He had torched Rome himself then blamed the Christians for doing it. It was a time of severe persecution for followers of Jesus.

Verse 8 begins with a call to not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord. The word for testimony is martyrion where we get our word martyr. The word testimony in the Old Testament is synonymous with the Word of God itself. Paul is making an appeal that is consistent with his entire writing. Do not be ashamed of the Lord, His Word, His gospel, or His people. He completes his thought with "or me His prisoner." Do not be ashamed of me, my message, or my location in prison.

The imperative verb in verse 8 is "join with me in suffering here" (imperative συγκακοπάθησον). Timothy, like us, can identify with Paul in suffering. Even more importantly is that we identify with the Lord in

suffering. The Bible tells us we are to share in His suffering and that we know Him in the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10). The reason for suffering is *"for the gospel."* So, we are not ashamed and suffer together of the testimony of the Lord, of Paul and his ministry, and the gospel.

The means of suffering is *"according to the power of God."* God gives us power to be His witnesses (marturion) in Acts 1:8. In verses 9-11, Paul makes a parenthetical statement describing the providential work of God.

Do not be ashamed to suffer for Christ.

Discussion Questions: Who are some people that you know current and ancient who have suffered for the cause of Christ? What are some common threads among those who suffer? What are some ways that you (we) could be called to suffer today?

God calls Valiant Warriors to embrace the providential work of salvation. 9-11

...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

God saved us and called us. While these are two separate participles, they are connected grammatically and theologically. The saved are called and the called are saved. The prepositional phrases that follow certainly modify both the participles. The lexical connection with *"called us to a holy calling"* does "call" for a close connection to that verb in particular. It is appropriate to consider God is calling those He saves to a holy calling.

This is a powerful progression describing a believer's calling. First, it is a holy calling. Holy means to set apart. So, it is a setting apart. Then we are told what it is not. It is not a calling according to works. He does not call the worthy. He calls, saves, and converts the unworthy sinner. It is according to His own purpose. Salvation is the purpose of God. His calling is the purpose of God. This calling is also according to His grace. Again, grace is His purpose.

Grace is further described in exalted terms. The phrase *"which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity"* is a powerful statement. The fact it was granted magnifies that it is a gift, unearned and undeserved. It is in a passive voice which further demonstrates this is done by someone else. Paul is identifying with all believers when he says "us." The realm or location of this grace that is granted is the sphere *"in Christ Jesus."* Those who are in Him are the grace-recipients. Christ is the mediator of our salvation. On the other hand, those outside of Him are not the recipients of grace.

This grace was granted *"from all eternity."* God's plan of grace was not conceived as a response to man's need or sinful condition. It was the predetermined will, plan, and pleasure of God. God is not making up His plan as He sees what we are doing. What was held in eternity past is now being revealed at the appearing of Jesus Christ. The revealing is done by God. The gospel and the message of God is called a mystery in some places. It is a mystery that is being revealed.

"Our Savior Christ Jesus" abolished death and brought life and immortality through the gospel. This statement puts a bookend with *"the gospel"* on that in verse 8 we suffer with Paul for and in verses 10-11 that he was appointed a preacher, apostle and teacher.

Do not be ashamed of the biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions: Thinking about Peter's three-time denial of Jesus, what are some reasons or circumstances men deny Jesus in today's culture at work, recreation, kids sports, and activities, and professional development? How do verses 9-11 parallel Romans 1:16-17? Why is it important to never grow weary sharing the message of the gospel for your sake and the sake of others and even for Christ's sake?

God calls Valiant Warriors to express the personal work of security. 12

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Verse 12 reiterates the themes of suffering unashamed. He then gives the reason why he can suffer unashamed. Paul uses three perfect verbs consecutively. The perfect tense means the action of the verb is past action with ongoing results. It is a powerful tense, especially in matters of salvation and grace. The first perfect verb is "I know." Knowing is very important. Who you know is most important, but what you know is vitally important. It was not that he knew this person for a moment in time. He has known and continues to know.

The second verb "I have believed." Paul did not just believe for a moment in time. He kept believing and was still believing. The third verb is convinced or persuaded. Paired with the first-person pronoun, this is personal for Paul. This is his personal testimony. Where earlier, verses 9-11 were providential in its thrust, this section is personal to Paul. Next, we see the content of what he knows, believes, and is convinced. He is confident in God's ability to keep and guard what Paul has entrusted to Him until that day. That day is the last day or the second coming of Christ. What is it that Paul has entrusted to Christ? His eternity and everything else.

Do not be ashamed of trusting Jesus with everything in your life.

Discussion Questions: What are some things Valiant Warriors "entrust to Him (Jesus) until that day?" Do I really trust God with (you fill in the blank here)? Do I believe God can guard whatever I entrust to Him?

God calls Valiant Warriors to engage in the preserving work of responsibility. 13-14

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

The providential work of God is calling and saving us. The personal work for us is believing "I know who I have believed" and retaining and guarding. This section is concluded with two imperatives (retain and guard) and several observations.

Retain the standard of sound words.

Guard...the treasure.

You guard the treasure by the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. Earlier Paul said God is able to keep what Paul has "entrusted" to God. Here Paul is telling Timothy to guard the treasure that was entrusted to Timothy. So, we first have the providential sovereignty of God in calling and saving. Now we

have the personal responsibility of believing, preserving, and guarding the treasure we have received by grace.

Do not be ashamed of guarding your speech and your treasure in Christ.

He closes using Onesiphorus as a good example who was not ashamed. Paul prays for God to grant mercy to this man.

Discussion Questions: What treasure have you been entrusted with by God?

God calls Valiant Warriors to enter into the discerning work of reliability. 15-18

You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me—the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus

He uses the prevalent negative example of “all who are in Asia” and then mentions two by name. The he mentions a positive example of Onesiphorus who refreshed Paul, was not ashamed of Paul or his chains, he searched for and found Paul in Rome. All that said and all Onesiphorus had done, he still needed the mercy of God (16,18) when it comes to the day of the Lord.

