

Civilian Affairs
2 Timothy 2:1-7
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- I. Background on the passage
 1. Paul is writing to Timothy
 2. Purpose of the Letter:
 - i. Encouraging Timothy in the faith
 - ii. Entrusting the ministry to him, as his own ministry was nearing its close
 3. Our Passage:
 - i. Giving him worldly examples of standing for the faith and walking upright
- II. Levels of Discipleship
 1. 2 Timothy 2:2
 2. What we learn, we are to teach it to others, who will then teach it to others
 3. 4 Generations of believers/teachers in view
 4. Akin to graduating boot camp and becoming an enlisted soldier
- III. No longer civilians
 1. Enlisted as slaves for Christ (Romans 6)
 - i. A soldier is no longer his own person, but has given his life to the service of whom he has enlisted (Romans 6:17-18)
 2. As soldiers, we no longer get caught up in the cares of the world
 - i. Some things you can no longer do as a soldier
 - ii. There is a standard that has to be kept because of who you now represent (1 Peter 1:13-16)
 3. A soldier suffers hardship, but stands firm regardless of the situation (James 1:12) because he is faithful to the one who enlisted him (i.e. soldiers currently at war)
 - i. Other supporting texts: Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 3:17; 4:1; Romans 8:17; Acts 9:15-16; 2 Corinthians 1:5
 4. We need to be faithful in the same manner, not defiling ourselves with the ways of the world
 - i. Story of the Hebrew boys & their faithfulness to God in the midst of trials - Dan 1:8
 5. A soldier who does not follow orders is dishonorably discharged and is forever put to shame
 - i. 2 Peter 2:20-22
 - ii. Matthew 7:21-23
- IV. Compete like athletes
 1. As an athlete, you're disqualified if you don't play according to the rules
 - i. 1 Cor. 9:25-27
 2. Our rules are the Word of God
 - i. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 3. Athletes train and practice in order to be in shape to compete
 - i. 2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:11
 4. We need to walk this life in a manner that is in self-control and within the confines of the Word of God
 - i. Heb. 12:1
- V. Farmers

1. As farmers, we need to work hard, as if we were anticipating a crop
 - i. 2 Tim. 2:6
2. As a farmer plowing the field, you must always keep your focus straight
 - i. Luke 9:62
3. The word for hard-working is from a Greek verb that means "to labor to the point of exhaustion"
 - i. Lk. 5:5; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor 15:10
 - ii. Contrasted view
 - i. Matt 6:28 & 11:28
4. κοπιᾶω #G2872
 - i. To grow weary, toil.
 - ii. Used 28x in 21vv
5. This is an indication of how dedicated & diligent we need to be in our work for the Lord, working until we reap the harvest (eternal life)
 - i. 1 Cor. 3:5-8
6. An urging to not be lazy but to labor intensely
 - i. Colossians 1:28-29

VI.

Consider

1. Paul is telling Timothy that this is not just a suggestion, but something to be seriously considered and thought about.
 - i. Hebrews 13:7; 1 Timothy 4:15
2. Give thought to these words and this teaching
3. νοέω #G3539
 - i. consider well, understand, reflect on with insight.
 - ii. Used 14x in 14vv.
4. Concern yourself with the Word of God and He will supply understanding.
 - i. Philippians 4:8; Eph 1:17-18; Col 1:9; James 1:5; 1 John 5:20