

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

MORNING MESSAGE

“Be Strong”

2 Timothy 2:1-7

- I. THE PLEA FOR STRONG CHRISTIANS (v.1a)
  - A. It is a moving plea
  - B. It is a mandatory plea
    1. Joshua 1:6, “Be strong and of a good courage”
    2. 1 Chronicles 22:13, “Be strong and of good courage; and dread not, nor be dismayed”
    3. 1 Corinthians 16:13, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”
    4. Ephesians 6:10, “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”
- II. THE POWER FOR STRONG CHRISTIANS (v.1b)
  - A. It is a gracious power
    1. John 1:16, “And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace”
    2. Romans 5:2, “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand”
  - B. It is God’s power
    1. Ephesians 6:10, “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”
- III. THE PICTURE OF STRONG CHRISTIANS (vv.2-7)
  - A. The picture of a schoolmaster (v.2)
    1. A strong Christian must grasp the truth (v.2a)
    2. A strong Christian must guard the truth (v.2b)
    3. A strong Christian must give the truth (v.2c)
  - B. The picture of a soldier (VV.3-4)
    1. A strong Christian will suffer (v.3)
      - a. Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”
      - b. 2 Corinthians 10:4, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds”
    2. A strong Christian will strive (v.4a)

- a. NASB, “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life”
- 3. A strong Christian will satisfy (v.4b)
  - a. Spurgeon, “Up, I pray you now!
    - By him whose eyes are like a flame of fire, and yet were wet with tears,
    - By him on whose head are many crowns, but who yet wore the crown of thorns,
    - By him who is King of kings and Lord of lords, and yet bowed his head to death for you;
    - Resolve that to life’s latest breath you will spend and be spent for His praise.
    - The Lord grant that there may be such in this church – good soldiers of Jesus Christ.”
- C. The picture of a sportsman (v.5)
  - 1. A strong Christian and his recreation (v.5a)
    - a. “Strive” translates the Greek word that means “athlete”
  - 2. A strong Christian and his reward (v.5b)
    - a. “Crowned” translates the Greek word “stephanos”; the runners crown
  - 3. A strong Christian and his rules (v.5c)
    - a. Greek Olympic rules: (1) You must be a true-born Greek; (2) You must train for ten months and swear before Zeus that you have done so; (3) You must obey all the rules of competition
    - b. Revelation 4:10b-11, “and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power”
- D. The picture of a sharecropper (v.6)
  - 1. A strong Christian is a worker (v.6a)
    - a. “Husbandman” means a farmer, a sharecropper; someone who farms land he does not own
  - 2. A strong Christian is a winner (v.6b)

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"