

From Forgiven to Faithfulness (2 Timothy)

Lesson 7: Faithful Servants

Text: 2 Timothy 2:3

Date: January 29, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

1. On August 20, 1977 I made a promise to be _____.
2. There is another loyalty which transcends loyalty to one's spouse.
3. The theme of Second Timothy is "_____".

FOUR HARDSHIPS THAT WILL TEST OUR LOYALTY TO CHRIST:

1. _____ PERSECUTION

- A. Paul's _____ (1:11-12; 2:9; 4:9-13; 4:16-17).
- B. "Western Christianity today has no theology of persecution."
From a small booklet published for the IDOP in November of 2000.

2. _____ DETERIORATION

- A. Characteristic of the "last days" (3:1-5a; 13)
- B. _____ from the Lord (3:5b)

3. _____ DEFECTION

Apostasy will characterize these "last days". Timothy was to resist this falling away by "preaching the Word" (4:1-2).

- A. _____ it _____ (2:15)
- B. _____ it _____ (1:13-14)
- C. _____ it _____ (4:1-2)
- D. _____ it to faithful men (2:2)
- E. _____ for it _____ (1:8)

4. PERSONAL _____

It is devastating when people who once professed faith, & for some time followed Christ, desert Him and/or you, but it will happen (1:15; 4:9-10; 4:16).

PAUL'S CHALLENGE TO TIMOTHY: "_____."

In the words of Paul, "Endure hardship with us as a good soldier of J.C." (2:3).

"There are two little monosyllables in the original Greek text of 2 Timothy which crystallize the theme of this letter for me. They are "su de". They occur four times (2:1; 3:10, 14; 4:5). They are translated "but you," or "but as for you." They summon Timothy to resist the prevailing mood. In the midst of the general landslide, Timothy must stand his ground. Timothy is called to be different. He is not to yield to the pressures of public opinion or conform to the spirit of his age, but rather to stand firm in the truth and the righteousness of God. It is my judgment nothing is more needed by Christians in today's world and church than this same courage."

John R. W. Stott. The Message of Second Timothy (1973). Part of The Bible Speaks Today (BST) series of New Testament expositions.

HOW CAN WE BE FAITHFUL?

Is God asking us to do this all alone?

1. God's _____ (1:8)
2. God's _____ (2:1)
3. God's strengthening _____ (4:16-17; 2 Cor. 12:9)
4. God's _____ (4:6-8, 18)
5. God's _____/gift (1:6-7, 13-14)