

2Timothy 24-09-29a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. It's the 29th of September 2024 We're in 2nd Timothy and we're picking up in chapter 2 the first few verses Let's ask God's blessing on our fellowship and study and we'll begin Father we are so grateful for your grace your faithfulness your power Manifests in our lives. We do not have to attempt to live a life that pleases you in our own strength But by that which you supply We're grateful for the example of the Lord Jesus and for those heroes of the faith that are detailed in your word We ask this morning as we look at 2nd Timothy that your Holy Spirit will be our teacher help us to see the pertinence and the applicability of what Paul tells his protege and By extension the Holy Spirit tells us so that we can in fact Redeem the time bear fruit and Reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus both now and in the ages to come we ask it in Jesus name.

Amen Let's read our passage once again having given the introduction having charged Timothy and reminded him of his Particular spiritual gift, which is an example for all of us Whatever our gift may be the specific functions may be different, but the means by which it is guided and energized the Personal characteristics that we cultivate the choices that we make the priorities that we set the goals that we pursue regardless of gift are all the same and In verse 13 if you wanted a single emphasis point for chapter 1 hold Fast the pattern the form of sound words Which you have heard Paul says from me. This is the apostolic witness Which is the manifold witness that the Lord Jesus Christ himself commissioned every apostolic witness is directly chosen or ordained and Given the message by Jesus Christ himself. This is the official chain of command This is the truth from the one who is truth.

He is the way the truth and the life he has Entrusted his truth to the Apostles who under the ministry of the Holy Spirit Communicated to us. There is no other source of Revelation not dreams not visions not latter-day Uncoverings of ideas we have an Authenticated message in the Word of God. There is no salvation in any other and there is no information and Inspired truth whereby we live except in the scriptures People who accuse us of biblio la tree misunderstand I Don't love my television because my favorite program comes across it.

I may like its features I may appreciate its conveniences or its size but I Turned the thing on for the content that it provides Very few people spend much time sitting staring at a blank TV and just saying what a great TV to look at our Bible in that way might be a mistake, but we appreciate the scriptures and this is why it's not an Inspired choice which version we use I was reshelving some of my books and I have a book called the NIV reconsidered I have several Books that talk about the merits or deficiencies of various translations I have another book which I got from my mother. That is the New Testament in 26 translations And you go to each verse and it's got all of these Variations from the Amplified and the Tyndale and one and another It is not the text and it's not even the words of the text in English that are inspired It is an inspired message and I've used this illustration I can't think of a better one, but we're looking at the landscape through a

windshield light reflects off the Environment and we detect it with our eyes our versions in English our translations They are always interpretive to some extent and there are inevitably Differences That's bugs on the windshield it specs it's small chips or cracks we have no difficulty driving even with imperfections Somewhat screening our view because our mind will fill it in I Drove for a few years with I got a brand new windshield in my Volkswagen van in Tahlequah Hadn't had the new windshield a week and I got behind a rock-bearing truck. It was a four-lane Highway in my direction.

I saw the truck. He was in the right-hand lane I went to the far left lane a rock fell out of the truck bounced across the intervening two lanes hopped up and Impacted the windshield right where you look right in the field of view when you're looking straight down the highway big chip However, I had no difficulty driving from that day or many days after These were in the days when I could not afford to have the windshield people Fix it or put yet another windshield in but Suffice it to say that our our text is a Conveyance we have the treasure in earthen vessels. That's speaking of our human bodies, but the Bible is similar.

So we don't have to be hung up on is it King James only is it the New King James only what? Translation am I using? whatever message God has for us We'll come across when we are asking and seeking and knocking and diligently Looking at The resources we have on hand. So as we come to this hold fast the form of sound words. We're not talking about Be sure you get one English translation and stick with it till Jesus comes back The form the pattern the message that those sound words conveys the truth about Jesus Christ redemption reconciliation propitiation atonement His work pictured in the Levitical offerings and in the feasts of Israel the the overarching plan of God across the dispensations This is the form.

This is the pattern So we don't have to be hung up. I've got an NIV on my shelf. I've got virtually every Translation known to man and and a few that are unknown to man Including my own on a couple of books hold fast.

