

2 Timothy 2:1-7

2 Timothy 2:1 – “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

4771 [e]	3767 [e]	5043 [e]	1473 [e]	1743 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	5485 [e]	3588 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]
Sy	oun	teknon	mou	endynamou	en	tē	chariti	tē	en	Christō	Iēsou
1 Σὺ	οὖν ,	τέκνον	μου ,	ἐνδυναμοῦ	ἐν	τῇ	χάριτι	τῇ	ἐν	Χριστῷ	Ἰησοῦ .
You	therefore	child	of me	be strong	in	the	grace	that [is]	in	Christ	Jesus
PPro-N2S	Conj	N-VNS	PPro-G1S	V-PMM/P-2S	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Art-DFS	Prep	N-DMS	N-DMS

1. “You therefore” or “You then” is emphatic since it is placed first in the Greek sentence.
 - a. “You then” compared to the deserters mentioned at the end of chapter 1 – Phygelus, Hermogenes and “all who are in Asia” who turned away from Paul.
 - b. Timothy is NOT to be like those who turned away, but like Onesiphorus and his household who remained faithful even when times became difficult and dangerous.
 - c. “therefore” or “then” is used to reinforce the emphatic emphasis on “You” which suggests of the two previous examples Timothy was to be like Onesiphorus.
2. “My son” is a tender, relationship reference after having compared Timothy’s options to include “turning away”
3. Paul is finishing his work on this earth, now it is Timothy’s turn to step up and be the man. These next words will continue identifying Timothy’s assignment. This assignment includes not only Timothy teaching the Truth and remaining faithful, but Timothy must also find other men who can teach the Truth and be trusted to continue to teach the truth.
4. “Be strong” is present passive imperative which implies
 - a. “keep on being strong”
 - b. The passive connects to “the grace that is in Christ Jesus” meaning Timothy is being empowered by God’s grace which required Timothy’s continued cooperation with the strength being given him freely by God.
5. “Grace that is in Christ Jesus”
 - a. We are saved by grace, but our Christian life continues moment by moment to be sustained by grace.
 - b. This grace is “in Christ Jesus”. It is not something we can find in the world or produce by ourselves. It is in Christ, and we need to operate from within Christ.
 - c. The location of “in the Grace” could refer to two things:
 - i. The means by which Timothy receives this strength, meaning “by the means of grace” continue to be strong.
 - ii. The sphere where Timothy will experience this grade, meaning “in the sphere of Grace that is in Christ”
 - iii. Ultimately, they can both be considered accurate simultaneously: Timothy is to continue to be strong by the means of Grace that is found in Christ

2:2 – “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2532 [e]	3739 [e]	191 [e]	3844 [e]	1473 [e]	1223 [e]	4183 [e]	3144 [e]	3778 [e]	3908 [e]
kai	ha	ēkousas	par'	emou	dia	pollōn	martyrōn	tauta	parathou
2 καὶ ἃ	ἧκουσας	παρ' ἐμοῦ	διὰ πολλῶν	μαρτύρων	, ταῦτα	παράθου			
And	the things which	you have heard	from	me	among	many	witnesses	these	entrust
Conj	RelPro-ANP	V-AIA-2S	Prep	PPro-G1S	Prep	Adj-GMP	N-GMP	DPro-ANP	V-AMM-2S

4103 [e]	444 [e]	3748 [e]	2425 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	2087 [e]	1321 [e]
pistois	anthrōpois	hoitines	hikanoi	esontai	kai	heterous	didaxai
πιστοῖς ἀνθρώποις	, οἵτινες	ἱκανοὶ	ἔσονται	καὶ	ἑτέρους	διδάξαι	.
to faithful	men	such as	sufficient	will be	also	others	to teach
Adj-DMP	N-DMP	RelPro-NMP	Adj-NMP	V-FIM-3P	Conj	Adj-AMP	V-ANA