In 1:18, Paul used the same word found in v. 16 (dōē; “may the Lord show,” v. 16) to express a wish that Onesiphorus might find mercy on the day of judgment. Fee notes that this “is not, in fact, intercessory prayer ...; rather, it is an acknowledgment that even one like Onesiphorus has only God’s mercy as his appeal.” The term “day” is a reference to the time of Christ’s second advent when he will begin judgment. It is probably best to take the first noun “Lord” as a reference to Christ and the second “Lord” as a reference to God the Father. Paul was expressing the wish that God the Son might commend Onesiphorus to God the Father on the day of judgment.

Do not be ashamed of identifying with courageous Christians.

Discussion Questions: How did Onesiphorus practically demonstrate unashamed loyalty (1:16–17)? How can we “refresh” brothers currently facing hardship?

God has not given us a spirit of fear or a coward. But rather we have power, love, and discipline. We need that power, love, and discipline because God has invited us to join Him through unashamed suffering. We receive the power to do this according to the gospel which reveals that God calls, saves, grants, and guards all that is necessary. We are called to embrace this unashamed suffering according to God’s providential grace that compels personal and persevering responsibility so we will stand faithfully by the grace of God in the day of judgment.

Do not be ashamed of Jesus Christ, His teachings, His gospel, His calling, and His people.

What are the greatest challenges for men to overcome in not being ashamed of Jesus Christ and His gospel? Romans 1:16

week two

STRONGER

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

VALIANT WARRIOR

A CALL TO COURAGE

Paul closes out the first chapter warning Timothy about defectors from the faith after he had invited Timothy to join him in suffering for the gospel through the power of God. He then commands Timothy to be strong, but not the kind of strength you might think. It is strength in grace that is found in Christ. But he does not stop there. He tells him not to just hold on to his faith and guard the deposit. He is to go beyond preserving the faith to passing it on.

This call to courage is a call to be stronger.

Read 2:1-13

Valiant Warriors are called to be strong. 1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Be strong is a common command in the Scripture. Joshua was told in Joshua 1:8-9 to be strong and courageous. To live for God requires courage. It is not for the weak in any way.

Paul again calls Timothy his son. This is a family exhortation. He is told to be strong. It is a family trait and a Valiant Warrior trait, that is, to be strong.

The passive imperative verb is a command to do something where someone else is performing the action. Here he is to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. What does it mean to be strong in grace?

First, we must understand it's not just any kind of grace. This grace is qualified as "*in Christ Jesus.*" It is the grace of Christ we should be found in. It could be considered that all we know of Christ is within His grace.

Salvation is by grace. Sanctification is by grace. Faithful is he who calls you who will also do it. Suffering is by grace. Giving is a grace. Sustaining is of grace. We should grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here we need to be strong in grace. Grace gives us strength. Grace is also our strength for ministry and witness. This strength in grace is spiritual which includes physical, mental, and emotional strength.

Be strong in grace.

Discussion Questions: Contrast being strong in grace and being strong in yourself. How do you describe a strong biblical man?

Valiant Warriors are called to entrust the gospel to faithful men. 2

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

This is a call to discipleship.

The word for entrust is used multiple times in the New Testament (Lk. 12:28; 23:46; Acts 14:23; 20:32; 1 Tim. 1:18; 1 Pet. 4:19). Timothy is to "entrust" "these things" "for safekeeping" and for "transmission to others" (BAGD s.v. 2b α).

"Things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses." In summary, this is the gospel. Timothy was the recipient of discipleship. First, he learned from his mother and grandmother the Scriptures.

He also learned from Paul. These things are what he needs to entrust to others.

He was not entrusting these things to just anyone. He was entrusting them to a specifically qualified person.

He entrusted the gospel to faithful men.

He entrusted the gospel to faithful men able.

He entrusted the gospel to faithful men able to teach.

Look for FAT Valiant Warriors. Faithful. Able. Teachers.

This strategy ensures the continuation of the gospel from generation to generation and from one area to another area.

This is the passing of the baton in the relay race. It is a critical time and necessary. It takes skill and teamwork to do this. You have to pass the baton in your lane and also in a certain section of the lane. You cannot let go too fast nor hold on too long. The same is true in passing the baton to the next generation. We all keep running to the end.

We live in a day where "leadership" is the subject everyone is buying and seeking. For Valiant Warriors, leadership is discipleship. I believe the church has the greatest leadership assignment and opportunity. We have the greatest leader of all time and some of the greatest leaders of all time. Jesus is no doubt the supreme and sufficient leader. The Bible is also filled with numerous great leaders we have studied in Valiant Warrior like Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah, Joseph, Daniel, Peter, and more.

Some of these great leaders did a good job passing the faith leadership to the next generation and others did not do so great a job. Obviously, the person whose hand you are placing the baton into has a lot to do with how it will turn out. But, here we see the leader or disciple-maker bears some responsibility of exercising discernment in who receives their time and attention.

The farther down the road I get, I realize my time in a day, in my life, and my active ministry life is limited. I want to make my investments count. Paul told Timothy to invest in faithful men who could teach others. Invest in men who are already faithful, not men you are going to make faithful. Invest in men who will pass it on to others. Do not invest in men where it will end with them.

Be strong in discipleship.

Discussion Questions: Who are the men who have invested in your spiritual life? Who are the men you are investing in and entrusting to during this season of your ministry? Discuss ways you men can actively involve yourselves in the discipleship of men, teenagers, and boys. What characteristics are you looking for in other men before investing your life in them?

Valiant Warriors should expect to suffer hardship. 3

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus

The next command is to suffer hardship with Paul. We are reminded of the reality of suffering and then of the fellowship of suffering. Suffering is a prominent theme in the Bible. Throughout the OT the people of God suffered. Sometimes they suffered because of their own sin. Sometimes they suffered because they

were the people of God. Without a doubt, the Hebrew people have suffered greatly throughout history, in ancient history and modern history.

Jesus also suffered greatly. Isaiah prophesies of Him as the suffering servant, wounded for our transgression, bruised for our iniquities. Paul considered himself as a sufferer with Christ. Peter's epistles call believers to suffering with Christ. The author of Hebrews highlights suffering in the life of the believer. God's plan has been to work in His people during and through suffering in anticipation of a future glory where there will be no suffering. Paul invites Timothy to suffer with him. There is a fellowship of suffering that includes Christ (Phil. 3:10) and other believers. It is a sanctification method used by God. Christ Himself learned obedience through suffering. How much more do we need suffering to teach us obedience?

Paul then uses three illustrations to compare what this suffering is like.

