

## Pictures of a Believer Part 1

### 2 Timothy 2

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**Introduction:** in the second chapter of second Timothy, Paul writes to the young pastor to give him some final words of encouragement and wisdom. As Paul is writing this from the chains of prison awaiting his execution, he uses some pictures, or images, of the Christian life. Over the next couple of weeks we will take a look at these pictures closely and at how they relate to us today.

### 1. The Believer as A Son Vs. 1



2 Timothy 2:1 *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”*

- Paul referred to Timothy as his “son” because he most certainly was spiritually his “father” in that he was used to bring him to faith
- However, to become a child of *God* we must be born again!
  - a. All people are God’s *creation* - Colossians 1:3
  - b. God loves the world – John 3:16
  - c. Only those *born again* are children of God – John 1:12

### 2. The Believer as a Steward Vs. 2



2 Timothy 2:2 *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

- Great trust was given to a steward and he treated all as if it were his own

What are we stewards of? Paul says in I Cor. 4:2

*“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

*2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”*



### 3. The Believer as a Soldier Vs. 3,4

2 Timothy 2:3, 4 *“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

*4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."*

- A Soldier endures hardness - Serving God is not a soft job. It requires great endurance.
- A Soldier avoids worldly entanglements - He is totally committed to his commanding officer.



#### 4. The Believer as an Athlete Vs. 5

*2 Timothy 2:5 "And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."*

There is coming a day of judgment:

- a. The Great White Throne judgment - Revelation 20:11, 15
- b. BEMA - Romans 12:10, 12

**Note:** The Bema judgment is what was used by judges to judge the games. Contestants would receive rewards only if they performed within the bounds and rules set out for them.

*Questions:*

1. You are a believer today, while still acknowledging salvation is only through Christ, because someone shared Christ with you. Have you ever been able to share Christ with someone else? Is there anyone you may call a son or daughter in the faith?
2. Paul likened the believer to a soldier in an army. Quite a number of hymns in years past focused a lot on this such as "Onward Christian Soldiers." Why in a lot of Christendom today is this thought not spoken of much or very popular?
3. Paul desired to finish the race of his life well. He didn't necessarily start well with his resisting and persecuting the church, but he wanted to finish well. How has your race been thus far? Whether you're just beginning or have been in the race a long time, we must seek to finish well and keep our eyes on the prize, our Saviour.

*Prayer: "Dear Father, help me to be a faithful son/daughter, steward, soldier and athlete. May I keep my eyes on you, my Redeemer, and judge. I know I will stand before you to give account for what I have done while here, not to be condemned for my sins as Jesus has already taken my condemnation, but to receive rewards for being faithful and keeping my eyes on you. Forgive me when I have strayed off course, and give me strength to finish well. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*