SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

MORNING MESSAGE
"Be Strong"
2 Timothy 2:1-7

I. THE PLEA FOR STRONG CHRISTIANS (v.1a)

A. It is a moving plea

B. It is a mandatory plea

1. Joshua 1:6, "Be strong and of a good courage"

2. 1 Chronicles 22:13, "Be strong and of good courage; and dread not, nor be dismayed"

3. 1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"

4. Ephesians 6:10, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might"

II. THE POWER FOR STRONG CHRISTIANS (v.1b)

A. It is a gracious power

1. John 1:16, "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace"

2. Romans 5:2, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand"

B. It is God's power

1. Ephesians 6:10, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might"

III. THE PICTURE OF STRONG CHRISTIANS (vv.2-7)

A. The picture of a schoolmaster (v.2)

1. A strong Christian must grasp the truth (v.2a)

2. A strong Christian must guard the truth (v.2b)

3. A strong Christian must give the truth (v.2c)

B. The picture of a soldier (VV.3-4)

1. A strong Christian will suffer (v.3)

a. Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"

b. 2 Corinthians 10:4, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds"

2. A strong Christian will strive (v.4a)

a. NASB, “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life”

3. A strong Christian will satisfy (v.4b)

a. Spurgeon, “Up, I pray you now!

> By him whose eyes are like a flame of fire, and yet were wet with tears,
>
> By him on whose head are many crowns, but who yet wore the crown of thorns,
>
> By him who is King of kings and Lord of lords, and yet bowed his head to death for you;
>
> Resolve that to life’s latest breath you will spend and be spent for His praise.
>
> The Lord grant that there may be such in this church – good soldiers of Jesus Christ.”

C. The picture of a sportsman (v.5)

1. A strong Christian and his recreation (v.5a)

a. “Strive” translates the Greek word that means “athlete”

2. A strong Christian and his reward (v.5b)

a. “Crowned” translates the Greek word “stephanos”; the runners crown

3. A strong Christian and his rules (v.5c)

a. Greek Olympic rules: (1) You must be a true-born Greek; (2) You must train for ten months and swear before Zeus that you have done so; (3) You must obey all the rules of competition

b. Revelation 4:10b-11, “and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power”

D. The picture of a sharecropper (v.6)

1. A strong Christian is a worker (v.6a)

a. “Husbandman” means a farmer, a toiler; a sharecropper is someone who farms land he does not own

2. A strong Christian is a winner (v.6b)

a. 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”