

Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Meaning: Paul told Timothy to entrust the gospel to others

Big Idea: Entrust the gospel to others

Objective: I want the hearers to get the gospel to others

Theme: How?

MULTIPLYING THE MISSION

Church, I don't want today's message to just be another nice sermon on reaching people for Christ. We've been doing this Life on Mission conference at Living Hope now for almost a decade, and we've heard the pleas, and heard from missionaries, and heard sermons on witnessing, and we are all too familiar with calls for fulfilling the Great Commission.

Why does it even matter? I'll tell you why it matters, it matters because people suicidal ideation is at record levels. The home and the family are under attack. Sexual brokenness pervades our society. Divisiveness abounds. Violence persists. It matters because people are dying and drifting off into a Christ-less eternity at record pace. That's why it matters, because people are dying out there and we have the antidote – the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We must be shaken from our slumber. We must be awakened from our soul sleep by the Holy Spirit.

READ 2 Timothy 2:1-7

1. WE ARE MOTIVATED BY GRACE (V.1)

Paul first writes here and tells Timothy to be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

BE STRENGTHENED – is a passive imperative. So in other words this is a command of God to us. We are commanded to find our strength in Christ, and the passive voice means we are being acted upon by that grace. So, in Christ, in our relationship with Him, as we seek Him

in prayer and call out to Him in praise – **HE STRENGTHENS US BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT WITH HIS GRACE.**

What is GRACE?

It's been referred to by an acrostic – **God's Riches at Christ's Expense.**

Matthew Henry

Grace is the free, undeserved goodness and favor of God to mankind.

Mercy is God withholding what we do deserve. Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve. Grace is an unwarranted, undeserved, gift

Grace is the full and free forgiveness of every sin, without God demanding or expecting anything from the one who has been forgiven.

Grace is God's unmerited favor given to us through Christ, and His divine assistance gifted to us through the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8 says we are saved by grace through faith and that not of ourselves it is God's gift to us.

We are **SAVED BY GRACE, SUSTAINED BY GRACE, AND SECURE IN GRACE!**

Eph 1 – God LAVISHES HIS GRACE UPON US

D-GROUP ILLUSTRATION

I have a d-group (discipleship group) I meet with once a week at 6am in the morning, and this past week the question was raised, "Why did God even create us?" It's all because of grace! The doctrine of predestination means that God created us just to bestow His grace

on us because He knew before we were ever born we would sin against Him.

So God created us just to save us!
He made us just to redeem us!
He birthed us into existence just to rescue us!

EVERYTHING THIS SIDE OF HELL IS GRACE!

2 Corinthians 12:9

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

What motivates us to make disciples of others?

GOD'S EXTRAVAGANT GRACE SHOWN TO US

When I think about all I've been given by God how can I not give to others? When I think of the godly witnesses the Lord brought into my life and how grateful I am that someone else poured Jesus into me, how can I not be a witness to others?

It's been said – if you see a turtle on a fence post you know someone put him there. We are all just turtles on a fence post! God picked us up in His grace, elevated us into His Kingdom – and the view from there is amazing!

SHOWING GOD'S GRACE TO OTHERS

It is so intriguing to me that before He talks about discipling others in this passage He talks about being strengthened by grace. When I think about all God has saved me from it changes the way I view those around me that don't know Christ and aren't walking with Him. It gives me a grace toward others.

THE MORE I GROW IN GRACE – THE MORE I SHOW HIS GRACE.

If I am not SHOWING GRACE then I am not GROWING IN GRACE.

2. WE HAVE A MINISTRY TO FULFILL (V.2)

In verse 2 Paul essentially reiterates the GREAT COMMISSION to Timothy.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In this passage Paul breaks it down into smaller bites, if you will, for Timothy. He tells him to take what he had learned directly from him and entrust it to other faithful men.

ENTRUST – aorist imperative

Aorist tense speaks of a one time intentional decision. So the idea is decisively, intentionally give the gospel away. Imperative again means it is a command of God. So God commands us to be intentional about giving the gospel away to others.

Faithful men – the word here means trustworthy people, and the Word for men here refers to MEN OR WOMEN. So, who are trustworthy men. Faithfulness doesn't mean perfect or sinless men. It doesn't mean that it's only for the people already leading in the body of Christ.

FAITHFULNESS MEANS WILLINGNESS

Who do you disciple? It's not perfect people, IT'S WILLING PEOPLE. We are called to disciple those who are humbly willing to grow in Christ. We don't give ministry away to perfect people, but to humbly willing people.

THE QUESTION IS AM I WILLING?

Blank Check Illustration

Recently our daughter, Reagan, needed a check to pay for a field trip at school, and we didn't know who to make the check out to. So, I filled out the amount on the check and even signed it, but I left the payee line blank. Scary moment!

CHURCH – TODAY CHRIST IS SAYING SIGN THE CHECK OVER TO ME! SIGN THE CHECK TODAY BUT LEAVE IT BLANK AND LET ME FILL IT IN.

