

## Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Lesson 3

### 2 Timothy 2:1-13

*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.  
...Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.  
2 Timothy 2:1,3*

When Timothy first learned about Jesus from his mother and grandmother, he could not have imagined the high calling that Jesus had designed for his life. When young Timothy first met Paul, he could never have foreseen the responsibility and authority that Paul would one day bequeath to him.

The snapshots of Timothy that we encounter in the Bible do not portray Timothy as an intellectual prodigy, or as a talented athlete, or as a charismatic leader. Timothy was an ordinary young man, but God chose to use him in extraordinary ways. Throughout the Bible, God typically uses quite ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

God has a purpose and a high calling for our lives as well. Each Christian is meant to play an important role in the progress of God's plan of salvation. Although God may not have revealed the specifics of our calling to us, we surely know these things:

- God's purpose for me is eternal
- God's purpose for me is through relationship with Himself
- God's purpose for me is significant – my life will be well spent
- God's purpose for me will enable me to become more like Jesus

1. How do the following passages reveal the glory of our calling? What does each passage teach us about the nature of God's purpose for our lives?

a. 1 John 5:13

God's purpose for my life is \_\_\_\_\_.

b. John 17:3

God's purpose for my life is \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Ephesians 2:10

Our life purpose is \_\_\_\_\_.

d. 1 John 3:2

Our ultimate purpose is that we \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7      ***Persevere in the work of the gospel***

a. Paul urges Timothy to continue the work of spreading the gospel. What specific instruction does Paul give to Timothy? (2 Tim. 2:1-2)

b. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the commission that Jesus has called His followers to pursue? This is often called "The Great Commission."

- c. **For Personal Application:** As you think through the context of your life, what might you do to respond to Jesus' Great Commission? Is there a younger believer whom you could mentor? Is there an opportunity to meet with a friend to discuss spiritual questions? What other ideas would you propose?
  
- d. Paul uses three examples in this passage to illustrate the attitude and the discipline that we must cultivate in order to fulfill our calling. Explain what we are to learn from each of these examples.
  - i. The soldier
  
  - ii. The athlete
  
  - iii. The farmer

3. Read 2 Timothy 2:8-10 **Be willing to endure hardship**

- a. The notion of enduring (rather than avoiding) hardship sounds crazy. How would you argue that pursuing God's calling on your life is necessary and worth enduring hardship?
  
- b. From 2 Timothy 2:8-10, what two things does Paul keep in mind as he perseveres through hardship and suffering?

4. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13

***Be assured of future glory***

- a. These rhythmic verses were likely an excerpt from a Christian hymn. What does this hymn affirm about the destiny of those who have come to faith in Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What does this hymn celebrate about those who faithfully persevere in hardship as they follow their calling?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. In light of our weakness and our vulnerability to sin, how is verse 13 reassuring?

**5. For Personal Application:** Are there steps you can take to enhance your opportunities to extend the gospel? Perhaps you'll want to develop a deeper relationship with a friend, or to meet a new neighbor. Take a moment to jot down names that come to mind and ideas for moving forward. Rely on the power of prayer as your first resource. God has you where you are for a purpose, and His good plans cannot be thwarted.

***My Prayer:***

*Father, I pray that You would open my eyes to see opportunities to follow your call on my life.  
I pray that You would strengthen my resolve, inform my faith, and deepen my commitment.*