

II Timothy, Sermon #5

Turn in your Bibles to the Book of II Timothy – Let me reset the stage for us from chapter 1:

- Timothy is a pastor in a tough town with a tough job
- He is having some problems – outwardly and inwardly

God writes to Him to strengthen and encourage him (1:7)

- Don't be ashamed
- Suffering and struggling is part of the work of God.

In Chapter 2 – God begins to turn the corner and tells Timothy of his responsibilities as a believer:

- Americans love the salvation of Jesus Christ; it is free; He paid it all
- But, Jesus told His followers to take up their crosses (that means sacrifice) and follow Him.

This is what Timothy needed to do.

I have entitled today's message "Stand and Deliver"

II Timothy 2:1

Let us rise for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 2:1-2

Let us pray

You may be seated

Stand and Deliver

Vs. 1A

Timothy was commanded to be strong (2:1)

However, the source of Timothy's strength was not in himself, but in Christ.

- It is not in ourselves – the flesh profiteth nothing
- Not by our might, nor by our power

If we think that we can grit our teeth and go out and live the Christian life on our own, we are in for a great disappointment.

If we feel that we can follow a few little rules or some clever gimmicks to make us a mature Christian, then we have fallen into a trap.

Strength for living out our faith does not rely in us and cannot rely upon us.

- What happens for many Christians is that they grow spiritually to a point where they then rest upon what they have and do not grow anymore.
- They operate within the knowledge and level of moral teachings – mode of life – no vibrancy!

Do we really understand what it means to be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ?

The grace of God is the most thrilling concept that can occupy the mind of a Christian.

When it occupies the mind it will soon flood the heart with praise to God that such a thing exists.

Without grace there is no hope for any of us. The only alternative to grace is by our own efforts, our own works, our own strength.

But the Bible says, Titus 3:5, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”*

If we do not understand the New Testament meaning of the word *grace*, we will never understand the gospel, because grace is the key to understanding the substance and heart of its message, which is salvation through Christ alone.

- **God is a God of grace** – I Peter 5:10, *“But the God of all grace”* – will mature us, settle us, and strengthen us.
- **Jesus brought grace to the world** – John 1:17, *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*
- **Salvation is a product of grace** – Titus 2:11, *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”*
- **Justification is by grace** – Romans 3:24, *“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*

Grace is the kindness and love of God given to us in spite of us – it is totally undeserved

This grace is needed because of both the character of man and the character of God.

- Man was created in the image of God.
- When man sinned he was separated from God.
- He is now alien (enemy) to God his Maker and, because of his sinful character, he can do nothing about it.

God’s character on the other hand is such that He cannot overlook sin.

- His holiness, truth and justice demand that man must be dealt with as he is, and that sin must be punished.

These two factors, taken on their own, would condemn all men to an eternity in hell – this leaves us in a hopeless position.

Ephesians 2:4, 7, 8

The secret of Paul's great ministry was the grace of God.

I Corinthians 15:10, "*But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*"

Paul's power was not his own, but God's

Be strong in the grace

- Be strong, "by means of **the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**"

Ephesians 6:10 - "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*"

Our only effective spiritual strength is "in the Lord, and in the strength of His might."

Timothy did not need more from God, but he needed to use the divine provisions he already possessed.

He needed to exercise the gracious love of Christ in his life.

He needed continued growth in strength and stamina.

The effectiveness of his ministry depended not simply in his *having* that call and those resources but in his faithfully *using* them in God's power and to God's glory.

Grace is the realm of living that we acknowledge our total dependence upon Him and lack of trust in ourselves to do God's will and work.

Our salvation is not of us, for we are saved by grace, and our walk in Christ is not of us, but by the grace of God.

Now, stand up Timothy – be strong Timothy – here is what you need to do: You need to deliver (vs. 2).

He was to

II. Teach others – pour into others; pass this on to others – this is the Principle of Reproduction – or what we would call the Ministry of Multiplication

- Although God mentions four generations of teachers, the idea is that of a continuing process.
- Jesus, of course, was the Master Teacher. He taught the apostles, who then taught others, who taught others, who are still teaching others, and so on throughout the church age.
- ★The problem is most believers have never started the process★

The first stage in the spiritual “relay” was the truth being handed from Paul to Timothy, “**the things which**” he had “**heard from**” Paul over the period of several years traveling with the apostle and of ministering with him in Ephesus.

So, first is the receiving process – we must be receiving the Truth – that body of faith

- What happens to a student who misses a lot of school? He misses out on his education.
- So a person who misses church – misses out on spiritual opportunities

Everyone knows that church is on Sunday and is in session on a regular basis and more than one hour per week.

Many people are on the slow track of learning because they are not keeping themselves in school.

Important – our learning, our growth, our attention, our education, our reception!

It is important that we get our original treasure from the Word of God, and not from the ideas and philosophies of men.

We do not want to pass on the wrong things.

- We do not test modern messages and teachers by their popularity, education, or skill.
- But we test them by the Word of God!

How well educated are we?