This is the message of chapter 1 Timothy You have been entrusted with the gospel of Jesus Christ which is the message of salvation and the message of God's enablement and empowerment his gift of giving us the ability to Redeem the time and to be good stewards of what he has placed under our care whether it is physically materially socially spiritually Be a good steward hold fast the message the form and the pattern of those sound words That's chapter 1 now in chapter 2 you therefore Because this is the mission. This is why we're here This is why God had us born where and when we were we are associated with the people that we rub elbows with We have the family we have the co-workers. We have the ancestors and the descendants our entire circumstance is an assignment from God therefore my son Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

We looked at the grace that is in Christ Jesus last time I just want to point out one thing quickly in verse 1 When you're undergoing a difficulty you're Crawling through the ground glass you're

pushing a heavy object you're bearing a an insufferably great load and someone says Be strong That's easy for you to say you're not Walking in my moccasins at the moment. That's not what this verse says It does not say be strong and you need to correct this in your Bible get a pen or a pencil Mark this word out and correct it. It is not be strong This is a present passive be strengthened You therefore my son be Strengthened it's a completely different concept.

I don't have to dig within myself and find strength Paul says, you know where the source of strength is be strengthened Now the rest of the sentence makes a little more sense doesn't it be strengthened in the grace That is in Christ Jesus in by or with we talked about this last time in by or with be strengthened in by and with The grace in Christ Jesus, so it doesn't say You're feeling thirsty Quit being thirsty Be be unthirsty defied It says go to the well where you know, the living water is be strengthened in By with the grace that is in Christ Jesus if you're feeling weak if the thing is starting to crush you down You don't have to call up some invisible hidden reserve of human strength Go to the source go to the grace that provides strength be strengthened don't miss it, by the way There are other passages where this same mistranslation has occurred so if you remember The Almost Parallel in Ephesians chapter 6 verse 10 that precedes the put on the full armor of God. You remember how that starts? Ephesians 6 10 finally my brethren in case you think that well, this is only for Timothy because he's a pastor It's very clear in Ephesians 6 10 finally my brothers my brethren my brothers and sisters in Christ Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might The word be strong there is a present passive imperative identical to the one that Paul uses for Timothy the only difference here is that this one is the second person plural and in our passage it is the the second person singular Be strengthened finally my brethren be strengthened in by and with the Lord in by and with the power of his might Be strengthened This is Essential to understand There is defense Available Our skin is not bulletproof spear-proof arrow-proof sword hack proof our heads are not adamantite they're not impervious to blows There is armor available that can make us so Where the fiery darts of the wicked one can be quenched. We don't stand there and expect supernatural Enablement at the point that the darts are flying or the spears are chucked in our direction or the Arrows are coming our way the sword blows are hammering on us.

We don't expect to be Made like Superman where There's an unforgettable scene in one of those movies where in slow motion a bullet comes and squishes against Superman's eyeball Once you've seen that you can't unsee it you think really Wow Just squishes right off. That's not us we do not have that ability and It doesn't say pray that God will make you impervious and impregnable and undefeatable. What does it say? To be strengthened in the Lord the very next verse Ephesians 6 11 put on the armor of God It doesn't happen God does not drop the armor on you I Am constantly annoyed by these transformer type effects they have in in movies today where Iron Man or someone is walking around and all of a sudden Bulletproof stuff just multiplies out of nowhere It and it just suddenly covered that the laws of physics don't permit that kind of thing You can't turn a Volkswagen bug into a giant monster.

That's ten times its size. I've tried it It I've had a bug and a bus neither one of them would turn into anything. There's no it the thing would weigh two tons What kind of mileage would you get with these little cars if they were actually these I mean it's it is to laugh and we don't spiritually Transform with some self-reproducing Dark matter accessing it suddenly just appears and has you know thousands of pounds of weight where it wasn't even there before Put on the armor of God It's not our armor.

It is God's armor and This is not like Saul's armor when David attempted to put it on he's going to go face Goliath and Saul says Well here put my armor on and David tries on a few pieces and he says Saul was a big man He was one of the largest men in Israel David is a normal-sized Hebrew youth It's not his armor Put on the armor of God David went out and faced Goliath with the armor of God and he was Impregnable because he was strengthened by the grace From God that we receive through Christ Jesus This is the idea be strengthened so You have to understand where the grace is have to understand how to get it But it is a decision that we make it is an imperative in Ephesians 6. It is an imperative in 2nd Timothy to be strengthened You put on the armor The armor works fine, but you have to decide to deploy it and you need all of it They have a saying in motorcycle riding at GATT it's ATG ATT At GATT It's an acronym all the gear all the time Look on a sunny day in Oklahoma All that Oklahoma law requires to ride a motorcycle is eye protection if you have on a pair of sunglasses, you can be wearing shorts and flicks and a t-shirt and Your sunglasses and you are legal to ride When I ride I put on my jacket with its Kevlar Protection at points of contact like my shoulders and elbows my back. I have a helmet with a full helmet Coverage face shield. I have gloves that have Kevlar reinforcement and Thick palms so that if I come off of that thing unexpectedly, I have some protection.

