

## STRONG IN HIS GRACE

Scripture Reading: **II Timothy 2:1-3**

1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul offered much counsel and sound advice to his son in the faith Pastor Timothy. One of the strongest examples of his wise guidance is found in our text:

*"Thou therefore, my son, **BE STRONG IN THE GRACE THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."*

Paul prefaces his instruction with "**Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**" Whatever the believer does or says is done or said by means of exercising God's grace which is instilled in us by the indwelling Christ. The grace that is in us is the grace that is in Christ. The grace of God that saved us, also gives us the ability to walk pleasing to Him.

*"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11,12)- hence, Paul's words of encouragement to Timothy.*

The grace of God also teaches us that as we are denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, living godly and righteous now, that we should be looking and doing something as stated in verses 13-14. What is it?

***"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."***

We are to be looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour to rapture the Church, his saints, to heaven. And while we look, we are to be maintaining good works...committing the Word of God's grace to faithful saints...who in turn will be teaching others this grace.

The apostle offers his own testimony to the above. In his Philippian letter he declares, ***"I can do all things through Christ which [who] strengtheneth me"*** (Philippians 4:13). He exhorts Timothy to call upon the grace that is in Christ to faithfully proclaim and teach the doctrines taught him by Paul, to instruct others who are faithfully committed, and to willingly suffer the inevitable sacrifices and opposition to be encountered in his ministry. May we, as fellow saints, the members of Christ's body, the Church for whom he died, accept the same challenge as ministers of reconciliation!

And the consequence of our sufferings at the rapture... **Romans 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

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