Valiant Warriors suffer as a good soldier. 4

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Soldiers fight in battles and prevent battles. They protect and serve their king and their constituency. This soldier is focused and not distracted with "the affairs of everyday life." This is what I call staying out of the weeds. Do not major on minors. Do not make yourself the focus of the story. This good soldier understands what is important for the battle and what is not important. Some people waste all their time and energy on the less significant, so they do not get to the important things in life and ministry.

The purpose of this soldier's activity is to please the one who enlisted him. The one who enlists defines the task and the process and what is important. There are lots of things we can do. Some of those things are important. But if we do not do what God says is most important then we have missed it. The good soldier knows who gives the orders and submits himself to the authority in his life.

Valiant Warriors suffer as an honorable athlete. 5

Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

This comparison to an athlete focuses on competing and doing so according to the rules. Competition can be good. Our competition is against principalities and powers of darkness in high places. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. So, there is indeed a competition. We are not in a vacuum or in neutral. We are moving forward or losing ground. Nothing stays the same. You are growing or declining.

We must compete by the rules. That means we do the right things in the right way. We have humility and integrity during our competition. Unfortunately, today, many take a Machiavellian approach of the end justifies the means. In recent days and all days, you can hear of people entrusted with ministry leadership who behave in ways that are ungodly. Some have been caught in sexual immorality, financial malfeasance, selfish ambition, covert gossip, and so much more. We are called to be honorable and humble and godly in how we carry out ministry and live our lives. We should not have a secret life that brings reproach on the Name of Jesus.

Valiant Warriors suffer as a hard-working farmer. 6

The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

What is “his share of the crops” or the harvest? Holiness, fruitfulness, spiritual maturity, intimacy with the Lord are desirable fruit. He was willing to work tirelessly, suffer continuously, and sacrifice completely so he might know Christ.

This hardworking farmer receives his share and does so first. The idea you reap what you sow is found here. If you do not sow, then you do not reap. While our salvation is by grace, our sanctification results in work. The Bible speaks very clearly of hard work in the ministry for all believers. Unfortunately, many churches are filled with people who really do not do anything. I know that sounds harsh. But it is a reality. There are some people who think that by coming to church and sitting in a service that that somehow is service and ministry. It certainly should be worship and teaching and an encounter with God. But there are hundreds of people who have done the work of the hard-working farmer in relation to our buildings, our music, our communication, our preparation so that this can be a meaningful opportunity of worship for others. There are multitudes who serve the poor, go on mission trips, quietly and inconspicuously give so others can go on mission trips, and the list goes on and on. Let me ask you this. What do you do? How are you like a hardworking farmer in regard to the work of the Lord?

Be strong in and through suffering.

Discussion Questions: Which of the three examples (soldier, athlete, and farmer) connected best with you? Why? What are the different points of emphasis with each example? The soldier? The athlete? The hard-working farmer? Describe how the ministry is hard work.

Valiant Warriors are promised understanding in everything. 7

Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

You must consider the “what” is said.

You must receive understanding from the Lord.

Be strong in consideration and understanding.

Discussion Questions: How does listening well contribute to understanding? What are some great listening skills Valiant Warriors should practice? How does God give wisdom and understanding to Valiant Warriors?

The next verse continues to inform us that suffering for the gospel with Christ is a source of blessing and a shared experience.

Valiant Warriors are to be strong in remembering Jesus. 8-9

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

Thinking about Jesus helps the Valiant Warrior to draw strength from His resurrection. Paul experienced personal imprisonment, but the Word of God cannot be imprisoned. Remembering Jesus also helps Paul to recognize the reason behind his suffering. He was not suffering for making dumb decisions or as a

consequence to his sin. His suffering was honorable. His strength in suffering came from remembering Jesus.

Discussion Questions: What are the benefits of thinking about Jesus? What is the significance of Jesus being a descendant of David? What does it mean the Word of God is not imprisoned?

Valiant Warriors are to be strong in remembering the faithful. 10

For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

The faithful endured for the sake of the chosen so they may obtain salvation. In this same way, we should be faithful and endure whatever comes our way understanding your endurance leads to the salvation of others. This is especially true of our families.

Be strong in the hope of salvation of the chosen.

Discussion Question: Who are some of the men you observe who inspire you to keep on and finish well in your Valiant Warrior journey? Who are some of the men who motivate you to keep on and finish well in your Valiant Warrior journey who have not yet obtained salvation?

Valiant Warriors remember we endure with Him. 11-13

It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Notice this faithful saying that we died, will live, will reign WITH Him. Our identity is in Him and with Him. Our faithfulness and endurance is in Him. Our union with Christ is a great spiritual blessing believers have. He is in us. We are in Him.

When my children were little and now with my grandchildren, I sometimes would climb up on a slide and let them sit in my lap and slide down the slide with me. They have a lot of fun. They do slide down. But they are held and protected by me. I let them sit in my lap driving the side-by-side. I control the gas. I control the brake. I let them steer as long as they are going the right direction. As we go through life, we are sitting in the lap of Christ who has taken us from our spiritual grave through resurrection and life with Him to reigning with Him.

Be strong in Christ.

Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Be strong in discipleship of other men.

Be strong in remembering Christ and faithful believers.

Be strong in your calling to endure with Christ.

Discussion Questions: What does it mean to be a strong man? What does it mean to be strong in Christ?

week three

HONOR

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

VALIANT WARRIOR

A CALL TO COURAGE

As we cross over the midpoint of Paul's admonition to Timothy, he focuses on who Timothy was to contrast with false teachers and self-deceived leaders. Previously, 1:8-18 called Timothy to be an unashamed sufferer. Here he is called to be unashamed worker (15).

The unashamed worker is alert pertaining to the last days.

Men of Issachar understood the times and knew what to do (1 Chronicles 12:32).

There are six imperative verbs in this section of Scripture. Verses 15 and 21 capture the essence of who Paul was calling Timothy to be.

This unashamed worker was a vessel of honor.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman ***who does not need to be ashamed,*** accurately handling the word of truth. (v.15)

*Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, **he will be a vessel for honor,** sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.* (v. 21)

Avery Willis wrote the discipleship material *Master Life* used to disciple missionaries and then the church in the United States. Lisa and I took the *Master Life* course years ago and then taught the 26-week discipleship program. 2 Timothy 2:15 and 2:21 were key memory verses in this study.

