

2 Timothy 2:3-7 Lesson 5

Discipler's Work Ethic

Day 1: Read 2 Timothy 2:3-7 Be Dedicated Like a Soldier

1. Read verse 3. In what ways might hardships that a soldier suffers, be similar to a Christian working to “entrust the truth to faithful men”? _____

2. Many Christians think of themselves as “**free agents**”, but Scripture paints a different picture. Read Romans 6:15-23, and describe how our status is like that of a soldier who enlists in the military. _____

3. Verse 4 talks about not becoming “entangled in the affairs of everyday life” instead of doing what our commanding officer calls us to do (discipleship). List some of those “affairs of everyday life” that so easily entangle us. _____

4. Read Matt 6:18-24. What is the danger of dividing our heart's affections? _____

5. Dedication requires single-mindedness. What are some practical ways we can be dedicated to the work of making disciples when we have so many other things to do (i.e. work, family, etc.)? _____

Day 2: Read 2 Tim 2:3-7 Play Fair Like an Athlete

1. We are also to approach our ministry by playing fair like an athlete. Explain what this means. (1 Cor 9:27) _____

2. Disqualification ruins our ministry. Should this happen, what are the responses you would receive from those you disciple? What about from unbelievers looking on? _____

3. Let's drive home the fear of “**not playing by the rules**”. Think about someone you admired who disqualified themselves (in any area). How did it make you feel? In what areas did it raise doubts? _____

4. Now, what measures can you put into place to avoid disqualification? Be specific about the sin to avoid, and the measures to avoid it. _____



Day 3 Read 2 Tim 2:3-7 Work Hard Like a Farmer

1. We often view ministry as “overflow service”, service that is offered after everything else is completed. But, for a farmer, his work is his life. He identifies himself by what he does. What is a creative way you can respond the next time someone asks you what you do? _____

2. The farmer works anytime the crops need attention. Think of the people you minister to as crops. While God causes the growth, we are responsible to seed, feed, weed and water. Relate this to the “one-another’s” of Scripture. Give some examples (and verses). _____

3. Like the farmer, disciples also work for a reward. List the rewards of discipleship we receive in the here and now. Give an example from your life. _____

4. Are there also heavenly rewards for His hard working servants? Explain. (1 Cor 3:12-15) _____

Day 4 Read 2 Tim 2:3-7 Conclusion

1. Paul cautions us in verse 7 to let these illustrations “marinate” in our minds. What are some ways you can let the truths of God’s Word sink in when you have a quiet time? _____

2. The Puritans viewed their work (no matter what type) as worship. What are we saying when we have a “**less than energetic attitude**” in the work of the ministry? _____

3. What are ways you can reorder your world so that even if ministry is not the largest **quantity** of time that you do, you can make it the best **quality** of time? _____

“I would rather burn out in ministry than rust out.”

- J. Vernon McGee