1. There is reference to four handoffs of teaching responsibility in this verse. Four generations or four turnings, or four teacher/student relationships:
 - a. The first is **Paul** teaching Timothy
 - b. The second is **Timothy** teaching the men he is to find
 - c. The third is the **“reliable” and “qualified” men** Timothy is to find
 - d. The fourth is **the “others” taught** by the men Timothy entrusts the Word of God to that are identified as “reliable” and “qualified” to teach
2. Not only is Timothy to faithfully teach, he is also to find those who can learn themselves and faithfully teach.
3. If Timothy follows Paul’s request, then Timothy is going to be leaving Ephesus to come to Rome to see Paul. This means Timothy needs to find these men and have them established in the Truth and the responsibility before Timothy leaves for Rome.
4. “The things you have heard me say” refers to the things Timothy heard Paul teach
 - a. Timothy was to teach what he had been taught by the apostle
 - b. Timothy was NOT to become create new concepts and was not to become an innovator of new religious ideas.
5. “in the presence of many witnesses”
 - a. “in the presence of” is a challenging line to interpret:
 - i. It could refer to the witnesses at Timothy’s baptism or ordination mentioned in:
 1. 1 Timothy 4:14 – “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.”
 2. 1 Timothy 6:12 – “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”
 3. They would have heard Paul identify the foundational teachings when Timothy was recognized as a gifted teacher
 - ii. I could refer to the many witnesses who, along with Paul, taught Timothy. This would include apostles and their associates such as:
 1. Luke
 2. Barnabas
 3. Aquila and Priscila
 4. Others, etc.
6. “entrusted” is the verb of the same root used for “deposit” in:

- a. 1 Timothy 6:20 – “O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” ”
 - b. 2 Timothy 1:12 – “I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.”
 - c. 2 Timothy 1:14 – “By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”
7. Qualities of these men:
- a. “reliable” or “faithful” from *pistois* which means “trustworthy, faithful, believing.
 - b. Competent - “qualified to teach others” or “capable of teaching others” from *hikanos* which means they have sufficient ability, strength or worthiness as, in this case, “teachers of others”
8. These men Paul is asking Timothy to prepare are likely the elders identified in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 5:17-22

2:3 – “Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

4777 [e]	5613 [e]	2570 [e]	4757 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]
Synkakopathēson	hōs	kalos	stratiōtēs	Christou	Iēsou
3 Συνκακοπάθησον	ὡς	καλὸς	στρατιώτης	Χριστοῦ	Ἰησοῦ .
Share in suffering	as	[a] good	soldier	of Christ	Jesus
V-AMA-2S	Adv	Adj-NMS	N-NMS	N-GMS	N-GMS

1. Paul is going to use three examples of men with careers and responsibilities that capture what Paul expects Timothy to be do in the ministry of the Truth. Each of these will have a specific point as an example, but yet continue developing the same theme:
 - a. Soldier
 - b. Athlete
 - c. Farmer
2. Timothy is going to need:
 - a. Continuous supply of “grace”
 - b. Singleness of purpose
 - c. Ability to share in harsh situations and suffering
3. “good soldier”
 - a. Endures hardships
 - b. Avoids entanglements which might hinder the service required to fulfill his duty
 - c. Desires to please the one who enlisted him
4. “Share in suffering” is *synkakopatheson* and has been translated as “join the ranks of those who bear suffering.” There is no specific mention of Timothy joining with Paul in suffering in this word, but it could be assumed
 - a. The suffering would be the living the life of a soldier. To avoid suffering would be to turn back to a civilian life
5. “good soldier of Christ Jesus” is a reference to:
 - a. who recruited Timothy and
 - b. who is Timothy’s commanding officer

2:4 – “No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.”

3762 [e]	4754 [e]	1707 [e]	3588 [e]	3588 [e]	979 [e]	4230 [e]	2443 [e]
oudeis	strateuomenos	empleketai	tais	tou	biou	pragmateiais	hina
4 οὐδείς	στρατευόμενος	ἐμπλέκεται	ταῖς	τοῦ	βίου	πραγματεΐαις	, ἵνα
No one	serving as a soldier	entangles himself	in the	of this	life	affairs	that
Adj-NMS	V-PPM-NMS	V-PIM/P-3S	Art-DFP	Art-GMS	N-GMS	N-DFP	Conj

3588 [e]	4758 [e]	700 [e]
tō	stratologēsanti	aresē
τῷ	στρατολογήσαντι	, ἀρέσῃ .
the [one]	having enlisted him	he might please
Art-DMS	V-APA-DMS	V-ASA-3S

1. “Entangles himself” is a command focused on maintaining a singleness of purpose.
 - a. There are going to be many “worthy” causes and endeavors, but not all of them are worthy of the good soldier who knows why he was recruited and who recruited him.
 - b. This could be captured in Romans 12:2 – “Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
 - c. “Entangles himself” would be contrary to joining in the suffering of the soldiers life. It would be easier for Timothy to return to a civilian life than to continue the life of a soldier pleasing his commander.

2:5 – “Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules.”