I plan ahead I Wear boots that cover my ankles and my ankle bones so that if I go scraping along the asphalt the boots Take the abuse and not my ever-aging body All the gear all the time at GATT and That's what we as believers should do when we sally forth to wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers All the gear all the time. This is the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Don't miss it.

Oh Isn't it wonderful the Lord Jesus has given me all of these resources all of these defensive and offensive Equipment Issue I'm I'm all set and you leave it sitting at the door and walk out unprotected and unprepared So after giving chapter 1 Paul says you therefore my son this is fatherly love fatherly care Paul is pleading with Timothy on the basis of their familial relationship in Christ Be strengthened Have protection and have guidance have wisdom have capability that comes from the grace That Jesus Christ provides don't forget about it. Don't assume you don't need it on this particular ride more guys have gone to the hospital Motorcycle accidents because they thought well, I'm just I'm just going to do a quick thing I don't want to take the time to go get my gear put on my boots lay some up Find my helmet. I've got some I'll wear goggles instead of sunglasses.

That way they won't blow off and Something unexpected happens and they are taken out If you Can find these statistics on the difference between fully geared motorcycle riders who are involved in accidents and those who are not The statistics for guys that wear their gear are down around those of people who drive cars It is only the idiots and you've seen them passing you at 85 miles an hour weaving in and out of traffic those guys put themselves in the hospital and drag the rest of us down and Make all of our relatives worry when we're on our bike If you're intelligent if you're cautious, and if you wear all the gear all the time You're far safer and both to yourself and to others and Verse two the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses This is a setup phrase You can take this and it's fun as an English major to see the different ways you can you can draw ideas from words Paul says the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses Commit these to faithful men. So is Paul saying Only the things that I have said when there's a crowd The things that you've heard among many witnesses Entrust those if it was just you and me talking in private or on the road or in my prison cell You don't have to pass those on only the things you've heard among many witnesses. That is not the idea and And This will make more sense when you get to verse 3 What he is saying is it isn't all on your shoulders.

I Have entrusted the message that Jesus Christ entrusted to me to many Witnesses you are one of many This is a team effort You're not solo Everything isn't on your shoulders. Oh Timothy. I'm about to be poured out like a drink offering and it's all on you You are the next Apostle in my place.

You are my protege and my successor Paul is careful to remind Timothy That when Paul is entrusting this message to the next generation, there are many witnesses There are many pastors and All of us are Desirous of understanding the Word of God in a way that has Traction that makes a difference in the way. We think the way we speak the way we act our redemption of the time is driven by Holding fast the sound words and these words have to be communicated We can get them directly off the page we can resort to those who have written things down like Oswald Chambers and Commentators and and good devotional sources. We can hear it on the radio.

We can pull it off of the Internet. There are multiple sources This message has been entrusted to many faithful witnesses. There isn't just one right pastor sorry to say I Love the guy that taught that and I appreciate so many things I learned from him But this is a place where he was off.

You do not have one right pastor Look at what Paul the Apostle says. I have passed these things on Paul says to many witnesses find the witness or witnesses that are Provided by God in the grace of Jesus Christ to make that message stick in your mind Find whoever it is. Listen to as many as you want to What's the criterion? Faithfulness, is it a faithful communication? There are many Trust me when I tell you this there are many living and dead.

I love CH Macintosh The guy's been dead 150 years Or at least he wrote his commentary under 50 years ago, but I read him almost every morning There are others to whom I resort wonderful

Scholars with a commentary. I've been reshelving my book. So this is on my mind There are many witnesses past and present Don't limit yourself and if it doesn't come from one particular Source, well, it's going to be secondary or tertiary Read the scripture hold fast this form of sound words You have heard me communicate these things among you are one of many witnesses and You need to find notice.

He doesn't say find a faithful man. We're going to have an apostolic succession Peter will have the Pope and I'll have the the ongoing Apostle line one after the other Paul doesn't say find a faithful man Timothy I have found you you're my son in the faith We've seen the passages where he calls other individuals his son in the faith Entrusted to faithful men Plural who will be able to teach others plural. This is going to multiply the key is a faithful witness Is it true To the form of sound words But this now leads into and helps us understand verse 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus Paul is going to use three metaphors here the soldier the athlete and the farmer But the most in-depth the most dimensional of these is the first one which is the soldier and This Idea, first of all of endurance is what leads him to the metaphor or the illustration of a soldier There are Marathon racers there are distance runners.

