

## Part 2 --

Before I dig more into the passage, I want to just sort of zip through 2nd Timothy and get a glimpse of what the apostle Paul taught us in his last letter before his departure/graduation to Heaven and being God's wonderful presence. What did he have to say - that is, what did God use him to communicate about maturity and how to discern as a regular habit - where we are and whether we are growing (which shows genuine salvation) or becoming stale - which can show that we have not yet entered into the marriage-covenant relationship with Christ.

So, here we go.

>> A short study in 2nd Timothy - with the focus on checking our spiritual growth

- 2nd Timothy 1:10-11 **"... but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."** - what has God called you for? Are you aiming for it? Are you avoiding it?
- 2nd Timothy 1:13 **"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."** - grow in obedience and firmness of only wanting to walk in the light of God's Word
- 2nd Timothy 2:1-3 **"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."** - grow in strength in God's Word, teach others from His Word as often as you can, endure hardship - following Christ's example
- 2nd Timothy 2:4-5 **"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."** - Do we have times that are 'our' time, or are we growing in removing our selfish use of the time God gives us, daily growing in removing the selfish distractions and fleshly -gratifying pleasures from our lives, life-styles and homes?
- 2nd Timothy 2:11-13 **"This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."** - If we die with Him, we will live with Him forever - that includes dying to our selfish wants daily. And, if we endure hardship, don't let up and continue to pursue righteousness and making disciples till we meet Him face-to-face, then we will reign with Him. If we are not taking up our cross daily and following Him, but trying to avoid the pressures of life and take it easy, we may just find that we haven't yet entered into the marriage-covenant relationship with Christ, yet. Better to find it now and correct it rather than be surprised there.

- 2nd Timothy 2:15-16 “**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.**” - everyone of us needs to be spending time in His Word, and growing as diligent students of His Word, and growing to becoming diligent and faithful teachers of His Word.
- 2nd Timothy 2:20-21 “**... not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**” - daily cleansing ourselves and our lifestyles and patterns from what we know is wrong
- 2nd Timothy 2:22-26 “**Flee also youthful lusts...**” - flee immorality of every form - daily make sure that you are growing in becoming dead to the old self-centered desires that once led you around, make pursue righteousness and obedience our daily passion, avoid discussions that prove to be only arguments over words and not discussions that challenge and inspire us toward holy living, grow in gentleness - though not backing down away from the truth, grow in understanding and explaining His Word so that we can and are teaching it and even pleading and reasoning with those who oppose us and the message of Christ and His Word that they too might awake and repent
- 2nd Timothy 3:1-4 - are we becoming more like or less like those listed here:
  - “**Lovers of self**” (and creature comforts)
  - “**Lovers of money**” (greedy)
  - “**Boasters**” (having pride in our human accomplishments)
  - “**Proud**” (not seeking God’s help to please Him in every detail)
  - “**Blasphemers**” (carelessly using God’s name in vain and/or slangs of God’s name)
  - “**Disobedient to parent**” (being impatient with and not showing honor to them as God’s leaders and accountability partners for us)
  - “**Unthankful**” (not grateful or content with what we have)
  - “**Unholy**” (with no desire to only do what is right and none of what is wrong)
  - “**Unloving**” (cold-hearted, self-centered, shutting everyone and everything out that gets in the way of doing what we want to do and living how we want to live)
  - “**Unforgiving**” (keeping record and count on wrongs done to us)
  - “**Slanderers**” (saying things that are not correct that will hurt someone we are mad at)
  - “**Without self-control**” (addictions, self-destructive habits, growing and unchecked lawless attitudes)
  - “**Brutal**” (cold-hearted in fighting to get what we want when we want it)
  - “**Despisers of good**” (not wanting what is healthy, not wanting what takes diligence, not wanting hard work, not wanting to focus only on what will matter in eternity)
  - “**Traitors**” (turning against those who get in our way)

- **“Headstrong”** (so calloused that we are hard to teach, and trying not to learn)
- **“Haughty”** (thinking too highly of ourselves - showing partiality with stereo-type biases)
- **“Lovers of pleasure”** (loving all forms of play, relaxing and anything that makes us laugh)
- **“Rather than lovers of God”** (His Word, His people, His message, His work and service)
- **“Having a form of godliness”** (looking so good when people are watching)
- **“But denying it’s power”** (His power and control over our lives - as our Master and Savior, for those who are bought by His blood)
- **“from such people turn away.”** (Do we hang around with those who are compromising or leave when you see they are compromising?)
- 2nd Timothy 3:7 **“... always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”** - Are we growing in head-knowledge or in daily understanding and obedience to Christ?
- 2nd Timothy 3:8 **“... so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith...”** - Are we resisting the truth we do know, or are we submitting to it? Are we scoffing at it or learning to proclaim it?
- 2nd Timothy 3:14 **“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them...”** - What percentage of God’s truth that we do know are we walking in obedience to?
- 2nd Timothy 3:16 **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”** - Every single follower of Christ must be growing in at least one if not all of these areas regularly
  - **Doctrine** (literally: teaching, instruction) - learning what is right
  - **Reproof** (literally: conviction, rebuke) - learning to discern between right and wrong more clearly
  - **Correction** (literally: straightening-up, correcting) - correcting what is wrong and learning how to avoid it and learning to embrace what is right, no matter how uncomfortable it is to our selfishness
  - **Instruction in righteousness** (another way of putting it - disciplining in justification) - how to apply our new understanding of what is right and wrong - good and evil
  - **“that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** (2nd Timothy 3:17) - the growing proof of maturity, the ability to teach accurately and with gentle boldness
- 2nd Timothy 4:2 **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”**- again, are we regularly growing in how to more accurately teach God’s Word to those around us - when it’s well-received and when it’s not?
- 2nd Timothy 4:3-4 **“...but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn**

**their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”** ~ Do we love fantasy stories, myths and legends? Or do we turn away from those and only hold to truth and the clear, literal text and teaching of the God’s Word?

- 2nd Timothy 4:5 **“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”** - Do we like to watch and be vigilant in prayer and obedience to Christ all our waking hours? Or do we prefer to have some time to just relax and let go of everything important, including what we are praying for? Are we growing in how to communicate the gospel and make disciples?
- 2nd Timothy 4:8 **“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”** -

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Okay, now that’s all I have for the moment. I have notes for the rest but, I want to refine them and pour over them in prayer for the next parts. Till next time, let’s grow in humility and in serving our King. ~ a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, SH