1437 [e]	1161 [e]	2532 [e]	118 [e]	5100 [e]	3756 [e]	4737 [e]	1437 [e]	3361 [e]	3545 [e]	118 [e]
ean	de	kai	athlē	tis	ou	stephanoutai	ean	mē	nomimōs	athlēsē
5 ἐάν	δὲ	καὶ	ἀθλῆ	τις	, οὐ	στεφανοῦται	, ἐάν	μὴ	νομίμως	ἀθλήσῃ .
If	now	also	competes	anyone	not	he is crowned	if	not	lawfully	he shall have competed
Conj	Conj	Conj	V-PSA-3S	IPro-NMS	Adv	V-PIM/P-3S	Conj	Adv	Adv	V-ASA-3S

1. The athlete is the image of an endeavor that requires faithful discipline to reach success.
2. “according to the rules” literally means “he lawfully competes”.
 - a. This could refer to two different things in athletic competition in Paul’s day:
 - i. The athlete must compete according the rules of the game.
 1. The “rules” of this game is to play you will need to suffer.
 2. The focus may not be on Timothy’s need for “training” or “discipline”, but on Timothy being willing to play by the rules of suffering for the kingdom.
 - ii. The athlete must meet the requirement of necessary training to legitimately enter the competition. An athletes entrance into the Olympic games required:
 1. The athlete train for the games for the last 10 months.
 2. The athlete take an oath before the god Zeus that he has followed strict training for the last 10 months before entering the competition

3. The training of the athlete could be the focus here, because in this culture the rules required training.
4. Training would require:
 - a. Stamina
 - b. Self-discipline
5. Insightful verses from 1 Timothy would include:
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:-8 –“Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”
 - b. 1 Timothy 6:12 – “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”
- b. The image of the athlete then would seem to be that the teacher cannot enter the competition of teaching unless they have prepared themselves for the competition.
 - i. Meaning, the Christian must first renew their minds and separate their Christian philosophy and worldview from that of their previous life where they followed pagan philosophy and evaluated situations from their cultural worldview.
 - ii. Paul had trouble in almost all the churches with people joining the rank of the Christians, and then, trying to take on leadership roles without adjusting their human viewpoint to the divine viewpoint: Judaism, Greek philosophy, local customs (see the book of Colossians)
3. “the victors crown” is *stephanoutai* referring to the honorary wreath awarded to the champion athlete.
 - a. To receive this victory wreath in the Christian Games the minister must:
 - i. Compete by the rules of the game
 - ii. Train according to the requirements to be a legitimate competitor in the games

2:6 – “**The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.**”

3588 [e]	2872 [e]	1092 [e]	1163 [e]	4412 [e]	3588 [e]	2590 [e]	3335 [e]
ton	kopiōnta	geōrgon	dei	prōton	tōn	karpōn	metalambanein
6 τὸν	κοπιῶντα	γεωργὸν	δεῖ	πρῶτον	τῶν	καρπῶν	μεταλαμβάνειν .
For the	hardworking	farmer	it is necessary	first	of the	fruits	to partake
Art-AMS	V-PPA-AMS	N-AMS	V-PIA-3S	Adv-S	Art-GMP	N-GMP	V-PNA

1. The farmer is used to make the point that, “the hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.”
 - a. This is talking about receiving a harvest, a reward, a share
 - b. After you have worked hard at the job of preparing for the harvest, reward, share.
2. “ministry” is described as “hardworking” by Paul in Romans 16:6, 12; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Galatians 4:11.
3. The time of enjoying this harvest is eschatological most likely:
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:10 – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2:7 – “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”

3539 [e]	3739 [e]	3004 [e]	1325 [e]	1063 [e]	4771 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]	4907 [e]	1722 [e]	3956 [e]
noei	ho	legō	dōsei	gar	soi	ho	Kyrios	synesin	en	pasin
7 νόει	ὁ	λέγω ;	δώσει	γάρ	σοι	ὁ	Κύριος	σύνεσιν	ἐν	πᾶσιν .
Consider	the things	I am saying	will give	for	you	the	Lord	understanding	in	all things
V-PMA-2S	RelPro-ANS	V-PIA-1S	V-FIA-3S	Conj	PPro-D2S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	N-AFS	Prep	Adj-DNP

1. “insight” means right judgment or comprehension.
2. These three illustrations: soldier, athlete and farmer make these points:
 - a. Timothy you will suffer –
 - i. The soldier avoid entanglement
 - ii. The athlete trains and the rules include suffering
 - iii. The farmer is hardworking receiving little during planting and growing season
 - b. Timothy when all is done well there will be a reward or a harvest –
 - i. The soldier warfare results in victory
 - ii. The athlete wins the prize
 - iii. The farmer shares the harvest first
3. To serve the Lord as a teacher Timothy will need to be:
 - a. Prepared with competent skills of a teacher
 - b. Willing to suffer which includes making choices that align with Jesus’ priorities
 - c. Be self-disciplined
 - d. Work hard
4. The teacher, like any Christian, will have to suffer in this life of service to be qualified to share in the rewards in the next.