

## How can we be strong?

Keith Dixon  
August 22, 2021  
Gray

### Introduction

1. 2 Timothy 2
2. Paul is writing to his son in the faith, 2 Timothy 1:2
3. This son had a wonderful upbringing 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15
4. As a father he wants his son to be strong, let us notice Paul's encouragement, instructions, marks of a strong Christian

### II Discussion

1. A strong Christian is a good soldier verse 3
  - a. He must endure hardness – adverse conditions always abound for the soldier
  - b. He must concentrate upon the duty at hand;
    - i. 2 duties of man worship and serve God.
    - ii. We can get caught up in the devils schemes to distract us away from these duties
  - c. He must know his enemy 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:13-15; Matthew 7:15
  - d. He must know his equipment Ephesians 6:10-18
    - i. This is a spiritual fight and not a physical one 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4
    - ii. Strong Verse 10
    - iii. Whole armor verses 11, 13
    - iv. Stand verses 13, 14
    - v. Loins girt about with truth verse 14
    - vi. Breastplate of righteousness verse 14
    - vii. Feet shod with preparation of the Gospel verse 15
    - viii. Shield of faith verse 16
    - ix. Helmet of salvation verse 17
    - x. Sword of the Spirit verse 17
    - xi. Praying verse 18
2. A strong Christian must strive lawfully verse 5
  - a. We can not do anything and think we will be accepted of Him
  - b. Tarred bats, corked bats, spit balls performance enhancing drugs are all illegal and those who use them have consequences to pay. Shortening the distance of a marathon is not striving lawfully.
  - c. We cannot set aside any of God's laws and think we are striving lawfully
    - i. If a person will not repent there is no need to baptize them
    - ii. If a person will not sing, his worship will not be accepted
    - iii. If we set aside any of God's laws of marriage we will not be accepted of Him
3. A strong Christian will suffer verses 8-12
  - a. He will emphasis this again in 3:12
  - b. Paul suffered the loss of all things for the cause of Christ Philippians 3:8; Galatians 1:14
  - c. What have we gained if we gained the whole world Matthew 16:26 but what have we lost if we lose the world and gain eternity 2 Peter 3:10-14; Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 1:4
4. A strong Christian will study verse 15
  - a. We must study to show ourselves approved of God

- b. We must study as to not be ashamed
  - c. We must study to rightly divided God's Word. Hebrews 7:12; 10:1-4
  - d. To speak comfort to those who need comfort and terror to those who need terror 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; 5:11
  - e. Some do wrest the scriptures 2 Peter 3:16
- 5. A strong Christian will shun Verses 16, 23
  - a. There are some things that hinder the work of the church and they are to be avoided.
  - b. We must know the truth so that false brethren can be marked Romans 16:17-18
  - c. There have always been some things that need to be avoided
    - i. Some people Proverbs 16:27-30; 5:6-27
    - ii. Some drink Proverbs 20:1; 23:31
    - iii. Some actions 2 Timothy 2:22
- 6. A strong Christian is sealed verse 19
  - a. This is an inscription upon the foundation stone, identifying who the building belongs to
  - b. This is a double seal or inscription
  - c. We are part of this building 1 Peter 2:5 and must be doing our part; Ephesians 2:21-22
  - d. A Christian is to depart of sin. 2 John 9-11; 2 Thessalonians 5:22
  - e. Sin is transgression of the law 1 John 3:4
  - f. In our verse it means not being right with God, according to His standard of holiness and righteousness
- 7. A strong Christian is sanctified Verse 21
  - a. A Christians is one who is set apart, the world can tell the difference, attitude, talk is all different
  - b. A Christian is worthy to be used by the Master not all vessels are worthy to be used because of sin in their lives. Matthew 7:23
  - c. Yet we can be a vessel for proper use Titus 2:14
  - d. It is up to us to remain the proper vessel
- 8. A strong Christian is a servant verse 24
  - a. There are only two spheres that an accountable man can serve Matthew 6:24; Romans 6:16-18
  - b. A Christian is in command of himself at all times, not flying off at the handle
  - c. Do you confess to being a servant, slave for the Lord Matthew 10:32-33
  - d. Attributes of this servant are listed: must not strive; gentle toward all, apt to teach, patient.

### III Conclusion

- 1. Will you be a strong Christian or will you be weak?
- 2. Many will remain weak all of their lives, that choice is yours.
- 3. Some will want to be strong, it takes time and effort but the rewards are out of this world.
- 4. Do you want the rewards, then let us be strong
- 5. Come today

Sources: Matthew Henry commentary; Studies in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy by Robert Taylor' Courageous Christians sermon outlines from 2 Timothy 2 by Tom Holland; Lecture Denton, ETSOPM; Memphis