Verse 15 focuses on being "approved to God" and "not ashamed."

Verse 21 focuses on being "a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work."

We will frame this Valiant Warrior lesson around the idea of "honor." That word has lost a lot of its use today. Men in the military speak of honor. Valiant Warriors are in the spiritual military. The Bible clearly teaches we are in a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-20). We have seen an illustration of a "good soldier" in 2 Timothy 2. Spiritual soldiers should have honor.

Honor carries the ideas of high moral character, integrity, respect, esteem, good reputation, high standing, and position.

Valiant Warriors should be men of honor. The call to courage includes a call to honor. Honor is earned through the demonstration of courage.

In this section of Scripture, Paul appeals to Timothy to demonstrate honor himself and also to call other men to honor.

Unfortunately, today we do not have a lot of examples in honor. Our kids are growing up watching many athletes who know nothing of honor and respect. The political culture has robbed us honorable actions. Sinful behaviors are justified whether they are blasphemous words or the burning down of cities or the mass killing of babies in the mother's womb.

Valiant Warriors are men of honor in their words. 14, 16-19

Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. (v.14)

But **avoid worldly and empty chatter**, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." (v. 16-19)

Men of honor speak the right words to other men.

They reminded them of things they needed to remember. Paul told Timothy to solemnly charge them in the presence of God. These words depict as much urgency and importance as possible. He calls these words to avoid as "useless." This contrasts his call to be "useful for the Master." Avoid worthless words. These words evidently were not benign. They lead to the "ruin of the hearers." Your words matter. Words speak life and death. Words reflect a man's heart. Do not waste your words. Do not use your words for the detriment of the hearers.

Men of honor avoid the wrong words to other men.

Worldly and empty chatter should be avoided in your speaking and your listening. Paul called out by name men who were guilty of these sins. This empty chatter led to heretical statements about the resurrection "upsetting" the faith of some. Words are powerful. Words build up and tear down. Men will be held accountable for the words they speak and the words they do not speak when they should have spoken up.

Discussion Questions: What does it look like in modern life (and on social media) to "avoid worldly and empty chatter" that leads to ungodliness (2:16)? How do Valiant Warriors reflect with their words that they are men of honor? Where do you need to speak up more? Less? Do your words speak life into others or tear them down? Discuss how to confront evil while maintaining honor in your speech.

Valiant Warriors are men of honor in how they handle God's Word. 15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Men of honor are diligent.

Be diligent is an imperative to be eager, make haste, do your best. Diligence speaks of being conscientious and finishing what you started. It means staying after it until you find it, obtain it, know it, master it.

Men of honor present themselves approved to God.

To present yourself approved to God. Do not worry about the approval of men like false teachers, but desire to be approved by God who does not need to be ashamed. When we stand before God, we will not be ashamed.

Men of honor work hard and honorably.

You should be a workman means you work. Work is honorable. All work is not honorable, but most work is honorable. God created men to work hard. We find great fulfillment and significance in work. Men who find most of their significance in their pay will find themselves chasing a paycheck instead of finding satisfaction and significance in fulfilling the God-called assignment of work.

Men of honor accurately handle God's Word.

The primary assignment for Timothy and every pastor is found right here. The words "accurately dividing" means to cut straight. Be diligent in your exposition of Scripture. Cut a straight road through the wilderness. I worked on survey parties that surveyed where new roads would eventually go. It was the hard work of a survey party to cut the line before surveying the line. The Valiant Warrior pastor or teacher must do the hard work of cutting a straight-line to the Scripture for the student.

Discussion Questions: How do men honor God in being diligent with God's Word? What habits or practices concerning the Scripture honor God? How do we work hard in the ministry and the teaching of the Word of God? How does a man present himself approved of God?

Valiant Warrior are men of honor in their usefulness to the Master. 20-21

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Useful vessels of honor cleanse themselves.

Useful vessels of honor are sanctified.

Useful vessels of honor are prepared.

Discussion Questions: How does a believer practically cleanse themselves to become a "vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master" (2:21)? What are some ways Valiant Warriors can be useful for the Master? Discuss the importance of being useful for the Master. How does a Valiant Warrior prepare for "every good work?"

Valiant Warriors are men of honor by refusing the wrong things. 22-24

*Now **flee from youthful lusts...** (v.22)*

*But **refuse foolish and ignorant speculations**, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome (v. 23-24)*

Youthful lusts certainly include sexual immorality. That is an adolescent temptation that if not controlled by the Holy Spirit becomes a wildfire into adulthood. It does appear Paul is focusing on the sin of the tongue with Timothy in this section of Scripture. He again speaks of foolish and ignorant speculations. The opposite of ignorant speculations is informed truth. He also mentions quarrels. Men of honor are

not troublemakers instigating unnecessary arguments. When you walk into the room, do you bring in an argument or encouragement?

Valiant Warriors are men of honor by pursuing the right things. 22, 24

...and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (v.22) ...but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, (v. 24)

There are many subjects introduced in these few verses. We are moving from “refusing” the bad stuff to “pursuing” the good stuff. Some of these things listed are listed precisely or closely with the fruit of the Spirit list (faithfulness, love, peace, kindness, patience). The Valiant Warrior must be a man filled with the Holy Spirit if he is going to be this man of honor.

The first thing mentioned is “righteousness.” Paul wrote in detail in the Book of Romans about the righteousness of God which is reflected in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This pursuit is defined as with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. So, this pursuit of unity and fellowship is with other believers. But it is narrowed down even more as being qualified as those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. I think Paul’s expectation is that true believers call on the Lord with a pure heart. These qualities listed make up a fellowship of unity and humility.

Valiant Warriors like Timothy bring true believers together. It is an honorable work to contribute to the building up of the body of Christ. These right things pertain to kindness, forgiveness, and unity (Ephesians 4:1-3; 25).

Discussion Questions: Consider how fleeing sin and pursuing righteousness work together. What is the difference between standing for truth and being “quarrelsome” (2:24)? How can we correct opposition with gentleness (2:25)?

