



river west church

Gospel Grit
2 Timothy 2:3-13
Pastor Guy Gray
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Paul's goal in 2 Timothy is to encourage young Timothy in his Christian life and calling. That's perfect, because we each need a good dose of encouragement too. So here we are, listening in on this conversation between Paul and Timothy. That was God's intention all along. The words in this short letter are God's words, designed to speak directly to each of our lives as followers of Christ. So listen carefully!

Paul talks a lot about suffering in 2 Timothy, which seems a bit odd, because it doesn't sound too encouraging to talk about suffering. But Paul knew this was exactly the right word for Timothy. He knew this would actually encourage Timothy! Here's why.

Doubt lives in the gap between our expectations and our experience. If you don't think you are going to experience hardship, difficulty, or suffering, you're going to be really discouraged when those things come your way. In fact, you might be so discouraged that you begin to wonder if God is real, or working in your life. But if you are told from the beginning that hardship is part of the program, you will be ready for it.

So God tells us up front how it is going to be for us as true Christ followers. He lets us know we're going to need some true Gospel grit in our attitude if we're going to do His work. That's basically what Paul is doing for Timothy in 2 Timothy. So listen closely. Do you want to be a Christian who answers Christ's call to believe, follow, and serve? Then the passage we're looking at today has the power to build strength and courage into your heart. Here is an outline of our study:

Three Pictures to Fix in Your Mind

Soldier

Athlete

Farmer

Three Truths to Hold in Your Heart

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead

The Word of God is not bound

Our work for Christ has eternal impact

Others have led the way, now it's our turn