

Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 9, 2 Timothy 2:1-21

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 9, 2 Timothy 2:1-21, Biblicalearning.org, BeL

Dr. Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 2:1-21 focuses on Paul's renewed appeal to Timothy to be strong in grace and to entrust the teachings he received to reliable individuals who can further instruct others. He highlights the importance of discipleship and the dedication required for pastoral service, drawing parallels to a soldier, athlete, and farmer. **The lecture explores the infusion of strength through grace, cautioning against abusing it as an excuse for sin.** Yarbrough interprets a "trustworthy saying" involving conditional statements about remaining faithful to Christ and contrasts that with the behavior of false teachers. **Finally, he emphasizes the need for pastors to deflect false notions, handle the word of truth correctly, and avoid ungodly chatter,** using the examples of Hymenaeus and Philetus, while resting on God's promise to vindicate those who trust in Him.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Yarbrough, Session 9 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Pastoral Epistles).



**Yarbrough_PastEpis
tles_Session09.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 9, 2 Timothy 2:1-21

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Robert Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 2:1-21.

Briefing Document: Yarbrough on 2 Timothy 2:1-21

Source: Excerpts from "Yarbrough_Pastorals_EN_Session09.pdf" (Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 9, 2 Timothy 2:1-21)

Main Themes:

- **Renewed Appeal to Timothy:** Paul is renewing his appeal to Timothy to be strong in grace and to faithfully pass on the teachings he has received to reliable people who can, in turn, teach others. This emphasizes discipleship as a core element of ministry.
- **Discipleship and Church Growth:** Verse 2:2 ("And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.") is highlighted as a "founding verse" for ministries and crucial for church growth because it encapsulates the process of discipleship: learning, entrusting, and equipping others to teach.
- **Suffering and Dedication in Pastoral Ministry:** Paul calls Timothy to "join me in suffering" and uses analogies of a soldier, an athlete, and a hard-working farmer to illustrate the extreme dedication required in pastoral service.
- **Grace, Strength, and Avoiding Abuse:** Yarbrough emphasizes that grace is not a license for laziness, passivity, or sinfulness, but rather "grace infuses strength."
- **Combating False Teachers:** The lecture addresses the importance of identifying and deflecting false teachings, exemplified by Hymenaeus and Philetus, who claimed the resurrection had already occurred. The pastor's primary tool in this battle is the "word of God."
- **Divine Illumination:** Understanding something intellectually is not enough. Yarbrough stresses the need for "divine illumination" to grasp the personal implications of Scripture.
- **God's Faithfulness and Human Faithlessness:** Yarbrough grapples with the meaning of "If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown

himself," suggesting it could either be a reassurance of God's forgiveness or a stark warning about the consequences of lacking genuine faith.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Imperative to "Be Strong":** Paul urges Timothy to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus," an imperative that can also be understood as "be strengthened," highlighting God's role in the process.
- **Importance of Witness and Repetition:** Timothy's training under Paul involved repeated exposure to his teachings, similar to how the disciples learned from Jesus.
- **Analogies for Ministry:**
 - Soldier:** Requires extreme dedication to a superior and avoiding entanglement in civilian affairs.
 - Athlete:** Must compete according to the rules to receive the victor's crown.
 - Hard-working Farmer:** Represents the arduous and often unglamorous labor of pastoral ministry.
- **Danger of "Godless Chatter":** Engaging in excessive and ungodly discussions, particularly regarding politics, culture, or science, can lead to ungodliness.
- **The Pastor's Role:** The pastor instructs, admonishes, and protects the sheep through the word of God, continually deflecting false notions.
- **God's Solid Foundation:** Despite the presence of false teachers, "God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.'" (2 Timothy 2:19)
- **"Trustworthy Saying":** The "trustworthy saying" (2 Timothy 2:11-13) contains a series of "ifs" that explore the relationship between human faithfulness and God's faithfulness.

Quotes:

- "So, these are letters that apply to everybody in the household of God."
- "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 2:1)
- "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2)

- "Grace infuses strength, rather than passivity, and satisfaction with failure."
- "Pastoral ministry is at its basest discipleship ministry."
- "Join me in suffering. Like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer." (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- "If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself." (2 Timothy 2:13)
- "Warn them before God against quarreling about words. It is of no value and only ruins those who listen." (2 Timothy 2:14)
- "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with his inscription, the Lord knows those who are his, and everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." (2 Timothy 2:19)

Implications:

- The passage emphasizes the ongoing need for faithful discipleship and transmission of sound doctrine.
- It warns against complacency and calls for dedication and perseverance in ministry, even in the face of suffering.
- It highlights the importance of discerning truth from error and protecting the church from false teachings.
- It underscores the need for reliance on God's grace and the transformative power of the Gospel.

4. Study Guide: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 9, 2 Timothy 2:1-21

2 Timothy 2:1-21 Study Guide

Key Concepts Review

This section focuses on key themes and concepts discussed in Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 2:1-21. Understanding these concepts is crucial for grasping the passage's message and its implications for pastoral leadership and Christian living.

