

SCRIPTURES FOR 10/15/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

2 Timothy 2:1-6

1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have **heard** me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to **teach** others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an **athlete**, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking **farmer** should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

2 Timothy 2:14-26

A Workman Approved by God

14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Acts 20:28-31

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed

LESSON 1: WHERE IS THE GLAMOUR?

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

Jeff talked this week about what makes a good leader. He asked, “Is it making everyone happy? Having followers? Being popular? Being persuasive?” Jeff suggested that all Christians are Christian leaders. We all have to lead someone sometime. Paul shared several metaphors for good Christian leadership...

METAPHORS

Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

STUDENT/TEACHER

So we should listen and then share what we learn.

What quality did he say the teacher should have? (*reliable*)

“Men” is translated from the Greek, *anthropos* (pr: an-throw-POSS), which means “human beings” not necessarily males.

Why “reliable men” not “scholarly men” or “popular men” or “men who have time” or even “men who have been to Bible college?”

Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:3-4.

SOLDIER

So we should be a “soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Is Paul asking Timothy to kill his enemies?

What does he say to do (v.3 - *endure*)? Not to do (v.4 - *get involved in “civilian affairs”*)?

What do you think Paul means by v.4? (*leading questions: Is this about focus or single-mindedness? Do soldiers have to totally ignore the rest of their life to please their commander?*)

Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:5.

ATHLETE

So we should seek the “victor’s crown.”

What do rules have to do with athletics (*everything*)?

What rules should Christian leaders follow?

Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:6.

FARMER

So, as leaders we deserve a share of the fruit.

What does Paul say we must do to receive our share (*hard work*)? What might the fruit be?

Why doesn’t Paul talk about the crops of the lazy farmer (*crops*)?

THE WORTHY WORKMAN

Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:14-21.

Paul tells Timothy (and likewise, us) to do a number of things. Do your best. Correctly handle the Word. Avoid chatter that leads away from God (*Dan Brown?*). Be confident that He knows you are in His camp. Control the way we you use your body (the Greek word *Skeuos* [pr: skee-OO-oss] translated in the NIV as “article” means literally “vessel,” which the Greeks used to describe our bodies – vessels for the soul). All these things will help us live noble, honorable lives of Christian service.

Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:22-26.

In verse 22, Paul gives us two instructions and one important tip. What are they (*flee, pursue, and do it together*)?

In verse 23-26, what does he tell us to do with extra-Biblical arguments (i.e., things that the Bible is silent on)?

The word translated “arguments” in the NIV or “speculations” in the NASB, comes from the Greek *zetesis* [pr: DZAY-tay-sis] means “controversy.” Are we to avoid being the “subject” of controversy or just the “propagator” of it?

Have someone read Acts 20:28-31.

CONCLUSION

We are all leaders to some, so this advice is for all of us.