

# DISCIPLE ONE

## THE PORTRAIT OF A DISCIPLE-MAKER, PART 2

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**OPEN:** Paul tells Timothy...pass on the baton of faith.

- ✓ **2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT) - <sup>2</sup>You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.**
  - We need a Paul in our life (spiritual coach, someone we go to for advice, they are farther down the road than we are).
  - We need to invest our life into some “Timothy’s.” People we can help, coach, teach, raise up to walk with God and lead others to God.
  
- ❖ Christ saved you from something for something...**go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19).**
  
- ❖ A disciple-maker is a **soldier**. (2 Timothy 2:3-4) *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
  - ✓ Endure hardships, hang tough, the path is rocky, steep and the enemy will try to take you out.
  - ✓ Stay alert, watch one another’s back and advance the cause.
  - ✓ Keep focused don’t become preoccupied with things that don’t matter (entangled in worldly entrapments).
  - ✓ Seek to please your commanding officer.
  
- ❖ A disciple-maker is an **athlete**. (2 Timothy 2:5) *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
  - ✓ Prepared, disciplined, dedicated, obeying the rules of the “game.”
  - ✓ Running in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Giving it your best so you might receive an eternal crown.

❖ Two more pictures of a disciple-maker:

1) A disciple-maker is a hard-working **farmer**. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

**2 Timothy 2:6-7 (NLT)** - *‘And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor.’* Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

- Farmers in Paul’s day would not have the equipment or implements of today’s farmer...farming is hard, grueling work.
  - ✓ “Hardworking” = to work to the point of exhaustion, to sweat and strain...up early and out late.
  - ✓ The farmer cannot wait for a convenient time...they must get the seed in the ground or gather in the harvest when the season demands it.

❖ Paul once compared the church to a cultivated field:

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NLT)** - *‘After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. ‘I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ‘It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. ‘The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. ‘For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.*

- ✓ We need a humble assessment of our responsibility. God uses a variety of His servants (Paul, Apollos, Peter) to accomplish His purpose.
- ✓ Work together recognizing God brings the growth...we are God’s workers and our goal is life transformation,

? If the church is God’s garden (field) what kind of condition is it in?

❖ When a church is making disciples, it is not by accident, but God’s people take an interest in others and become intentional...

**Proverbs 24:30-34 (NLT)** - <sup>30</sup> I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. <sup>31</sup> I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. <sup>32</sup> Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: <sup>33</sup> A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—<sup>34</sup> then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

- ✓ A disciple-maker is not lazy but constantly looking for ways to instruct, encourage and empower others.

❖ A farmer must exercise patience.

- Certain conditions: soil PH, amount of sunshine, fertilizer can speed up production...but plants have a genetic code that determine how much time is required from seed to production.

- ✓ Radishes – 21 days
- ✓ Brussel Sprouts – 110 days
- ✓ Asparagus (fully mature) – 2-5 years
- ✓ Pear tree – 5-7 years if grafted, 6-10 years if grown from a seed.

❖ Point...some things can't be hurried. (object lesson: pecan in the green hull)

- Patience is a “fruit” (mark of the Holy Spirit).
- Disciple making isn't a 50-yard dash but a marathon.
- Transformation takes time.

**James 5:7-8a (NLT)** - <sup>7</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. <sup>8</sup> You, too, must be patient...

- ✓ The harvest doesn't come at the end of the service but at the end of the age.

- ❖ The hope of the farmer is that they will have a good harvest...(but there is no guarantee).
  - ✓ The disciple-makers goal: **Colossians 1:28-29 (NLT)** - <sup>28</sup> So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. <sup>29</sup> That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.
    - We work, invest in lives to help people become more like Christ.
    - And while we give it our best we realize we must depend on Christ...His power flowing through us.
  
- ❖ The farmer deserves a share of the crop...
  - ✓ In the strictest context...Paul to Timothy...Pastor to people, is it okay for those you disciple (the church) to support you?
  - ✓ Should pastors be paid a salary?
    - **1 Corinthians 9:14 (NLT)** - ...those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it.
    - **1 Timothy 5:17-18 (NLT)** - <sup>17</sup> Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!"
  
- ❖ Take care of those who work during the week for the church.
  
- ❖ Those who work at the church should work hard...but God's work requires lots of volunteers.
  
- ❖ The pastor's job isn't to do all the work of the ministry, but to train you so you can carry out the work of ministry.

- **Ephesians 4:12 (NLT)** - Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

❖ In a broader sense...the fruit (harvest) of a disciple-maker is the joy of seeing a life transformed and be used to glorify God.

**Read 2 Timothy 2:8-14** (advice for plowing a straight row)

- Keep on remembering...Jesus descended from David (identified with man) and was raised from the dead (became our sympathetic faithful high priest).

- Jesus is our model and example.

- Not everyone will appreciate Him or His message...Paul was in jail at that time.

- Good news...God's word cannot be chained.

- You can put the messenger in prison, but you cannot imprison the message.

❖ Sometimes bad things happen to good people because we live in a sinful broken world.

❖ Don't sit around and complain, but make the best of your situation.

❖ Enduring suffering with the right attitude brings attention to our Savior.

- We have participated in His death and now in His life; we are no longer under the penalty of sin.

- Staying true during hard times gives evidence to our faith (it's real)!

- If we deny Him...speaks of a permanent denial (not a temporary failure...ex. Peter). He will deny us.

- To deny Him is to give evidence that we never belonged to Him or knew Him. (**1 John 2:19, Matthew 10:33**).

- The word unfaithful – without faith, faithless, no saving faith...not weak faith or struggling faith...reference to an unbeliever.
  - Yet, Jesus is faithful...faithful to save those who call on Him and faithful to judge those who don't. (Hebrews 10:23).
- Don't forget these things Paul says and avoid useless arguments.

❖ A disciple-maker is:

- 1) A hard-working farmer.
- 2) A diligent student. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

**2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) - Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.**

- Study...make a commitment to excellence in examining, interpreting, explaining and applying God's word.
  - ✓ Teach God's word accurately and clearly.
  - ✓ Your goal is to receive God's approval.
- Some translations say: **rightly divide the truth...**
  - ✓ The original means to cut it straight, it's a reference to exactness, precision.
    - Ex. Plow a straight row, cut a straight board, sew a straight seam (Paul was a tent maker).
  - ✓ Do not dishonor the Scripture by twisting it, spinning it or manipulating it (making it say what you want it to say).
  - ✓ Work at it so you understand it and can deliver it as God intended.
    - Else, you will be ashamed...shame is the sickening feeling you get in the pit of your stomach when your conscience is dishonored.

- A teacher (disciple-maker) that is unprepared and sloppy with God's word (unprepared) should be ashamed.

❖ So be a diligent student and keep on learning and listening to the voice of God-His Word.

**CLOSE:** The word is the teacher's curriculum, the soldier's sword, the farmer's seed and the workmen's tool...study it and apply it to your life.

- Like a farmer...plow deep and straight.
  - ✓ It's hard work, exercise patience and enjoy the harvest.
- Be a diligent student...read it, study it and live it.

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**Message Notes**  
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