- **Strength in Grace:** The idea that God's grace empowers believers and leaders, rather than excusing passivity or sin. Grace is not a license to sin but a source of strength for discipleship.
- **Discipleship Ministry:** The foundational role of discipleship in pastoral ministry. Pastors are called to make disciples, who in turn make disciples, creating a chain of faithful transmission of the Gospel.
- **Extreme Dedication to a Superior:** This is illustrated through the analogies of the soldier, athlete, and farmer. It emphasizes the commitment and focus required in serving God and leading others.
- **The Soldier Analogy:** The soldier exemplifies undivided loyalty and focus on pleasing their commanding officer, even amidst distractions.
- **The Athlete Analogy:** The athlete highlights the importance of adhering to the rules and striving for excellence.
- **The Farmer Analogy:** The farmer illustrates hard work, perseverance, and reliance on God's provision.
- **Divine Illumination:** The need for God to illuminate the implications of Scripture for personal understanding and application.
- **Remembering Jesus Christ:** The importance of remembering Jesus's resurrection and lineage from David, as a source of encouragement and hope.
- **Enduring for the Elect:** Paul's willingness to endure suffering for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain salvation.
- **Trustworthy Saying:** Understanding the controversial "trustworthy saying" that deals with the potential for disowning Christ or being faithless.

- **False Teachers & Godless Chatter:** The importance of guarding against false teachings and ungodly discussions that can lead to ungodliness and the destruction of faith.
- **The Pastor's Tools:** Recognizing the pastor's main tool is the Word of God.

Quiz

Answer the following questions based on Yarbrough's lecture. Each answer should be 2-3 sentences.

1. According to Yarbrough, what does it mean to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus"?
2. Explain how 2 Timothy 2:2 functions as a "founding verse" for some ministries.
3. How does Yarbrough use the analogy of a soldier to illustrate a principle for Timothy (and pastoral leaders)?
4. What point does Yarbrough make about the offering of sins to God during worship?
5. In what ways can church music become "hypocritical", according to Yarbrough?
6. What is Yarbrough trying to get across to Timothy in his "appeal renewed" in this chapter?
7. According to Yarbrough, why is the order of "Jesus Christ" important in 2 Timothy 2:8?
8. What is potentially controversial about the "trustworthy saying" in 2 Timothy 2:11-13?
9. What is "godless chatter," and why should Christians avoid it?
10. What is the pastor's main weapon, and how should he use it?

Quiz Answer Key

1. To "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" means to be empowered by God's grace, not to excuse passivity or sin. It means opening oneself up to God's fortifying of the soul through the grace found in Christ Jesus.
2. 2 Timothy 2:2 functions as a "founding verse" for some ministries because it summarizes the dynamics of discipleship: learning from someone, entrusting it to

reliable people, who then pass it along to others, creating a chain of discipleship. It embodies the concept of making disciples who make disciples.

3. The soldier analogy illustrates the need for extreme dedication to a superior, in Timothy's case, to his Lord. Just as a soldier avoids entanglement in civilian affairs to please their commanding officer, Timothy should maintain primary loyalty to God, avoiding distractions that shortchange his relationship with Him.
4. Yarbrough argues that sin is shameful and an affront to God; it is not a "contribution" blessed by God with forgiveness. Confessing sin leads to forgiveness, but it should not be treated as an offering or something that earns God's favor.
5. Church music can become hypocritical if it replaces genuine discipleship and repentance. It can create a safe, enjoyable atmosphere without leading to real transformation or a commitment to making disciples as Jesus commanded.
6. Yarbrough tries to get across to Timothy the realities of suffering for the sake of Christ and his gospel, which he experiences himself. He tells Timothy the outcome is favorable and he should remain loyal and faithful in a similar situation.
7. According to Yarbrough, the order of "Jesus Christ" in 2 Timothy 2:8 might emphasize Jesus's Jewishness, his descent from David, and his victory in God's economy, particularly in the context of Paul's suffering and the call for Timothy to endure similarly. This affirmation of their shared heritage provides encouragement.
8. The "trustworthy saying" in 2 Timothy 2:11-13 is potentially controversial because of the conditional statements regarding enduring, disowning Christ, and being faithless. It can raise questions about salvation, perseverance, and God's faithfulness, particularly concerning the possibility of disowning Christ and its consequences.
9. "Godless chatter" refers to ungodly and intentionally godless discussions, such as over-emphasis on political or scientific solutions, which distract from faith in God. Christians should avoid it because indulging in it leads to ungodliness and distracts from their primary calling to be holy and dedicated to God.
10. The pastor's main weapon is the Word of God. He should use it to instruct, admonish, guide, protect, and exercise oversight, ensuring that the Word is correctly handled and applied to deflect false notions and promote truth.

Essay Questions

Consider the following essay questions, drawing upon the material presented in Yarbrough's lecture.