They need endurance of a kind But Paul doesn't lead with the athlete He leads with the soldier and you would think well, there's all kinds of soldiers have uniforms. They've got the full armor. They There's a lot of ways you could employ that figure to emphasize a point What is the aspect of military service that Paul is? Emphasizing what is it? Endurance Endurance now, what's the difference in an athlete and a soldier in terms of enduring hardship? Why does he lead with the soldier metaphor? When you're a soldier You are in an army You have a structure.

There is someone to your left and there is someone to your right. I want to read you Something about that. I'll I'll pull it up and read it to you right after the break where we'll be going shortly Josephus describes the Roman soldier and it is a Very telling description But it is corporate.

You are part of something larger than yourself So if you endure hardship as a soldier this is not the Sniper who has gone six and a half miles into the jungle and climbed a tree and strapped himself in and is waiting to do his job if you endure hardship as a soldier you have a Lot of other soldiers with you you have those who are in logistics You have those who are in fire support. You have those that are in communications and motor transport and all kinds of Things that are not dependent on you alone. You don't have to drive your own vehicle.

You don't have to make and Convey and supply your own bullets. You don't have to cook your own chow. You don't have to supply your own water Others are making that available so that you have your individual portion, but you are part of a team you are part of a larger organization that has structure and leadership and The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

So if you endure hardship as a soldier What does that tell you about enduring hardship? Remember in other places where Paul says bear one another's burdens Even though each one

must carry his own load There's a part that we carry ourselves, but we can also bear one another's burdens There is an individual aspect we just saw in Proverbs that there are kinds of Burdens kinds of sorrows that only an individual heart can know and you have to deal with that between yourself and the Lord But enduring hardship of whatever kind if it's economic if it is social if it is Spiritual if it is in the family outside the family these Circumstantial issues that come up we pull together This is the heavy wagon and there is a team of mules I once built that model The Guys that sponsored Death Valley days And they had the 20 mule team and they show these 20 mules pulling this wagon of borax across the flat level sands but if I were one of those mules I would be grateful for the other 19 that are also strapped in and helping to pull as The wheels begin to sink into that which is not too firm or you you hit a mud hole or whatever Teamwork we're in harness together in this sense. This is why Paul leads with the soldier You therefore must endure hardship, how do I know that he is is talking about the corporate idea Many witnesses in verse 2 there are others who are doing the same thing Don't get focused on yourself and your isolated issues in Ephesus Timothy is Shedding tears. He needs to take a little wine for his stomach's sake.

He's got stress. He's got people problems He's got opposition. He's got friction.

He's got division. He's Fighting a lot of dragons and Paul says you're not the only one No temptation has befallen you but such as is common to man God is present. God knows He knows what you're able to bear he will provide in it or through it or out of it as he sees fit, but to remember that We're not alone.

We're not unique. We can't sing. Nobody knows the trouble I've seen We are as red-green likes to say we're all in this together So There are many witnesses you are one of them.

Hopefully you are a choir presenting that message in unison in harmony it compliments and supplements one individual may really specialize in in prophetic others may Specialize in didactic others may specialize in drawing lessons from the narrative others really understand poetry and the wisdom literature Different individuals are built by God to be sensitive and almost clairvoyant about his intention and his message in certain areas of Scripture and The whole is greater than the sum of the parts It is a corporate effort and we should avail ourselves of anyone who has an insight who? the Holy Spirit blesses with a Clear shot at what that passage means so to do that There is inevitably opposition if there were no opponents would we have armed forces? This is like asking if there were no criminals would we need police? If there were no sins we wouldn't need priests There is a problem and you have people detailed to become a part of the solution The only reason there is an army and there are soldiers is because there are threats to the nation And it must be defended so There's it doesn't all depend on one guy even if he's sitting in the Oval Office It doesn't depend on him there is a vast Structure and entity So you therefore must endure this idea of endurance is Back in verse 8 of chapter 1 do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord nor of me his prisoner, but share with me in the Sufferings this is Notice share with me. There's more than one of us going through this phase of hardship and suffering share with

