

## From Forgiven to Faithfulness (2 Timothy)

Lesson 9: Faithfulness Illustrated (2 Tim. 2:3-26)

Date: February 12, 2023

### INTRODUCTION:

#### 1. Faithful Servants (1:1-8)

Last week we looked at four hardships that will test our loyalty to Christ.

(1) Physical persecutions; (2) Moral deterioration; (3) Doctrinal defections; and (4) Personal desertion. Timothy was charged to "be different" (*sude*).

#### 2. Faithfulness in History (1:9-2:2)

God showed Himself faithful to His promises, Paul and Onesiphorus were faithful, while some of their contemporaries were unfaithful. In light of these things, Timothy and believers today are charged to be faithful.

#### 3. Faithfulness Illustrated (2:3-26)

Paul used a soldier, an athlete, a farmer, himself, a trustworthy saying & a workman to illustrate the theme of faithfulness. These illustrations clearly demonstrate the *exertion* necessary to be faithful. The learner will understand that faithfulness requires energy & then commit to expending it.

### THE SOLDIER (2:3, 4)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of hardship
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of purpose
3. Write a word or couple of words on the white board that summarize what we learn about faithfulness from the soldier?

### THE ATHLETE (2:5)

1. The words "competes as an athlete" & "competes" = ἠθλέω *athléō*
2. The pt. of the illus. is found in the words "according to the rules".
3. Write a word or couple of words on the white board that summarize what we learn about faithfulness from the athlete?

### THE FARMER (2:6)

Write a word or couple of words on the white board summarizing what we learn about faithfulness from the soldier?

NOTE: A sub-theme runs through these three illustrations: Faithfulness will be \_\_\_\_\_ by God (Mt. 5:12; 1 Cor. 3:11-15).

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:10 & Revelation 22:12. Who will reward us for our faithful service, and when will we be rewarded?

### **PAUL HIMSELF (2:8-10)**

Paul suffered trouble (9). He was counted as a "criminal". This word is found only 4X in the N.T. (here & in Luke 23:32, 33, 39). Paul suffered as someone who had committed a capital crime. He was facing death as he wrote. However, Paul endured all these troubles & did not let them turn him from being faithful to God (10a). Two factors aided him in being faithful to God.

1. Faithful \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 8, 9)
2. Faithful \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 10)
  - A. The most frequent and sincere objection to the teaching is: it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. For Paul, it was a \_\_\_\_\_ for evangelism. See also Paul experience in Corinth (Acts 18).
  - C. God ordains both the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ too.

### **A WELL-KNOWN \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ (2:11-13)**

It's made up of four couplets, each one beginning with "if". The first two couplets refer to faithfulness; and the last two couplets refer to unfaithfulness.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (first two couplets)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (last two couplets)

INTER: "If we're faithless, he'll remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself."

  - A word of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The last two couplets are about \_\_\_\_\_.

### **THE WORKMAN (2:14-26)**

1. Faithfulness in Doctrine (2:14-19)
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Workman (vs. 15)
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ Workman (vss. 14, 16-18)
  - C. Verse 19: "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm."