

LOOK TO THE CROSS FOR ETERNAL HOPE

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. **25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is** temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

2 Tim. 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

<u>2</u> And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

<u>3</u> Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

<u>4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs</u> of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

<u>5</u> And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

<u>Rev. 4:10</u> The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <u>11</u> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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I. ESTABLISH THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH, 2:1

<u>2 Tim. 2:1</u> Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

A. The Relationship – "...my son..."

B. The Realization – "...be strong..."

Rom. 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; <u>2 Cor. 12:9</u> And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II. EQUIP THE SUBSEQUENT SAINTS, 2:2

2 Tim. 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

A. The Process – generational

From me to you – "...thou hast heard of me..."

From you to others – "...commit thou to faithful men..."

From others to others – "...who shall be able to teach others also."

B. The Purpose – perpetuity

III. ENDURE AS A SOUND SOLDIER, 2:3

<u>2 Tim. 2:3</u> Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

A. The Fellowship – "...endure hardness..."

B. The Faithfulness – "...as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

IV. EXPECT THE SAVIOR'S SATISFACTION, 2:4

<u>2 Tim. 2:4</u> No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

A. The Separation – "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life..."

B. The Satisfaction – "...that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." V. ENGAGE BY STRIVING SUBMISSIVELY, 2:5

2 Tim. 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

A. The Competing – "...if a man also strive..."

B. The Crown – "...crowned..."

C. The Conduct – "...except he strive lawfully."

Conclusion

<u>2 Tim. 4:6</u> For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
<u>7</u> I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:
<u>8</u> Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.