

apptoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Timothy 2:1-7
Lesson #26
Suffering Faith
10/22/2023

1

The teaching of Jesus
and the Apostles is not
to bring heaven to earth

**but rather on how to navigate
a broken world as broken
people IN A GODLY WAY.**

2

Faith in the face of suffering

2 Timothy 2

“1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

3

Interpretive paraphrase

2 Timothy 2

“You will be a wise man if you take seriously what I am telling you about suffering and the Cross.

Let God’s grace in Christ (the word and way of the cross) which is seen by many as weakness, be your strength as you take what you have learned from me and teach it to faithful disciples who will pass it on to the whole world.


Be committed to the self sacrificing, perseverance, and hard work that are needed to be a loyal soldier, who follows orders, an athlete who follows the rules of engagement to win, and a farmer who is the first to live off of what he works hard to produce.”

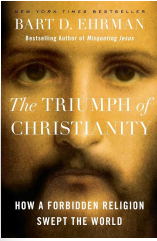
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Lessons for us today

2 Timothy 2

“1 You therefore, my son, **be strong** (empowered, courageous) **in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to **teach others** also.





Bart Ehrman

How did a forbidden religion sweep the world?

- **Its unique message**
- **Its evangelical mission**

5


Three different emphases of Christianity

It’s about eternal life.
Understand what Christ has done FOR us

It’s about personal holiness.
Welcome what Christ is doing IN us

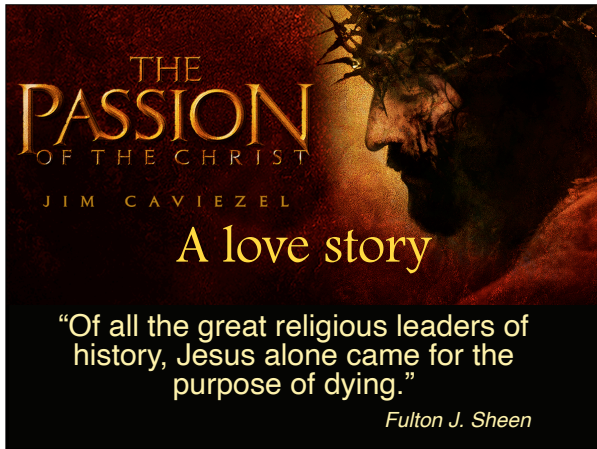
It’s about social justice.
Cooperate with what Christ can do THROUGH us

It starts here



but should never stop there.

6



7

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21
 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

8

Our legal standing in Christ is our **security** (the basis of our confidence & courage).

9

Our life-style in Christ is our **significance** (the testimony of our worship & witness).

10

Revelation 20
 “¹¹ And I saw a **great white throne**,...¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened**: and **another book was opened, which is the book of life**; ... ¹⁵ and if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

11

Lessons for us today

- ✓ We are **SAINTS** through God’s **Grace** “in Christ”.
- ✓ We are **AMBASSADORS** through God’s **calling to make disciples**.

“⁴ No **SOLDIER** in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes as an **ATHLETE**, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hard-working **FARMER** ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.”

12

What do soldiers, athletes, & farmers share in common with respect to their expectations?



Circumstances are precarious in this life.

Don't be afraid.

We are empowered to respond with godly wisdom.

Don't be apathetic.

We are called to be purpose driven.

Don't be aimless.

The Gospel comes with the anointing of Christ's Spirit and a revelation of a final hope.

13

What uniqueness do each of these models contribute?

✓ **Like a soldier,**

"4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may **please the one who enlisted him** as a soldier."

Take your baptism seriously.

Romans 12

"1 Therefore I urge you, brothers *and* sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as **a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,..."

14

What uniqueness do each of these models contribute?

✓ **Like an athlete,**

"5 And also if anyone competes as an **athlete** (wrestler), he does not win the prize unless he **competes according to the rules** (lawful expected protocol)."

Embrace the Way of the Cross to mirror Jesus' godliness in this world.

1 Corinthians 9:27

"but I discipline my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."

15

What uniqueness do each of these models contribute?

✓ **Like a farmer,**

"6 The hard-working **farmer** ought to be the **first to receive his share of the crops.**"

Practice what you preach.

This is the one and only area where a Christian should put himself first.

Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

16

Hypocrisy



Most detested characteristic of Christianity by the world,

and by Jesus and his Apostles!

17

HYPOCRISY

Is not the gap between Virtue Vice

but the gap between



Claim Conduct

18

Hypocrisy

Claims vs. Conduct

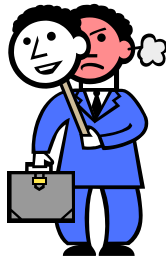


- ✓ We are to bear witness to Christ not to the church or to us.
- ✓ When the focus is on us (our conduct) rather than Jesus, we invite hypocrisy.
- ✓ Hypocrisy does not discredit our aim but rather our claim.
- ✓ Hypocrisy is removed as we are committed to telling the TRUTH of both the Gospel and our experience.

19

The cure for hypocrisy and shame are the same for both individuals and a church:

grace, truth, love



- ✓ **Courage** - vulnerability
- ✓ **Humility** - transparency
- ✓ **Responsibility** - confession, contriteness, commitment

20

A strong faith is not driven by fear but drawn to the Word and Way of the Cross by love and grace.

It is willing to sacrifice and suffer like soldiers, athletes, and farmers because it sees the prize.



We bear a cross to a banquet.

21

Lessons for us today

- ✓ As a **SAINT**, be secure and courageous through your position "in Christ".
- ✓ As an **AMBASSADOR**, spread the message in word and deed.
- ✓ As a **SOLDIER**, be single minded and selfless in serving your Lord.
- ✓ As an **ATHLETE**, be disciplined to respond to life in a godly way.
- ✓ As a **FARMER**, live off your produce - practice what you preach

Which of these models do you find most challenging?

22

2 Timothy



23