Series: A Life of Impact

**Tag, You’re It: How to Avoid Wasting Your Life**

2 Timothy 2:1-7 July 30, 2017

1. Train in God’s grace gym. (v. 1)

1. Strengthen your spiritual muscles.

* v. 1 *You then, my child, be strengthened*
* Timothy was no child, but he needed to toughen up spiritually. He wasn’t naturally strong. Like all of us, he needed on-going training and upgrading.

1. Rely on the grace of God.

* v. 1 *be strengthened by the grace*
* Guthrie: The strength is in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, which means with the support of God’s unmerited favour, not in reliance on natural ability.
* Augustine: Lord, command what you will, but give what you command.
* 2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*
* 2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

1. Look to Christ in all things.

* v. 1 *be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus*

Q. What are the ways in which you’re tempted to waste your life?

Q. Which comes more easily to you, spiritual discipline or spiritual dependence?

Q. What does it mean practically to rely on God’s grace?

2. Re-invest your spiritual inheritance. (v. 2)

1. Be a Paul to a Timothy.

* v. 2 *what you have heard from me … entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also*
* David Matthis: [The gospel] is what we center on and aim to pass to the next generation. Not our quirks and idiosyncrasies and hobbyhorses, but the main things.

1. Be a Timothy to a Paul.

* v. 2 *what you have heard from me*

1. Disciple-making is at the heart of Jesus’s vision for your life.

* Matthew 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
* David Mathis: Jesus’s own life was not one of mere personal holiness and uninterrupted focus on his Father. His time and attention moved beyond his own purity and vertical faithfulness. He not only counted the cost of discipleship, but he embraced the cost of disciple-making.

Q. What has your experience of discipleship been?

Q. If we never pass on to others what we’ve received, how will that affect our experience of the Christian life?

Q. What are some ways that we can re-invest our spiritual inheritance in others?

Q. In what area would you like to be discipled? In what area do you think you could offer discipleship?

3. Don’t live Christianity from the couch. (vv. 3-7)

1. Like a soldier, sacrifice distractions that keep you from mission.

* v. 3 *Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*
* v. 4 *No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits*
* Keener: Soldiers were not even allowed to marry during their term of service … and were to be strictly devoted to their service for over twenty years; only about half survived**.**
* Mathis: Satan has a thousand ready-made, event-oriented distractions to divert us from pleasing Jesus in the grunt work of advancing the gospel through … disciple-making.

1. Like an athlete, train hard and play by the rules.

* v. 5 *An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.*
* No Lance Armstrong Christianity!
* 1 Corinthians 9:25-26 *Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.*

1. Like a farmer, work hard and patiently wait for the harvest.

* v. 6 *It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.*

Q. Why is patience so critical when we invest in people’s lives?

Q. The three metaphors speak to distraction, taking short cuts, and impatience. Which of these do you most need to work to avoid?

Q. Where do you feel you most need prayer in taking a step in response to this message?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Romans 8:18-22.

**Notes:**