

Intro-

I am a child of faith. I have spiritual dads. Men who have invested in me and taught me to invest in others who invest in others.

Testify-Craig Englert, Craig Mock, Jason Spence, and Kit Lauwer.

-Mike Robinson; disciplined, planted

-Dan Frank, to this day

-Brothers and sisters in Christ, iron sharpening iron.

Please turn to 2 Timothy 2, that's on page 995 in the pew bibles.

2 Timothy 2:1-10. Read, pray.

Context of text

"The letter pictures Paul in prison in Rome, awaiting death." ESV Study Bible

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

-Re-train, I called it "benediction"

"Second Timothy is a bold, clear call for perseverance in the gospel in spite of suffering. Paul calls on his young coworker to continue the fight of faith, even as Paul approaches the end of his own life."¹

How do we live our lives in a way that we can say at the end of life, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"?

-By existing for people to find and follow Jesus

-That's what Jesus existed for; **For people to find and follow him.**

-Yes, he focused on personal integrity, and we do the same.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

¹ ESV Study Bible, 2 Timothy Theme.

-Yes, he focused on personal devotions, and we do the same.
And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35

-But his reason, purpose, his very existence was to find people to follow him.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

-As followers of Jesus, we do the same.

This is pattern of life is implied in 2 Timothy.

He focuses on his integrity & calling.

Read vs. 6-8 / vs. 13-14

And then, based on his personal integrity and calling-Exist **for people to find and follow Jesus who will be faithful to find others who will teach people to find and follow Jesus.**

Read 2 Tim. 2:1 Let's not forget who we are...

Who are we? We are a family; welcoming, loving, faithful, and fruitful, family of faith.

Paul says in vs. 1, "You then, my child,"

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 1 Corinthians 4:15-17

It's not like we just make this stuff up... *"Hey, being a family sounds cool, let's do that."* Our identity comes from scripture.

We are brothers and sisters IN CHRIST, with metaphoric mom's and dad's of the faith.

We see Paul investing, encouraging his "son" in the faith to do what son's of the faith do-Entrust.

Read vs. 2a

Entrust what? The word of God in community

"It is God who gives understanding through the truth of the Bible by meditating on what is taught." Pastor Dana

What did Paul teach? The word of God. What is the Bible all about?

(Review last week) It's all about Jesus!!! Paul **existed for Jesus**, and so do we!

we preach Christ crucified 1 Corinthians 1:23a

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2

Overview of Romans; a detailed look at his teachings that he starts with Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,

-Life before Jesus, Life found in Jesus, Life with Jesus. But it's all tethered to the Gospel.

This is, as Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:1, **be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men..."**

Take what you have heard and entrust people to teach others (Disciples making disciples). Pastor Dana

To exist for people to find & follow Jesus and "ENTRUST" others who will faithfully do the same. To be spiritual fathers who raise up spiritual kids. It's who we are. It's why we exist.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world

to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.** Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ,** God making his appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

This is our investment... Our spiritual retirement, our legacy. We invest in people. We "entrust" to faithful people to carry the flame until our last breath or Jesus returns.

"I do not want my legacy to be a building", Pastor Rino of Southcoast Church

How? We invest in people. We exist for people to find and follow Jesus who will exist for people to find and follow Jesus.

But it's not just one generation! What's our question? How do we live our lives in a way that we can say at the end of life...

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"

To not only have spiritual kids, but grandkids, and great grandkids!

READ 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Generations of spiritual family!

It not too late.

How do I start? What do I do? I'm glad you asked. Come back next week for part 2 of generations.

In the mean time, remember this...

We are a family who exists for people to find and follow Jesus!

Communion.

Take what you have heard and entrust people to teach others (Disciples making disciples). Pastor Dana

What you have heard from me

"It is God who gives understanding through the truth of the Bible by meditating on what is taught." Pastor Dana

"A soldier obeys his commander, Jesus, in all things without being distracted by the world around him" Testify-Craig. Pastor Paul

"An athlete can only compete if he follows the rules. We must obey the Word of God." Pastor Paul

"The farmer works long and difficult hours, hoping for a good harvest. We must not be lazy in our work for the Lord if we expect a good harvest." Pastor Paul