

An Enduring Impact 2 Timothy 2:1-13

2 Tim 2:1-13 Introduction

- Someday we will wake up and find ourselves in the heavenly glory of our Lord's presence.
- All our tears will be wiped away, all our problems will be solved and all our hurts will be healed.
- Sin and death and misery will be nothing but shadowy, unpleasant memories.
- The presence of God will flood our senses, saturating our hearts and minds with joy.

But we're not there yet. (Sorry.)

- The world we live in is still fallen and full of difficulties.
- Quick fixes will not work.
- God is using the trials and troubles of our lives to develop in us the qualities of endurance, faithfulness, patience and perseverance.

2 Tim 2:1-13 The Main Point

If we expect our lives to have an enduring impact, then we must be people who are able to endure.

2 Tim 2:1-13 Outline

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| I. | Multiply Yourself | 2:1-2 |
| II. | Get Ready to Work Hard | 2:3-7 |
| III. | Endure All Things | 2:8-10 |
| IV. | Be Faithful | 2:11-13 |

Multiply Yourself 2:1-2

- 2:1 Be strong
- Paul says about the same thing in Eph 6:10.
- Grace in this context means:
 - "the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life." (Strong's)
- 2:2 Timothy's job was to multiply himself by communicating the truth he had learned from Paul to others.
- This is how the church has grown and lasted to this present day.
- We must do the same thing if we expect our lives or ministries to have an enduring impact.

How Multiplication Works

- $12 \times 2 = 24$
- If you start with 12 people and they each reach one more within a year, you get 24.
- If they each reach one more within a year, you get 48.
- $24 \times 2 = 48$ $48 \times 2 = 96$ $96 \times 2 = 192$
- In 5 years the original 12 grow to 384.
- In 10 years the original 12 grow to 12,288.
- In 15 years the original 12 grow to 393,216.
- In 20 years the 12 grow to 12,582,912.
- In 25 years the 12 grow to 402,654,184.
- In 30 years the 12 grow to 12,884,901,888, which is more people than the entire population of planet earth today.

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Get Ready to Work Hard 2:3-7

- 2:3-4 Three characteristics of a good soldier:
 - Complete Loyalty
 - Constant Readiness
 - A Willingness to Endure Hardship
- There is nothing wrong with civilian activities – the affairs of this life – until they begin to entangle the soldier and distract him from his duties.

- 2:5 Three characteristics of a good athlete:
 - Personal Discipline
 - Focus or Mental Toughness:
“Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical.” – *Yogi Berra*
 - A Willingness to Play by the Rules
- See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- 2:6 Three characteristics of a good farmer:
 - Willing to Work Hard
 - Self-Motivated
 - Patient in Waiting for the Results
- See James 5:7

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Endure All Things 2:8-10

- 2:8 This verse reminds us of both the humanity (seed of David) and the divinity (raised from the dead) of Jesus Christ.
- Paul asks us to remember this verse.
- 2:9 evildoer The only other place we find this word in the NT is in Luke 23, where it describes the two common criminals who were crucified with Jesus.
- This shows us the extent of Paul’s humiliation.

- 2:9 Contrast Paul’s chains with the absolute freedom of God’s Word:
 - Isaiah 40:6-8
 - Isaiah 55:10-11
- “The persecution of Christian leaders may hamper the progress of the gospel, but it cannot imprison the Word of God, nor even prevent its spread.”
– *Donald Guthrie (1915-1992) of London Bible College*

- 2:10 for the sake of the elect
- Paul believed that God guaranteed the ultimate success of his ministry.
- There were elect who had yet to obtain salvation.
- We need to have that same confidence.

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Be Faithful 2:11-13

- 2:11-13 Paul is probably quoting an early Christian hymn.
- There are five Faithful Sayings of Paul – all of them in the Pastoral Epistles:
 - 1 Timothy 1:15
 - 1 Timothy 3:1
 - 1 Timothy 4:8-9
 - 2 Timothy 2:11-13
 - Titus 3:8

- 2:11 Dying with Christ means that we no longer control our own destinies. We have given our lives to Jesus and declared that we really belong to Him.
- This is symbolized in baptism.
 - See Romans 6:4
- 2:12 Your destiny as a Christian is to eternally reign with Christ.
- Simple endurance is the prerequisite.

- 2:11-13 Our faithfulness will teeter and totter from time to time.
- N.T. Wright makes the following distinction:
- “There is a world of difference between being blown off the ship’s deck by a hurricane and voluntarily diving into the sea to avoid having to stay at the helm.”
- For those who are truly struggling he gives the following encouragement.

- “Those under intense pressure, whether political, spiritual, moral, or whatever, will sometimes find themselves weak, faint and helpless. It is at those times that they need to learn a kind of second-order faith, a faith in the utter faithfulness and reliability of God himself, the God we know in and through Jesus, who was himself faithful to death.”

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2 Tim 2:1-13 Conclusions

- The Lord expects us to multiply ourselves.
- The church that does not pass on the message of the Bible is only one generation away from extinction.
- The church that is truly faithful and enduring in multiplying itself is only one generation away from reaching the world.

- Remember Paul's three illustrations:
 - The soldier illustrates priority.
 - The athlete illustrates discipline.
 - The farmer illustrates patience.
- None of these three examples demonstrates a quick fix or an easy way out.

- If we are to have an enduring impact on this generation in which we live, then we have to take the demands of the Gospel seriously.
- Paul's life of suffering and hardship exemplified a commitment to the truth.
- He knew that if he faithfully proclaimed God's Word, then God's Word was powerful enough to accomplish God's goals in the lives of his hearers.

- Serving Jesus is a challenge, but it is a challenge with eternal rewards.
- Endurance now won't seem like much in eternity – and those whose lives we impact will be there to enjoy it all with us.

Closing Passage: Hebrews 12:1-3