- Church is not like elementary school where we have to go.
- It is like college and we can choose to be here or not.
- Every time we come to church at MCBC we get the Bible.

Timothy not only received this from the Apostle Paul, but from others – vs. 2

Those **witnesses** certainly would have included Paul's fellow preachers and teachers, such as Barnabas and Silas.

Other well-taught leaders in the church such as Dr. Luke, a companion of Paul on many of his trips, also would have been qualified to confirm to Timothy the divine Word.

From the time he first met and began accompanying Paul (Acts 16:1-3), Timothy was exposed to the public teaching and private counsel of **many** Godly **witnesses** in addition to Paul.

When we come to church, we not only receive from the Pastor, but also from many others: There are many who teach in some kind of an official way (capacity) at Medora

Many believers never take advantage of the free courses on the Bible offered here: Revival; Bible Conferences; Special Meetings; Wednesday Night Meetings, Medora Bible Institute

If a person only makes church twice a month, that means that he gets less than 24 hours – one day – a year in Bible training

So, what was Timothy to do with what he had received?! He was to commit it to others.

- **Commit** – vs. 2 – is an imperative – it means he must do it. It carries the idea of depositing something valuable for safekeeping.

It is like leaving our children to someone when we will be gone – we are very careful, diligent

Now it was time for the treasure with which Timothy had been entrusted to be entrusted to others.

Timothy's assignment was to run the second lap, as it were, of this spiritual relay, in which he was to **deliver** the **things** he had been taught by Paul.

- That is to pass on the teaching of God's Word – Pass It On!

That which he was to carefully guard (1:13), he also was to carefully teach it to others.

- We have received the baton – Now, do we hand it off?
- Are we in the process of teaching others? Have we ever passed on the baton to someone? Why not?
- The next generation needs it. The failure in this one area is being demonstrated in our society today.

Jesus told us to teach them, to disciple them, to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you

The truth God is talking about here is beyond the basic Gospel message of salvation. We are to give out more than just the Gospel.

- He is talking about the careful, systematic training of church people who will teach and disciple other believers in the fullness of God's Word. This is called discipleship. Did you know that if you personally want to be involved in this, you can? Whether to disciple someone else or be disciplined—we can help!
- We are not, however, to give the baton to just anyone.

This particular ministry is to be selective – Vs. 2 – **to faithful men.**

- It is reserved for faithful people, trustworthy people
- He is directing Timothy to invest in the lives of spiritually faithful people

In other words, this special entrustment is reserved for believers whose character reflects the faithfulness of God's own Word and God's own Son.

We are not to pour ourselves down a hole!

- How do you know if a person is faithful?
- They are engaging truth and applying it!

Faithful refers to spiritual character. What did Jesus teach us about faithfulness? –

5, 2, & 1 – Jesus gave five coins – made another five
two coins – made another two
one coin – dug a hole and put it in

- The faithful person received more
- The unfaithful received nothing

The third lap in the relay is for **faithful men & women**, who themselves have been carefully trained, to teach others who are faithful.

I called a person in our church and asked if she could help this other woman to grow spiritually.

She said, “I don’t think I can do it; I don’t know how.”

I said, “Look, you have been in church for 50 years. You know the Truth and I will teach you how to pass it on.”

This is just the start of a continuous process of spiritual reproduction, of being taught and of teaching, that is to continue until our Lord returns.

Faithful men and women who will commit these things to others also.

Every believer has a responsibility: receiving the Truth and passing it on.

- This manna from the Word is not something we get for ourselves and keep to ourselves.
- We have been blessed with so much, yet we keep it to ourselves.
- We are stewards of the spiritual treasure God has given us.

And, it is our responsibility to guard the deposit and then invest it in the lives of others. They, in turn, are to share the Word with the next generation of believers.

Paul was greatly concerned about the future.

He wondered, just as we do when we approach the end of our ministry, if other men will come along who will preach and teach the Word of God.

Most people have never developed another person spiritually.

- Most pastors have never done this.
- This is a fundamental principle of Biblical living – teaching others

Mature believers should be concerned about the development of others.

Timothy, you need to stand, be strong in God, and deliver to those people in public and private the sacred trust of the truths of God

Stand and Deliver

Let us rise for the closing invitation – every eye closed.

Believers, are we putting ourselves in the position so that we can receive the transmission of God's truth?

Are we imparting God's truth to others?

If not now, when?

Do we need to be disciplined – taught?

Do we really desire to learn?

The opportunities here at Medora are numerous for public and private teaching

Will we avail ourselves to it?

Are we mature enough, been in the faith and church long enough – that we ought to be discipling others? But we are not?

If not now, when?

We can help you and show you how to disciple others

Will you avail yourself?

Grace of God – we don't deserve – it is God's favor

We are not worthy, yet God is merciful and wants to give to us His salvation through Jesus Christ

We are hopeless in sin and condemned before a holy God.

Yet through Christ, we can be made whole.

God has made a provision for us

Will we receive it? It's a free gift.

Christ died for our sins.

He was buried and He rose again the third day.