

Christians Are Tangle-Free

October 13, 2019

2 Timothy 2:1-7 ESV

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier gets entangled (*emplekō - to entwine, involved with*) in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

- *Stay faithful to what God has called the Church and the believer to do - don't get distracted and sucked into the temporal affairs and busyness of this life.*
- *If you don't compete according to the rules (of not being entangled by this world but separated to the heavenly calling) you will not be crowned with eternal life.*

The Church's Mission - **Make Disciples**

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Church's Mission - **Be Holy**

Ephesians 5:27 ESV

"So that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

The Church's Mission - **Be Ready**

Luke 12:35-38 ESV

35 Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,

36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

Luke 21:34-36 ESV

34 **But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down (*bareō - to burden, press down, depress*) **with dissipation (*kraipalē - eating or drinking to excess, oppression, headache*) and drunkenness (*methē - intoxication*) and cares (*merimna - care, anxiety, divided by distraction*) **of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.******

35 **For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.**

36 **But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.**

- *If you allow your heart to become weighed down and entangled with the cares of this life, you will not be ready for the day of the Lord.*
- *Pray that you will have the strength to resist the temptation to be entangled with the cares and affairs of this life.*

Hebrews 11:8-10 ESV

8 **By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.**

9 **By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.**

10 **For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.**

- *We follow God by faith, not sight. We don't know the path He ordains before us, but we know the final destination - the city whose designer and builder is God.*
- *We can never allow our focus and priority to be distracted by the land we are traveling through.*

Hebrews 11:13-15 ESV

13 **These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**

14 **For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.**

15 **If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.**

- *Are you thinking longingly for the land you've been called to leave?*
- *Like Lot's wife, are you glancing back to the earthly; apprehensive and sorry for what you will miss?*
- *If you're having such thoughts, you will have every opportunity to return to the earthly and forsake the heavenly.*

Luke 17:31-35 ESV

31 **On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back.**

32 **REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE.**

33 **Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.**

34 **I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left.**

35 **There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left."**