



Summer Study Discussion Guide #11

Sermon Title: The Battle is Raging

Biblical Reference: 2 Timothy 2

Date Preached: Sunday, August 21st, 2022, @ 11am

Summer Study Date: Wednesday, August 24th, 2022

Sermon Summary

Second Timothy was the last book Paul wrote. He wrote it to Timothy to encourage him to stand despite the hardships that were coming. This letter encouraged him to stand fast in the faith. He charged him to be a good soldier and to endure hardness. There are many admonitions in the book to endure and to keep going despite the coming hardships.

Paul had a warfare worldview of the Christian life. Paul, in his writings, made it clear that the Christian life is a war. The Sunday message was preached to encourage our church to expect trials and to keep going no matter what.

Quick Review

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Were you able to apply something you learned from the sermon this week?

My Story

It has been said that attitude, or worldview, is more important than what happens to us. Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% what we make of it. Can you give an example of how your worldview has helped you or hurt you in your life?

Second Timothy was Paul's last words to Timothy, a man who he loved in the Lord. If you knew this was your last opportunity to give some advice to your loved ones, what would you say?

Digging Deeper

1. We are in a War

Ask a volunteer to read:

1Ti 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Paul reminds his readers the Christian life is a war. God's creation has been seized by evil hostile forces that are trying to ruin God's beneficent plans for His creation and this world. God wages war against these forces and through the person of Jesus Christ He has secured the final victory. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. The Church is called to be part of the final war and overthrow of these evil forces. Victory is guaranteed to the Lord Jesus Christ, but war must still be waged.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it difficult for us to remember that we are in a war?
- Give an example of the negative consequences of forgetting the war is not against other people but against spiritual wickedness in high places?
- Can you tell us about a person or a church that was negatively impacted because the people involved forgot the battle was not physical but spiritual?
- When you know you have to fight a spiritual battle how do you fight it?

2. Expect Hardship

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

There are two prevailing worldviews in the church today. One is a blueprint world view where everything that happens is part of Gods plan. People work to fit even all the evil things into that plan, and they usually struggle with the question of evil. This world view creates the expectation for things to go well and when things go wrong it is difficult to explain. Many times, people end up angry at God or disillusioned by experience. This worldview has turned evil into a question that must be answered instead of an obstacle that must be overcome or endured.

The other worldview is a warfare worldview. This worldview realizes that we are on a battlefield and hardships and evil are to be expected. Evil needs no explanation. It is part of life on a battlefield with a hostile evil enemy trying to destroy the church or it is caused by an environment that has been negatively impacted by the war.

Discussion Questions:

- Can you tell us about a time when your worldview caused you to become disillusioned?
- How could having a warfare worldview help you with what you are facing now?
- In the example of Daniel 10:2-3, 10-14; Daniel received a vision from God for the future of Israel by continuing in prayer during a time of unseen spiritual battle between angelic beings and spiritual wickedness.
- How does this example explain some of the disappointment or loss we face?
- How does this inspire or serve as an example to fight the good fight of faith?

3. Endure

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

The ability to endure suffering with a good attitude is many times what makes or breaks a soldier.

- Describe a time in your life when you just had to endure?
- Some Christians have an amazing ability to endure hardships and keep a sweet spirit and others have seem to never be able to find joy in their trials. What are the differences you have noticed?
- Who is someone that has been an example of this ability to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ?

4. Don't Turn on your Commander

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

When you are in a battle and you lose a comrade, you don't get mad or shoot at the commander you reengage the enemy.

Discussion Questions:

- When we lose loved ones and they become casualties in this world, why do we have a propensity to blame the Commander?
- In the example of Samson where his wife was taken by his friend, Samson did not go after his friend for vengeance but instead went after the philistines who were the enemies of God. They were the ones that caused the problem. How can we turn on the enemy instead of our Commander?
- As you consider areas of your life where the spiritual wickedness attacks and tempts you to grow bitter, angry or worse. What might engaging the spiritual enemy look like in our lives?

Taking It Home

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of hearing the message:

1. What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you have learned today?