Valiant Warriors are men of honor in gentle correction. 25-26

with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Fathers are warned in Ephesians 6 to not provoke their children to wrath. Notice women or mothers are not instructed with this. It is a well-known trait that many men through direct and harsh conversation can stir up an argument easily. Someone has said disagree agreeably. Paul is expressing concern for the prodigal who has been deceived by Satan. He wants Timothy to gently persuade such men who have wandered off. The language is reminiscent of Jesus’ Prodigal Son Story in Luke 15. The prodigal “came to his senses.” It is interesting that Paul uses the phrase “the snare of the devil.” A snare is placed hidden from the sight of its prey. Trappers today also spray scent to attract an animal. They will handle the traps with rubber gloves to not transfer human scent to the trap. It is a covert, conniving, deceptive skill on display in trapping an animal. The same process with even greater skill and consequence is carried out by the devil in deception, entrapment, then punishment. Our view of our brothers who are struggling in sin should be impacted by this passage of Scripture. They are held captive. They need to be granted repentance. They need the truth. They need escape.

Discussion Questions: Discuss how to balance correcting with gentleness and taking a stand and not condoning sinful behavior.

Valiant Warriors are men of honor helping others to repentance and escape from the devil's snare. 25-26

..., if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Men of honor are hopeful in their gentle correction.

"If perhaps God may grant" communicates a hopeful and prayerful expectation of a wayward person being granted repentance by God. The fact the correction is gentle implies persuasion instead of the sealed fate of condemnation.

Men of honor are hopeful in repentance leading to the truth.

It is appropriate to pray God would grant repentance. This is the condition of the escape, the gifting of repentance to the deceived one.

Men of honor are hopeful in the changing of the mind and heart.

Jesus said the truth will set you free. Jesus said He is the truth. Jesus said He came to set captives free. Understanding all this and more should make us hopeful that men will repent as they hear the truth that will set them free from the bondage of sin and the devil.

Men of honor are hopeful in the power of setting men free.

Discussion Questions: What does the phrase "*..., if perhaps God may grant them repentance...*" mean? How does hope impact the Valiant Warrior in correcting gently? What is the process of 2:25-26 beginning with God granting repentance? How do you see men who struggle in sin in light of verses 25 and 26 (held captive or they made their own bed or both)? How do these verses impact how you pray for men captured by sin? Can you give any examples where a man received the gift of repentance, came to his senses and the truth that led to him being set free from doing the will of the devil? If not, then why not?

How do courage and honor intersect? What are current day situations where men demonstrate courage in preserving his honor and integrity?

week four

ALERT (THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD)
2 TIMOTHY 3:1-17

VALIANT WARRIOR
A CALL TO COURAGE

This lesson has a clear calling to be alert about the times a Valiant Warrior lives in. The last part of this chapter deals with the importance of God's Word. It would be appropriate to have two separate lessons. One lesson could be on being alert in these last days. Another lesson could be on the importance of God's Word in our salvation and sanctification. We will seek to combine these two lessons because being alert is empowered by the Word of God.

The Valiant Warrior's call to courage includes a call to be alert and aware of what is going on around us.

But realize this, *that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also. (v. 1-9)*

Valiant Warriors are called to be alert in the last days. 3:1-9

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

The word "realize" is a present active imperative verb and serves as the main verb for this section. It means we are commanded to continuously know experientially that these last days have troublesome (difficult, violent) events (times).

Be sensitive to what's going on around you. 1-5

... that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power;

The times will be troublesome.

...difficult times will come

The men will be wicked. 2-4

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

Verses 2-4 describe the wickedness of people we see today and have been seen every day since the beginning. While the word for "men" used in verse 2 is the word *anthropoi* which is used for humankind, it is a plural masculine noun literally translated "men." It serves as a reminder that men make a big difference for good and bad. Most of the heroes and villains in the Bible are men. Remember Cain. Remember the days of Noah. Remember the Tower of Babel. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah. What a lengthy list of sin. Notice the selfishness that runs throughout this list of sins. Notice the beginning phrase of verse 2 and the concluding phrase of verse 4. "Lovers of self, lovers of money... rather than lovers of God." Men love and worship something. Men will worship

themselves and money rather than love God. If we do not love and worship God, then most likely men behave like this list of wickedness.

Discussion Questions: What cultural shifts or behaviors around us today call for us to be alert? What causes staying alert a challenge today?

The spiritual power will be missing. 5
holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power;

Verse 5 summarizes a false form of godliness, while denying the power. This was certainly prevalent in the lives of the Pharisees and religious leaders of Jesus' day. Jesus was constantly confronting religious leaders who had outward ritual but no inward righteousness.

False religions today call for outward aesthetic behavior modification and mental concentration to a false god whether it is Allah, Budha, Hindu gods, or some form of meditation. To some people, these other forms of religion are just a different way to the same higher power. That sounds good on the surface to some, but it is complete rebellion against the One True God. The gospel is the power of God for salvation. Paul knew Christ in the power of His resurrection. This power transforms a depraved heart. Instead of a sinful heart like described above, the power of the gospel provides godliness, holiness, and the fruit of the Spirit.

A gospel without power is not the gospel of Jesus Christ and no gospel (good news) at all.

Discussion Question: What does "holding to a form of godliness, but denying its power" mean in today's world? Valiant Warriors should ask is what you embrace devoid of any power in your life in a practical way? How does the power that raised Jesus from the grave show up in your life?

Be separated to the kingdom within you. 5-9

...Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

Discussion Questions: What practical steps must a courageous man take to guard his home and loved ones against deceptive cultural influences? Valiant Warriors should take up the cause of needy women through meeting physical needs, but how do you protect from spiritual deception? What does it mean to "always be learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth?"

The subject of the next paragraph in chapter 3 is the Word of God. It is connected to our ability to follow Christ. We cannot follow Christ without the Word of God. How would we know what to do apart from the Word of God? Not only is the Word of God a pathway for following God, but it is also the power for following God. Jesus and the NT writers' affirmation of the Word of God is a statement of their belief in the Old Testament Scriptures. We certainly believe the OT and the NT are equally true. Stephen Olford said the OT is God's prophetic record, and the NT is God's apostolic record.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted but evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Let us walk through this text and hear God's call to courage through the Word of God.

Valiant Warriors are called to continue in God's Word. 14

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them

Verse 14 carries the main verb for this section. This is a present active imperative verb of the word that is translated "abide" in John 15 numerous times. The present tense carries continuous action while the word meaning is to continue. Ongoing, persistent obedience is the fruit of an abiding relationship with Christ. John 8:31 and 15:7 connect the idea of abiding with Christ and continuing in His Word.