me We're going to see it in the next chapter 3 11 This idea of being delivered in hardship One of the reasons Paul says in verse 10 you've carefully followed my doctrine First thing the form and pattern of sound words you have followed my doctrine manner of life purpose faith long-suffering love perseverance Persecutions afflictions they happen to me at Antioch Iconium and Lystra you remember what happened to Paul at Lystra They stoned him and they thought he was dead what persecutions I endured and Out of them all the Lord delivered me I endured So Paul says share with me you must endure some of it you endure Individually there aren't a lot of other pastors in Ephesus those specific problems That's on you, but remember that there are others and we're all facing these challenges There are many witnesses Endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ of Jesus Christ Jesus Christ remember with when the humanity is put first and the office is second you think about what he endured For our sakes both in his life and in his death verse 4 no one engaged in warfare Entangles himself with the affairs of life No one engaged in warfare peels off You're in the midst of a firefight your wife calls, honey. There's water dripping under the sink.

Oh Excuse me the timeout Let's let's take a quick Two minutes here. I need to coach my wife through shutting off the valve that supplies the water under the No one engaged in military Action peels off to pay a bill or Contact the mechanic to see if the car is ready There are priorities this is all about priorities and you're going to be shot and killed if you stand up with your cell phone to get a few more bars and try to Engage in civilian business in the midst of combat No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of life why both individually and Collectively there is a mission a purpose an identity a set of orders and that is the priority But notice we are still in this confederated effort That's why he's still talking about the soldier not the athlete that's that's going to kick it into high gear to cross the finish line at a sprint We are We owe it to our fellow soldiers to not be distracted to not be deflected to not suddenly lose the bubble In warfare anyone who has been anywhere near combat Will tell you that you are relying heavily on those around you to do their job Because if they do not cover their portion of the fields of fire and you get flanked Because that guy Somebody texted him and he's like I just Can't even imagine what it's like to let Military people carry their cell phones I've seen video of people riding around in Iraq and Afghanistan Taking videos and sending it back home with their phones and I think is somebody going to text this person at a critical moment and They're gonna run over an IED or they're going to be Ambushed because someone wasn't paying attention You can't be distracted when you're in a threat environment You have to be focused and there is a level of constant adrenaline when you know, someone is trying to kill you That really sharpens your attention to detail You're watchful and you are responsible for those around you your particular job matters Not just for your own preservation, but for those who are with you. It is a Brotherhood it is a team.

It is a family in many cases and You're working for your common good your common safety your common success That is what Paul is appealing to here. You are not your own. You are bought with a price glorify God and That includes attention to those around us if we become preoccupied with our Difficulties.

Oh, I dug this fighting hole and it's half full of water Let me see if I can find a tin can From back when we had C rations and had tin cans that were useful for many things and let me bail my fighting hole out So that I'm not sitting here cold and wet and my feet I might get a fungus in my boots and in the meantime your guys on each side are being overrun because You decided it's time to bail water out. Well, I am I not uncomfortable. Is it not cold? I might lose my bullets down here when I'm trying to reload and and we misprioritize By failing to keep this concept in mind here is a suggestion when you feel Oppressed you're up against it.

There's hardship. There's testing. There's a lot going on You are in a position to endure hardship Look up and look around and remember the team there's nothing the enemy likes better than to get us focused on ourself and our personal hardship at the expense of the hardship of those around us the challenges that they face and Forgetting that there are others with whom we are connected and on whom we have an effect for whom we can pray To whom we can speak words of truth and encouragement in love and to look outside ourselves and remember that this is an Army, I'm not the Lone Ranger Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto but people think well, it's I'm I remember I've told you this before but I wanted to Be a Boy Scout, but there were no troops in this area because there were only like 13 people per square mile out here Old people included but and I did some reading at the library and they said well you can be a Lone Wolf Scout and You can be a Boy Scout.

You can earn badges and things You just do it all by yourself and one of your parents are both will superintend I thought well, what's the fun in that you're not in a pack. There's no troop You can't you know, you're gonna go to Jamboree and you know, nobody And I didn't want to do that by myself Well, why would we want to live the Christian life in isolation by ourselves occupied with our own? Struggles instead of remembering to be a good soldier Just think of the word soldier. There's no such thing as a one-man army I'm sorry, but Schwarzenegger and these other guys notwithstanding.

There's Stallone and and these people going in and You know rescuing lost POW MIAs 15 years after Vietnam no, an Army is an army and it only works when everyone is aware of what the people in the periphery are doing So don't just endure hardship be strengthened and Endure as a soldier Which means pay attention to your unit? pay attention to your fellow soldiers and this cultivates objectivity and enables God to Implement his power for his glory and our benefit in our hardships We're gonna pause here to take our break when we come back. We will pick up in verse 4