Fulfilling the ministry God has called you to means LAYING YOUR CHECKBOOK ON THE ALTAR. It means LAYING YOUR CALENDAR ON THE ALTAR. It means LAYING YOUR VACATION, YOUR HOBBIES, YOUR POSSESSIONS, YOUR JOB.....OUR IDOLS ON THE ALTAR OF GOD.

Today, I beg of you not to quench what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your life. Today, GIVE THE BLANK CHECK TO JESUS!

3. WE HAVE A MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH (v.3-7)

Paul explains our call to the fulfill the Great Commission, the call to go and make disciples, by giving us 3 object lessons. These 3 categories of people are extremely pragmatic and productive, they are not overly philosophical. Soldier, athlete, and farmer. The soldier trains and learns, but it's all to fight a war. The athlete trains and works at her or his craft, but it's so they can go play the game. The farmer learns how to grow a crop, but farming is a ton of work. You plow, you plant, you tend, and you harvest a crop.

SOLDIER – doesn't get entangled in civilian pursuits. His aim is to please His King.

Entangled – speaks of being intertwined, so all wrapped up in, or all caught up in

Gets entangled – in the passive voice, so it's the outside circumstances pulling one in. So a good soldier doesn't allow himself or herself to be pulled into civilian pursuits during training and warfare time.

Civilian – the word BIOS. Where we get our word BIOLOGY. It literally means LIFE.

As good soldiers of Jesus Christ we are not to allow LIFE TO DISTRACT US FROM THE MISSION OF DISCIPLE-MAKING.

When I think about soldiers I think about the word SACRIFICE. What an incredible sacrifice soldier and their families make to serve our country. Their entire lives are predicated upon the call of the armed service they serve.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU SACRIFICING FOR THE MISSION OF GOD? LIVING ON MISSION FOR CHRIST CHANGES YOUR LIFESTYLE

ATHLETE – doesn't win unless he competes according to the rules

Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa 1998 Illustration

I am a big baseball fan, and I can still remember the 1998 homerun chase between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. That was such an electric time in baseball. McGwire would homer then Sosa would homer. McGwire would hit 2 then Sosa would hit 2. But that magical season is now tainted because we all found out they were taking PED's, performance enhancing drugs. Then we found out even the most prolific homerun hitter of all-time, Barry Bonds, was also taking PED's. Now there are asterisks beside all their names in the history books.

Beloved, I don't want an asterisk by my name in the Lamb's book of life. I don't want the testimony of doing great things for God – BUT

he lost his family in the process, or he committed a major public sin, or he ruined it all by some indiscretion.

Christ has called us all to a life of significance, a life that impacts our circle of influence. ***SIN DESTROYS YOUR SIGNIFICANCE.***

FARMER

I grew up around farmers. My dad's family were all farmers, and watching them and at times helping them made me realize that farming is HARD AND LONG WORK. First you spend all winter PREPARING TO PLANT. Then you PLOW THE GROUND, YOU PLANT THE SEED, YOU TEND THE CROP, AND FINALLY YOU HARVEST THAT CROP.

Church – two thoughts on farmers.

FARMING TAKES FAITH – a farmer plows and plants with no promise that the conditions will work out for a good crop. Multiplying the Mission takes faith.

YOU DON'T GET A HARVEST BY KEEPING SEED IN THE BARN. YOU'VE GOT TO PLANT SEED IN THE GROUND. WE HAVE TO PLANT PRAYER, MONEY, AND MINISTRY INTO FOLKS AROUND US TO GET A HARVEST.

FARMING TAKES WORK – In the over-anxious world in which we live we have bought into the idea that the doing God's will always means doing what is EASIEST, or what CAUSES THE LEAST AMOUNT OF HARSHIP. A farmer goes to be tired every night. We have bought into this idea that we should never be involved in anything draining or depleting in our life. Church, listen closely: be aware of your mental and emotional health. Have boundaries in your life that keep you from burning out. But know that a cup that's never empty is also a cup that can't be filled. The reason some people are so discontented in the faith is because they are not allowing themselves to be poured out for others.

Philippians 2:17

Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

For some of you here today the reason for your discontent in life may not be because you're too depleted, it may be because you're pouring your life out for the wrong things.

WE need a REVIVAL OF RESILIENCY! We need an AWAKENING OF ACTION! We need to return to a LIFE OF LABOR for the Master.

Paul says, be like a farmer who works hard in God's field.

JESUS SAVES US TO SEND US.

Jesus does not save us to sit and consume. Jesus saves us to use us, to send us, to employ us. That's what the great commission is all about. That's what spiritual gifts are all about.

We have bought into this erroneous idea that God's will is always the comfortable thing. Church, listen closely, Scripture actually tells us the opposite. If it's not hard it's probably not God's will. Ministering to others is hard. Sharing Christ is not comfortable. Making disciples takes commitment. You have to stand for Christ in your workplace. You have to make time to get in the Word with your family and with others for the sake of growth. But that's what you do when you're a devoted follower of Christ.

Church, today, could we just have a moment with God? Could we just gather around this altar and cry out to God for a fresh wind of His Spirit in our lives? Could we just cry out for a renewed burden and boldness to make disciples of our neighbors?