

Gospel Therefore

Refusing to Live Like “The Main Thing” is The Only Thing

Gospel Endurance: Changing My Soft Expectations

2 Timothy 2:1-10

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1. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ and are a Bible-believing Christian, buckle up. Suffering is guaranteed!

2 Tim. 2:1-3 ¹You then, my child, **be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,** ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.** ³ **Share in suffering** as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Oftentimes people abandon the faith because their unbiblical expectations of the Christian life go unmet. Christianity guarantees us suffering in this life!

2 Tim. 3:12,13 ¹² Indeed, **all** who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted,** ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If **anyone** would come after me, let him **deny himself and take up his cross daily** and follow me.

2. Remember—our goal is to please “the One who enlisted us.” Even during times of suffering, stay the course—no turning back!

2 Tim. 2:4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, **since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.**

Just as a soldier’s primary responsibility is to please his Commanding Officer, our goal in life is to please God.

2 Cor. 5:9 So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

Jesus also said those who are fit to be in His Kingdom keeps his eyes looking forward. No turning back!

Luke 9:61,62 ⁶¹ Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

3. Gospel endurance through suffering means keeping your eye focused on the finish line, and the reward given to us when we cross it!

2 Tim. 2:5 ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Paul uses similar analogies elsewhere to help us understand the Christian life.

1 Cor. 9:24-27 ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

2 Tim. 4:7 ...I have finished the race...

4. Gospel endurance means remembering our reward is coming. It's not immediate, and it's not in this life, but it is eternal!

2 Tim. 2:6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

“Beyond warfare is victory, beyond athletic effort a prize, and beyond agricultural labour a crop.”

Barrett, C.K. *The Pastoral Epistles*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963. 102. Print.