Follow Christ.

Paul is about to encourage Timothy to follow his teaching and conduct and others (Lois and Eunice) who have taught him. But Paul would be the first to remind Timothy to follow Jesus. (Matt 4:19 Jesus said, "Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men"; Luke 9:23 Jesus says, "If any man comes after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me.") Following Christ is an all-encompassing journey. The Christ follower must be devoted to Christ and His Word. The list Paul gives Timothy reminds him of how he can follow Christ.

Follow Christlike examples. 10-11

Follow great people.

Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

First, we follow people. Jesus became a man to die for us, but also to reveal God to us. We follow a person better than we follow principles (the next point). Jesus and then other believers are good examples to follow. Follow good examples and then be a good example to follow.

Follow these aspects of Paul's life: **Teaching** (his doctrine and the content of gospel), **conduct** (how he acted, humility, and integrity), **purpose** (the glory of God in preaching the gospel to the nations), **faith** (Paul's steadfast belief in Christ), **patience** (enduring disappointment, attack), **love** (unconditional care, affection, hope for others), **perseverance** (not quitting despite), **persecutions** and **sufferings** (shipwrecks, beatings, verbal assaults) were things Timothy had followed. He either followed them in awareness and some cases he joined in himself.

Timothy was familiar with the events in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra.

Antioch: Acts 13:38-52 (Faithful preaching; salvation, celebration, persecution)

Iconium: Acts 14:1-6

Lystra: Acts 14:7-20 (Ups and Downs of ministry: conversions, criticisms, stonings.)

Out of all these things, Paul concludes that first he endured and secondly, the Lord rescued him out of them.

Discussion Questions: Who are some people who set positive examples for you in your Christian life, in your marriage, in Christian business, and other areas? What are some of the traits that these good and godly examples display?

Follow great principles.

We have principles to learn. 12

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

This is a great principle to remember. Godly living leads to persecution. The future tense speaks of the certainty of persecution for the godly Christ follower.

Discussion Questions: What are one or two key biblical principles that have made the greatest impact on your life? (It can be a Bible verse or a phrase you heard someone say.) How do godly people suffer persecution today?

Follow great practices. 13-15

But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

We know the greater calling to continue to follow Christ. 13-15

As previously mentioned, the main verb here is the command to continue in 14. The word means to remain or abide. It is a prominent term in John's gospel (8:31-32): "If you continue in My word, you are My disciples indeed, you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." John 15 talks about the Vine and the branches and uses the same word translated "abide." The branches must abide, remain in the Vine. John 15:7, "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." So, to continue means to live by and live in the words of Jesus.

Discussion Questions: Read John 15:5, 7-8, 16. Discuss abiding in God's Word. What does that mean? What are the benefits?

Avoid deceptive enemies. 13

But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

We have deceptive enemies to avoid. 13

The way we identify these enemies is by our familiarity with the Word of God. Know the truth to be able to identify a counterfeit.

Embrace biblical convictions. 14-15a

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus

We have holy Scripture to embrace.

Remember what you were taught

Remember who taught you

Remember how you trusted "convinced"

Sufficiency is a great word for the believer in Christ. First and foremost is the "Sufficiency of Christ." Then there is the "Sufficiency of Scripture" and certainly there is the "sufficiency of grace." (2 Corinthians 9:8; 12:9)

God has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)

God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus (Ephesian 1:3)

Discussion Questions: What does it mean that Jesus, the Scripture, and grace are sufficient? How are they sufficient? What are some biblical convictions that you embrace?

All Scripture is sufficient for salvation. 15b

...the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Word is the seed for salvation. 15

Psalm 19:7 The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;

1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God

All Scripture is sufficient by inspiration. 16a

All Scripture is inspired by God.

It literally means all Scripture is "God-breathed."

Psalm 19:7 *The law of the LORD is perfect;*

2 Peter 1:20-21 *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

Isaiah 40:8 *The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever;*

Hebrews 11:3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible,*

1 Peter 1:23 *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God;*

John 15:3 *You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

John 12:48 *He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the*

word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

Verbal Plenary Inspiration. Inspiration, the quality of being “God-breathed,” refers to the fact that God supernaturally guided the authors of the Bible to write exactly what He wanted to communicate. Everything in Scripture is there because that is what God desired to say to humanity. The extent of that inspiration is defined by dual terms verbal and plenary. *Verbal* means every word of Scripture is God-breathed. Every single word, not just the ideas behind the words, is in the Bible because God wanted it there. The word *plenary* means “complete or full.” When used to describe the inspiration of God’s Word, *plenary* means all parts of the Bible are equally of divine origin and equally authoritative.

All Scripture is sufficient for sanctification. 16b-17

...and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

John 17:17 *Sanctify them in the truth, Your Word is truth.*

It is profitable, beneficial, useful for...

Teaching thus it is useful for doctrine. Considering false teachers teaching false doctrine, it is vitally important for the Word to be taught to insure sound doctrine.

Reproof or rebuke means to show sinners their failures.

Correction is a means God uses to restore people to spiritual positions they had forfeited.

Training in righteousness speaks of a system of discipline in doctrinal training leading to righteous living.

So the man of God may be adequate means *fitted out*, in shape or condition, having everything necessary.

Equipped is a perfect tense verb suggesting this is an abiding condition that results in every good work. In other words, the Word is sufficient for every work. 16-17

1 Thess. 2:13 *For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe;*

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Billy Graham’s early years had doubts about the Word of God. His preaching lacked power. He had an intellectual struggle as a very young man. In the mountains outside LA, he committed Himself to the Word, believing all of it. “*Here and now by faith, I accept the Bible as Thy Word, I take it all, I take it without reservations.*” You know the rest of the story.

First believe the Word of God. It is the seed for your salvation.

Read the Word of God. It is food for your soul. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Obey the Word of God, for a multitude of reasons. I close by Reading RG Lee's conclusion of his sermon The Bible, The Nation's Greatest Asset at the Centennial Exposition in Dallas 1938.

