

“Envisioning Our Legacy” 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Introduction: Pg. ____ Opening words: Thank you... Thankful to serve on a team...

- [Hold the Bible...] My grandmother was a godly woman. She died this past November, but her influence lives on, especially amongst us who knew her the best.
- She not only was a dedicated Christian; she was a pastor’s wife. My grandfather on my mom’s side served as a pastor for over 50 years.
- After she passed, my parents decided to give the last Bible she was using daily to another pastor’s wife, my wife, Marsha.
- This amazing gift reveals clues about the kind of Christian woman she was. (USE the Bible as the picture of Legacy...)
 - The worn spine and evidence of use.
 - All 66 books with verses where God was speaking to her.
 - But here’s the one that overwhelmed me when I saw it. In the middle of the Bible there was a Daily Bible Reading plan that her church gave out. Every box down to the final week was checked.
- By her actions, she leaves a legacy that inspires us to pursue God with the consistency and dedication she displayed the many years of her life. Her life revealed (as David spoke about last week) the shining greatness of the glory of Christ.
- Friend last week: über successful... lots of money, great job, travels the world, beautiful wife, beautiful kids, beautiful home, all that, but then he said, “But what will I be remembered for? Something is missing in my life.”
- As you peer off into the distance, what do you envision? What will be your legacy?
- What you are living for will determine the legacy you leave behind.

When Paul wrote to Timothy (in 2 Timothy 2), he was carrying on the legacy building mission of Jesus.

The Point: Leave a legacy through multiplying disciples who make disciples.

I. The goal of disciple making is generations, not a generation.

Read verses 1-2

Contrast

- Paul begins by saying, “you then, my child.” Some translations say: “As for you...” He is building a contrast with those he referenced at the end of chapter 1, who deserted him in Asia, like Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- He is calling Timothy to gospel fidelity. Be faithful to Christ. Be faithful to the calling you’ve received to represent Christ and teach Christ.
- And this calling is laid out in verse 2.
- Verse 2 is a picture of generational multiplication through disciple-making.
 - He teaches him.
 - He teaches them.
 - They teach them...
- The goal of discipleship is maturity and multiplication.
 - Maturity and multiplication are so closely related, they are almost synonymous.
 - I’d put it this way: Maturity is more than multiplying but it’s not less.
- Jesus saves us that we might bring his salvation to others.
- There is *nothing* more important than this. Nothing. Do you agree?

Look at this generational multiplication and the legacy vision of verse 2.

- **Paul** passed it on to **Timothy**.
- **Timothy** passed it on to **faithful people**. (men and women)
- Those **faithful disciples** passed it on to **others**.) Four?
- Five implied? [**Jesus told Paul**.]
- Six+ implied...? Others told others who told others who told others..... who told us!
- First, we see the relationship of Paul to Timothy
 - Paul no doubt taught the truth of Jesus publicly. He says Timothy “heard [truth] from him in the presence of many witnesses.”
 - This is so important because what Timothy received in the presence of others could then be checked and verified to ensure he and those he taught were passing down “the faith once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3)
 - But Paul’s relationship with Timothy was more than words. It was personal, life on life. As Paul says in 3:10: “You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings.”
 - That’s discipleship: “**Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.**” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

App: Do you have a Paul investing in your life?

- This may be your first step...

- Pray for one.
- Go find one. You see someone a few steps ahead of you, or A LOT of steps ahead of you, go ask them if they can teach you how they follow Jesus.
- Sometimes all you have to do is ask.
 - I knew a guy in seminary who knew more about basketball than the Bible, but he asked the Dean of the School of Theology, if he could be mentored by him. To his surprise, the Dean who later became the President of another seminary, said yes.
 -

Do you have a Paul? Are you a Paul?

- Who's your Timothy?
- Have you been praying the prayer Pastor Jon encouraged us to pray: "Lord, show me someone I can intentionally invest in to help them become more like Jesus."
- What about his challenge to invite someone to read the Bible? So simple, and yet, so transformative!
- Timothy entrusted it to faithful men. We see two things here.
 - 1) The gospel of Christ, the truth of Jesus, is to be "entrusted." It means we take care of something that is highly valuable.
 - 2) "Faithful men"
 - (See footnote) The Greek word *anthropoi* can refer to both men and women depending on the context.
 - As you look for people to help grow in Christ, look for faithful people. Dependable people. People who want to grow in their commitment to Christ. You see their hunger for God. It's more than a Sunday thing. They have a vision for Jesus to pervade every aspect of their lives.

We see here that Paul describes individual responsibility within a corporate focus. He wants Timothy to entrust the message of Jesus...

To a group of faithful people who will teach others.

*Now it's our turn... to pass it on from one generation to the next.

- Most of the talk of generations today, has nothing to do with making-disciples, or, I think it's safe to say, familial generations.
- Most generational talk today centers around technology. **{PIC of iPhones}**
- Here's what I'm thinking, if Apple can create a new generation of their phone every year, why can't we, by the power of God, do the same in helping other people follow Jesus?

- Let's outpace Apple in seeing new people follow Christ and more followers of Christ growing more rapidly in Christ.

** Think about it: biblical discipleship is not truly happening until those you invest in are investing in others.

Consider **the Power of Multiplication**.

- Dawson Trotman: (Born to Reproduce: **JUST four people** make a disciple **every six months**, and that continues to **happen for 15 & 1/2 years**, they would together reach: **2.2 Billion People!** Wow!).
- You say: "That's not realistic." Ok, let's slow it down to iPhone pace, **1 person a year**. Those **4 reproducing** people would reach **262,144** in 16 years. Sounds good!

IT never happens if we don't take the first step. Let's help one another. Let's encourage one another.

