

2 Timothy 2:1-13

“Share the Hope”

October 9, 2016

Every once in a while I have this desire to work for a politician. I want to help save my country as I did when I volunteered for the Navy. In our text we are told that a soldier should not get involved in civilian but focus upon pleasing his commanding officer. As a Christian, my commanding officer is the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not of this world because we are now part of God’s Kingdom. Heaven will be my home. God commands that we love Him above all things. For example, Why would someone listen to us if we are of the wrong political party. That would place another barrier between us. Our sin provides enough barriers.

In our text, we have the athlete that competes to win the crown. Likewise we want to be given the gift of heaven, but we will be rejected if we play by our own rules rather than follow the rules of our God. He calls for us to deny ourselves and show sacrificial love to Him and to our neighbor. Therefore it makes us feel good when we give to others because we are obeying God’s desire that we sacrificially give of ourselves to others. There is a peace and joy that comes from giving to others as we do in the Next to New Sale. Of course our giving is not limited to giving our resources. We also give our organizational skills, our muscles that ache and our time among other things.

Timothy is being called to search out and call other men like himself to the pastoral office. However in 1 Peter all Christians are called the Priesthood of all believers. We are each given the right to go directly to God and praise, thank and ask for anything that glorifies His name. Likewise each of us is encouraged to share the Gospel hope with our children, grandchildren, our family and our friends. Yes, we share the Gospel hope with strangers. Sue and I sing Christian songs to our grandchildren over the phone or when speaking to them over the computer. In addition we all can freely forgive the sins of others who hurt us and assure them that God forgives them as well in their faith and trust in Him.

Think about this! God trusts us all with the Gospel hope. We may have to endure rejection and persecution because we are sharing the Gospel hope, but what a joy to see a soul get it and seek the comfort of the Lord as they face life. I was reading a book about a man who lost his wife in a riding accident. Later he fell in love with another woman and she died in an accident before they could even marry. He felt unable to love again for fear that he would lose someone when he did. Sadly he wanted to die. Life brings us these tragedies. Christ brings us hope and peace. This is the gift we have to bring this world. Life can destroy us, but Christ brings us hope and peace.

The struggle in the midst of our world is to realize that we need to look at life from God perspective not our own. The young man was not cursed when he

lost those he loved. God loves us even when we reject Him. God loves us and will continue to love us even when we reject Him because He is the God of love. He can't change His nature just because we are unlovable. Of course if we are found rejecting Him at the end of this life, His holiness demands that He reject us. After all if we don't want to spend eternity with Him then He must accept our decision.

Notice that Paul encourages Timothy to be strong in the Lord. In this life, it is our choice to be committed to Him in a strong way or in a weak. He will still love us even if we have chosen to be weak Christians. I don't know about you, but that makes me want to love Him even more. He is giving us the freedom to choose the path we take through life and the strength we take it with. The comfort is that we know that His love for us does not diminish. Therefore when you encounter troubled souls, share the hope we have found in our Lord Jesus Christ. They may not hear us, but maybe somehow that will change and they too will seek our God as they remember our witness. Amen.