1. Discuss the significance of the soldier, athlete, and farmer analogies in 2 Timothy 2:3-7. How do these images collectively contribute to Paul's message to Timothy about pastoral leadership?
2. Analyze the "trustworthy saying" in 2 Timothy 2:11-13. What are the different interpretations of these verses, and what implications do they have for understanding salvation and perseverance?
3. Explain the role of grace in the life and ministry of a pastor, according to Yarbrough's interpretation of 2 Timothy 2:1. How does grace empower and strengthen leaders, and how can it be misused or misunderstood?
4. Discuss the importance of guarding against false teachings and "godless chatter" in the church, based on Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 2:14-19. What are some examples of false teachings and godless chatter in contemporary society, and how can pastors effectively address them?
5. Explore the relationship between suffering and glory in 2 Timothy 2:8-10. How does Paul's own suffering serve as an example for Timothy, and what is the ultimate hope that sustains believers through trials and tribulations?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and empowerment, providing strength and enablement for Christian living and ministry.
- **Discipleship:** The process of learning from and following Jesus, characterized by obedience, transformation, and the making of other disciples.
- **Apostolic Succession:** The transmission of spiritual authority and teaching from the apostles to subsequent generations of leaders.
- **Election:** God's sovereign choice of individuals for salvation and service, reflecting His purpose and plan for humanity.
- **Euangelion:** Greek word for "good news" or "gospel," referring to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **Sarx:** Greek word for "flesh," often used to describe the sinful nature or human weakness.
- **Eschatological:** Relating to the end times or the final fulfillment of God's plan.
- **Liturgy:** A prescribed form or set of forms for public religious worship.
- **Illumination:** The work of the Holy Spirit in enabling believers to understand and apply Scripture.
- **Perseverance:** The act of continuing steadfastly or obstinately in a course of action in spite of difficulty or delay in achieving success.

5. FAQs on Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 9, 2 Timothy 2:1-21, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

FAQ on 2 Timothy 2:1-21

1. What is the central appeal Paul makes to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:1-2?

Paul appeals to Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, Paul urges Timothy to entrust the teachings he received from Paul, witnessed by many, to reliable individuals who will, in turn, be qualified to teach others. This encapsulates a process of discipleship and the propagation of Christian teaching across generations.

2. What does it mean to "be strong" or "be strengthened" in grace, according to Yarbrough?

"Be strong" can be taken as an imperative, emphasizing personal effort. Alternatively, "be strengthened" underscores God's active role in fortifying the believer's soul. Yarbrough favors the latter interpretation, highlighting that grace is not passive but actively infuses strength, enabling believers to resist laziness, passivity, and sinfulness. He critiques the notion that grace excuses sin, emphasizing instead that grace empowers believers to live righteously.

3. How does the passage in 2 Timothy 2:2 relate to the concept of discipleship and church growth?

2 Timothy 2:2 is seen as a foundational verse for discipleship ministries. It outlines a process where teachings are passed from one person to another, who then entrust them to others capable of teaching, creating a chain of discipleship. Yarbrough asserts that this verse is crucial for understanding church growth, as it highlights the importance of continuous, faithful transmission of Christian teachings.

4. What three analogies does Paul use to illustrate dedication in pastoral service, and what do they represent?

Paul uses the analogies of a soldier, an athlete, and a hard-working farmer. The soldier illustrates extreme dedication to a superior, prioritizing the commanding officer's will over civilian affairs. The athlete represents competing according to the rules to win a victor's crown, emphasizing adherence to God's instructions. The hard-working farmer demonstrates the necessity of diligent labor and perseverance, even in the face of hardship, to reap a harvest.

5. Why does Yarbrough emphasize that we need "divine illumination" in addition to understanding biblical concepts?

Yarbrough stresses that understanding biblical concepts alone is insufficient without "divine illumination." He uses the analogy of looking in a mirror and forgetting one's appearance to illustrate how easily we can grasp ideas but fail to internalize and act upon them. Divine illumination is essential for the implications of the biblical images and principles to become personally relevant and transformative.

6. What is the significance of Paul's emphasis on remembering "Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David" in 2 Timothy 2:8?

Remembering Jesus in this way is a source of encouragement, especially in times of suffering. The phrase reminds believers of Jesus' Jewish heritage, his messianic fulfillment, and his victory over death through resurrection. This remembrance reinforces the good news of the gospel, which motivates endurance and faithfulness even in difficult circumstances.

7. What warning does Paul give regarding "quarreling about words" and "godless chatter"?

Paul warns against engaging in pointless arguments about words, as they are unproductive and harmful. He also cautions against "godless chatter," particularly in areas like politics and science, where people can become consumed by worldly solutions and lose sight of God's role. He advises believers to prioritize their relationship with God and their service within the church rather than becoming overly involved in debates that lead to ungodliness.

8. What does the passage say about the importance of handling the word of truth correctly, and what is the pastor's main weapon in defending against false teachings?

Handling the word of truth correctly is crucial for a pastor to be approved by God and unashamed in their ministry. The pastor's primary tool in combating false teachings is the word of God itself. By faithfully teaching and applying Scripture, the pastor can protect the church from destructive doctrines and guide believers toward truth and holiness.