

**Series: The Believer's Place in a Wicked World**  
**"Standing Strong in This Present Evil World"**  
**2 Timothy 2**

**Introduction:**

1. God saved us and delivered us from Satan's kingdom of darkness. We have already been translated and made citizens of Christ's heavenly kingdom.
2. But physically God has left us in this satanic world system. We are in enemy territory and we are in warfare. **2 Corinthians 10:4** declares, "*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.*" **cf. Ephesians 6:10-11**
3. I am very concerned that in America we have learned the art of how to gather a crowd and build ministries, but are we building and equipping soldiers that are sober-minded, with a fervent attitude about their Christian lives?
4. Has a Laodicean mindset gripped our hearts? We want to serve the Lord and have a Christian glaze, but also love this present world and value what it values. It won't work because God sees the heart. **Revelation 3:15, 19**
5. Turn to **2 Timothy 2:1** and notice what Paul tells Timothy. Paul pleaded with Timothy to stand strong in the grace of Christ. Christians, God's call is the same today.
6. God desires for you to possess a fervent attitude about your Christian life and ministry. God doesn't want you to just accept His grace, but stand strong in His grace. How can you do this? Paul explains to Timothy.

**Invest your life in people. vs. 2**

1. Paul had taught Timothy sound doctrine and he admonishes Timothy to teach this sound doctrine to others. cf. 3:10
  - Paul had invested his life in men like Timothy, Titus, Luke, Silas, Tychicus, etc.
  - Remember this: you impress lives from a distance, but you impact them up close.
2. I'm convinced, one of the primary reasons that we don't invest more time in people is because we are so consumed with the things of this world.
3. How much of our life is spent in self-centered entertainment (surfing the Web, watching TV, shopping, playing computer games, listening to music, etc.)?
4. There's nothing sinful about these things in their proper place, but when we feed on large doses of the world's entertainment, it robs of us of time we could spend helping and investing in people.
5. As we stand strong in His grace, the question is no longer – "How can I be entertained?" – but – "How can I help someone else to grow in His grace?"

**Simplify your life for God's service. vs. 3-4**

1. When a soldier goes out to war, he can't carry a lot of excess baggage. It will weight him down and entangle him. He travels light. He takes only what is needed.
2. That is the picture we get in verse 4. Timothy, travel light, take only what is needed, don't bog yourself down with all the things this world system says you have to have.  
**1 Timothy 6:6-8**

3. Why is it so crucial that we have the proper mindset about money and things?  
**1 Timothy 6:9-11** Many a Christian and preacher has fallen into this snare.
4. God's soldiers are not called to a life of ease and material prosperity. vs. 3
5. This world is not our home. We are soldiers in a battle with Satan for the souls of men and women.
6. Christians, don't complicate your lives by allowing the world's attractions and possessions to ensnare you. Keep yourself free from the entanglements of this life. Why? Verse 4 says so that you can please Him who hath chosen you to be a soldier.

### **Build your life on God's Word. vs. 15**

1. It is becoming very popular today for preachers to preach light-hearted, syrupy, motivational messages, sprinkled with a little bit of Scripture (usually out of context).
  - We live in an age in which people love “feel-good” churches and light and fluffy messages, and entertainment-driven churches.
2. This may pack buildings, but God's Word (rightly divided) builds lives.
  - Notice God's command to Timothy and to us. Study. Dig into it and learn how to rightly divide it. Then preach what you've learned to others. 4:2-4
3. People may not turn out in droves to hear sound doctrine. The guys with the cotton candy may be more popular, but Paul tells Timothy, "You stick with the stuff I've given to you. It's the real deal and it will change lives."
4. Remember this, a love for this world will quench your desire for God's Word. 4:10 Jesus talked about the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choking the Word and it leading to unfruitfulness.
5. Studying God's Word must be the driving passion of your life. Your life, your marriage, your home, your ministry must be built on the meat of God's Word, not the cotton candy of this world.

### **Prepare your life for the Master's use. vs. 21**

1. I love verse 21 – “...*meet (fit) for the Master's use.*” You are prepared for Christ to live His glorious life through you in this wicked world. How do you prepare yourself?
2. You must build your life with the right materials. There are two kinds in verse 20.
  - Silver and gold - a life built upon the study and right division of God's Word.
  - Wood and earth - this represents the things of the present evil world (iniquity - vs. 19, and youthful lusts - vs. 22).
3. We flee from the sinful lusts and passions of this present world, but as we store up the sound doctrine of God's Word in our souls and then apply it to the details of our lives, we follow after ... verse 22
4. As we do this, we become soldiers that God can use in a powerful way to impact lives, and at the end of our sojourn through this evil world, we can face death without regret and say what Paul said in 4:6-8.