T: Because this work is not easy! The greatest work is usually not the easiest work. It will take effort, resolve, and most of all - it will take grace. Listen: to EVER SEE the generational multiplication of verse 2, we have to receive the power of verse 1!

II. Leave a legacy of generational multiplication BY GRACE.

When Paul says, "Be strengthened..." the tense of the Greek verb literally means, "Continually be strengthened."

Do you know what God is doing here? Get ready. And don't get mad. :) He is implying that we are not simply weak, but weakness will be a constant companion in our lives.

God knows we are weak. We know we are weak; we just don't like to admit it!

- So, here's our opportunity to put our weaknesses on the table.
- Now is the time for us to say to God: "God, you know the reason I hardly ever talk about you, or invest in others is because deep down, I'm trying to do it in my own strength. I'm living in my own power, rather than receiving the (DAY BY DAY - MOMENT BY MOMENT) power you want to give me by your Holy Spirit!"
- If you're anything like me, that's exactly what you need to pray.
- The whole of the Christian life, from beginning to end, is ALL of GRACE.

The God of Grace

- 1 Corinthians 15:10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am..."
- John 15:5: "I am the vine... whoever abides in me..."
- Psalm 18:1: "I love you, O Lord, my strength."

- “Command what you will, give what you command.” - Augustine.
- God can ask anything of us, because he gives everything to us!

Now, can we just get down to business for a minute? Here’s why we need grace: we make 1000 excuses when it comes to this greatest work.

Excuses for not multiplying disciples. (see if these sound familiar – perhaps they’ve been going through your mind as we’ve talked about multiplying disciples this month! ☺)

- **“I’m too busy.”** (Lack of Time)
 - I don’t believe you. Where there is a will, there’s a way.
 - If this is of greatest importance, take a look at your priorities and find ways to bring this into everyday life
 - Grab a meal.
 - “Do what you do and do what with others.
 - Do what others do and do it with them.”
 - We understand time is precious. That’s one of the reasons why we encourage people to seek these discipling relationships in our Groups. You’re already getting together one night a week. Add some intentionality, focus, and a little extra time, and you’ll see it happen!
 - The formula for disciple-making = Word + relationships + time.
 - Last thing I’ll say on this: start somewhere! Get creative. 20-30 minutes over FaceTime once a week for a couple of months is better than nothing. Am I right? Oh, I’m right.
- **“I’ll get to that later.”** (Lack of Urgency)
 - Don’t be a professional procrastinator. The time is now.
 - If you don’t value something to the point that it moves you to action, you don’t value it much at all.
 - Ask God to help you make bold moves.
- **“I need to grow before I help others.”** (Lack of Maturity)
 - Let’s say that’s true. Find a Paul...
 - That said, if you’ve received the good news, you can share that with anyone. You can share your story. You can read the Bible with a friend. You don’t have to have all the answers.
 - “Freely you have received, freely give.” (Mt 10:8)
- **“I don’t know where to start.”** (Lack of Experience)
 - Listen to Pastor Jon’s Sermon from two weeks ago (if you missed it), and...
 - Come to our 1 to 1 Bible Reading seminar on 9/5
- **“I don’t know who to invest in.”** (Lack of Direction)
 - Community Group - Paul, Timothy, Barnabus...
 - Let us help.
- **“It takes too much time to see progress.”** (Lack of Resolve)
 - Look in the mirror, fam. Everyone is a work in progress.
- **“This is not for me.”** (Warfare)
 - This is for super-Christians...

- You know what we call that? A lie. Lies are not from God. They are from the evil one.
- And rest assured, all the forces of hell will do everything in their power to keep you from this greatest work.

To all of these thoughts, excuses, and lies, hear these words: “Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2:1)

When God’s strength meets our weakness, we rearrange our schedule, we live with urgency, we keep growing, we fight back, we take steps (even baby steps), we get help, and we persevere, with God’s persevering, relentless, inexhaustible GRACE.

God can ask anything of us, because he gives everything to us!

Look at verses 3-7... This is what effective ministry, effective disciple-making looks like. GRACE leads us to...

- ... stay focused, endure hardship and aim to please God (like the soldier).
- ... discipline for victory and live with integrity (like the athlete).
- ... work hard and receive a blessing (like the farmer).

How do we receive this strength?

You say: “Tanner, how do I access this grace? How do I receive God’s strength?”

SEEK GOD. Spend time with him. Abide in him. Pursue him. Love him. Worship him. Follow him. Hear from him in his Word, and Pray. Pray. Pray. Pray.

Conclusion:

Let me end by saying this... (with love and grace)

The primary reason we do not talk about Jesus and make disciples of Jesus is because we are not full of the Spirit of Jesus.

I am confident if you will, day by day, seek more and more of God, abide in Christ, walk with him, love what he loves, he will not only keep filling you with his Spirit, but that fullness WILL overflow.

That’s why prayer is so important. We are impotent, in and of ourselves. WE NEED THE POWER of GOD through the GRACE of GOD.

Lead into prayer time.... (Invite the music team and prayer team)

As God leads, I want to invite you to come and receive prayer today.

1) Do you need to start a relationship with Jesus today? To turn from your old way of life and start a completely new life today that begins with forgiveness and ends with an eternal life with God that never ends? You can't pass on what you don't possess. Come forward and let us help you take that step today.

2) Who needs the strength of God to invest in others for their spiritual good? strength to make this a priority? grace to move out with confidence? grace to wave goodbye to the excuses? strength to see more and more and more people receive salvation and grow as multiplying disciples of Jesus.

What kind of legacy will you leave?

C.T. Studd, the great missionary to China, India and Africa, was driven by a vision of legacy.

- **We have only one life,**
- **It will soon be past**
- **Only what is done**
- **For Christ will last.**

Let me pray and then you respond as God leads.