The Word of God is a fire for our purifying
Is not my word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Jer. 23:29

The Bible is a light for our understanding
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path Psalm 119:105

The Bible is a mirror for our self-knowledge
For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like a man beholding the natural face in a glass. James 1:23

The Bible is a sword for our conflict
Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Eph. 6:17

The Bible is honey for our delight
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb Psalm 19:10

The Bible is hammer for our obstinacy
Is not my word like ...a hammer that breaketh the rock to pieces Jer. 23:29

The Bible is milk for our nourishment
As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby 1 Peter 2:2

The Bible is the seed for our sowing
Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God Luke 8:11

The Bible is gold for our enrichment
The law of the thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver Psalms 119:7

Discussion Questions: What does it mean the Bible is inspired by God? What does it mean the Bible is infallible? Inerrant? Why is it important for Valiant Warriors to embrace all three of these? Take one or two of the statements above about the Bible found in the Bible and share how this has inspired, helped, or empowered you in your Christian life. Discuss the importance of God's Word in sanctification. How does God's Word impact our sanctification?

week five

FINISH (FULFILL YOUR MISSION)

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-22

VALIANT WARRIOR

A CALL TO COURAGE

We have come to the end of another Valiant Warrior study. This passage is designed to be the last lesson. This was Paul's last lesson to Timothy and his last lesson period. This is Paul's final charge to Timothy. These are his last words.

Nine imperative verbs are in this final chapter. Paul is talking man to man to Timothy. These are the last commands before Timothy steps into battle and Paul steps out of this life. There is much urgency expressed in these two paragraphs. The bookends of these imperatives serve as a summary of what Timothy is supposed to do. In verse 2, he is to preach the word and in verse 5 he is to fulfill his ministry. These two exhortations begin and end the instruction and summarize what Timothy was called to do.

We will see that Timothy's ministry was to preach the word and do the work of the evangelist. This lesson is especially for those who God would call to pastor His church in particular. I would say to young men and old men alike, if you are not willing to preach the word and do the work of the evangelist, then let someone else have your spot. God is still calling young men to pastor His church. We as a church need to continue to extend the call to those called to ministry. For those not called specifically to pastor a church, this is good information for you to understand what the pastor is called to. Many Valiant Warriors have been the prayer partner, encourager, and friend to the pastor.

While this entire book is written to a young pastor in Ephesus and is most directly related to him, then to other pastors, we have discovered this greater calling is really extended to all of us.

This charge is also applicable to the ministry God has given to every Valiant Warrior. God's call to courage is for us to fulfill and finish what God has called us to do.

Valiant Warriors are called to fulfill their ministry. 1

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

First, he tells him what he is doing. Then he tells him who is watching or a witness to this charge. Paul's charge is solemn and serious coming with full apostolic authority. This charge is being observed and watched by the Ones who ultimately gave it to Paul. This audience "in the presence of" is no doubt watching Paul and Timothy both. They want to see what Paul says and what Timothy does. The witness to this charge is God the Father and Jesus Christ. Christ is further described as the judge of the living and the dead. That sums up everyone. Christ will judge everyone whether dead or alive. He will judge the lost and the saved. Paul has frequently used the judgment of God and the second coming of Christ as a motivation for believers. "*And by His appearing and His kingdom*" most likely goes with "*I solemnly charge you.*" Certainly, the judgment coming will come at His appearing.

Discussion Questions: How did Paul express to Timothy the importance of what he was about to say? How do you express urgency and importance when you are speaking? How does Paul's appeal to the return of Christ and His judgment of the living and dead impact your view of your personal call to ministry?

Preach the word. 2

preach the word;

Verse 2 gives us the content of the charge with five imperative verbs. The first imperative is dominant and summarizing of the others. "Preach the word" means to herald or proclaim. It is public proclamation. It is proclaiming aloud. "The word" is understood as Scripture and the gospel and the truth. It means to preach

the truth of God's Word. It means to preach the Gospel of truth. It means to preach the sound doctrine of God's Word. The primary call for a pastor is to preach the word. You can do everything except preach the word, but you have not fulfilled your ministry if the pastor does not preach the word. The most important assignment of the pastor/ teacher is to preach the word. Because we believe in the power of the word as we saw in the previous verses at the end of chapter three. Because of the power and the primacy of God's Word, the preaching of His Word is what God has so ordained for the transformation of people's life.

Discussion Question: Why is preaching so important? What are some of the challenges to biblical preaching today? What do you think the Bible teaches as the main job of the pastor?

Prepare for difficult times.

...be ready in season and out of season;

The second imperative verb is "be ready" with adverbs qualifying "in season and out of season." Before the Boy Scouts said it, God said it, "Be prepared." There is a word play on the word for time "kairos." Eukairos is "good season or time" and "akairos" is bad season or out of season. That means all the time. Sometimes it is a good season for ministry and preaching, while sometimes it is not a good season as far as opportunity and response. It may appear it is not a good time to preach or share the gospel. Here, Paul tells Timothy whether from your perspective or your hearers' perspective, even if it doesn't seem like a good time, preach the word.

Discussion Questions: What would be considered "in season and out of season?" What does it mean to preach in season and out of season? What makes it difficult to be ready in all seasons?

Verses 3-4 describe some of these "times."

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

The reason for preaching the word is given in these verses. Here we see this word "kairos" time again. 1 Timothy 4:1 says there will be a "time" when people will fall away. 2 Timothy 3:1 speaks of difficult "times." Here again we see this kairos time when people will first not endure sound doctrine. People will not willingly listen to or put up with sound doctrine. Sound doctrine is the truth of God's Word according to the gospel of grace (1 Timothy 1:10-11). This gospel of sound doctrine does include broader topics including biblical morality. The rejection of sound doctrine leads people to "wanting to have their ears tickled." Basically, they are wanting someone to tell them what they believe and do is right. What they want to do and how they want to behave drives what they believe. They have fleshly and intellectual and emotional appetites that ultimately drive what they believe so their behavior can be justified. So, they gather around teachers in accordance with their own desires. They will turn away from the truth towards myths or lies. Today, that belief is universalism. Believe anything or nothing, that is the celebrated and championed faith today.

Discussion Questions: What are some modern myths today about preaching and doctrine? How do people turn away from the truth to embrace myths?

Persuade with patience.

...reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

The third imperative is *reprove* or *correct*. The fourth imperative is *rebuke* which is a stronger, more confrontational command. It carries the idea of censure and stopping a certain action. The fifth imperative is *exhort* from the Greek word “*parakaleo*” accompanied closely with patience and teaching or instruction. These descriptive terms can also modify the previous imperatives giving the manner in which these actions are carried out with patience and instruction.

It certainly makes sense and is warranted to preach, be ready, reprove, rebuke and exhort with patience and teaching along the way. Explaining “the” what, why, and how of the Word that is being preached is in view here. This task will be difficult for Timothy and for his audience so patience and teaching will be needed. Remember Jesus instructed “*teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.*” That is a lot of stuff and a lot of hard stuff.

Persevere. 5

But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

This paragraph is concluded with four imperatives contrasting Timothy with those described in the previous verses. Each of these commands requires and calls us to persevere.

The first imperative is “*be sober.*” This means to not be drunk especially with spiritual drunkenness. Be well-balanced and self-controlled. This is qualified “in all things.” So, in the balance of life and emotions, be stable and self-controlled, or even better, Holy Spirit controlled.

The next imperative is to “*endure hardship.*” This is a repeated idea from throughout the book. This calling is a greater calling, but it is not an easier calling.

The third command is to “*do the work of the evangelist.*” Timothy was a pastor not an evangelist, but he was commanded to do the evangelist’s work. In Ephesians 4:11, the evangelist is listed as a gift to the church along with prophets, apostles, and pastor teachers. The work of the evangelist is announcing good news. It is proclaiming the gospel that Jesus died for lost sinners and rose again and if people will believe and receive Him, they can be saved. He does not say do the work of the administrator, planner, leader, social organizer. . . The work of the pastor is a work of the evangelist. Reaching the lost and proclaiming the gospel cannot be lost in the work of the pastor, but I would say is all our work. I would especially say in the work of those of you called to ministry leadership. Staff member or LIFE Group leader have shepherding responsibilities. Do the work of the evangelist.

The fourth imperative summarizes everything and is a secondary title of the lesson. “*Fulfill your ministry.*” *Plerophorsen* means to fully accomplish, fill entirely. This ministry (*diakonian*) is not just one thing. It is everything these nine imperatives speak of. This ministry is largely a “preaching” ministry of proclaiming the truth of God’s Word and His gospel, but the proclamation must be done in season and out of season, being sober, enduring hardship, doing evangelism and thus fulfilling the ministry. Ministry is the service we do. It may change and be adjusted. Mission is the purpose behind all we do.

Discussion Questions: Discuss the four imperatives and what they look like today (be sober, endure hardship, do the work of the evangelist, fulfill your ministry). What does “do the work of the evangelist” look like today?

Valiant Warriors are called to finish their mission.

Paul concludes the main content of his greater calling to Timothy with an example from his own life.

His current condition is that of being poured out as a drink offering. He is living and giving his life as a sacrifice unto Christ. Romans 12:1-2 expresses Paul's personal willingness earlier in life to offer himself as a living sacrifice to serve and worship Christ.

The time of his departure being at hand pictures a ship leaving the dock. He anticipates his death is imminent.

Valiant Warriors are called to concluding their mission. 6

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

This is a testimony of finishing well. He was being poured out which is giving and spending his life. You spend your life some way. There will be a time of departure. There is a death departure. There is a ministry assignment departure. Leave it better than you found it. Set up the next leader better. Do not create an environment of perpetuating yourself. We are all tempted in our humanity of not being appreciated, being forgotten, being replaced. Embrace the window of your ministry. Do not quit before the finish line. Be discerning when your leadership role changes. Some great saints have moved from being the leader to being the cheerleader, from being the encouraged to the encourager, from being the prayer receiver to the prayer leader.

Discussion Questions: Discuss Paul's testimony of his life being poured out as an offering compared to a modern movement focusing on personal emotional, mental, and physical health in ministry. Are these ideas in conflict? How do you balance being rested and being poured out? How was Paul transitioning at this time in his ministry?

Valiant Warriors are called to completing their mission. 7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

To complete the mission will require a fight and struggle and effort. To complete the mission will require finishing the course. If you do not finish a race or a course, you do not win or get credit. To complete the mission will require not abandoning the faith. These are three things, but they are really one thing. To keep the faith and complete the course will require fighting courage. You will be opposed, knocked down, criticized, doubted, mocked, and misrepresented. But it is worth it all to hear "well done good and faithful servant."

Discussion Questions: What area of ministry do you sense God is calling you to complete or finish? How does courage come into play in fulfilling your mission? How does Paul finishing well include Timothy? How do you see this book as a succession plan for Paul?

Valiant Warriors are called to a crowning of their mission. 8

in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Verse 7 summarizes his life as a fight, a race, and a faith. He has engaged, completed and kept his assignment. Verse 8 speaks of his assurance of a crown because he loved and longed for the return of Christ. Jesus said, "Great is your reward in heaven." That is what Paul is talking about for him and for Timothy and for all who long for the appearing of Jesus. This life is a rewarded life.

Discussion Questions: What does it mean to live for a future reward? What does it mean to love the appearing of Christ?

How do Valiant Warriors answer God's call to courage? What are the keys to being courageous in the day that we live? What are the characteristics of those who live courageously in Christ? Consider the five lessons Unashamed, Stronger, Honor, Alert, and Finish. Which of these lessons means the most to you today? Why? What lesson do you want to go deeper and explore more? What was the biggest takeaway from this Valiant Warrior study?

Conclusion:

First, to those young men called to pastor one of God's churches, preach the Word, be serious, endure hardship, do the work of the evangelist. Fulfill your ministry and finish your mission.

To others, find your ministry. Fulfill your ministry. Preach the Word. Be serious. Endure hardship. Do the work of the evangelist. Fulfill your ministry and finish your mission.

To those who do not know Christ, find God's plan for your life. Salvation. Surrender. Sanctification. Ministry. Mission.

This concludes another study of Valiant Warrior. These studies have been a great joy and labor for me to write. It is a greater joy to see men discuss the truth in God's Word with other men. My hope and prayer are that we are all better because of our time together. We have especially hoped and prayed for young men to take next steps in their discipleship and sanctification growing into the leaders God has called them to be. I pray each of you will hear God's call to courage and live boldly for the sake of Jesus and others as Valiant Warriors.

Judges 6:12 *The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.*

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