

“Lead & Follow (or Get Out of the Way): Passing the Baton by Investing the Deposit”

“**1** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, **2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

2 Timothy 2:1-7

v.1 “**You then...**” | What’s the “therefore” (οὖν) there for?

- **2Tim 1:6-14** (a continuation)
 - “...fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...”
 - “...God gave us a spirit... of power and love and self-control... not of fear...”
 - “...do not be ashamed...”
 - “...share in suffering...”
 - “...not because of our works but because of... grace...”
 - “Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me...”
 - “...guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

v.1 “**my child**” | Paul invested in Timothy

- **Acts 16:1-5**
 - Paul saw the potential in Timothy
 - Paul desired to help Timothy
 - Paul prepared Timothy for ministry
 - Paul served alongside of Timothy
- **Phil 2:19-22**
 - Paul trusted Timothy, because...
 - Timothy proved himself to Paul, by...
 - Timothy serving well with Paul
- **Acts 20:29-30; 1Tim 1:3-4**
 - Timothy was able to multiply Paul’s ministry

v.1 “**be strengthened by... grace**” | Grace is not just an “event;” it is the power to live a life for God

- **Col 2:6** “as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him”
- **Eph 2:8-9** “by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works”

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- v.2 **“what you have heard from me”** | The pattern of Paul’s life which he learned from his mentors
- Barnabas | **Acts 11:19-30**
 - He was successful in ministry **Acts 11:24**
 - He invested in Paul in order to multiply his ministry **Acts 11:25**
 - They ministered together and made an impact **Acts 11:26** the first “Christians”
 - “Barnabas & Saul” becomes “Paul & his companions” **Acts 13:9ff**
 - Jesus
 - The selection of His disciples **Matt 4:18-22; Mark 3:13-19**
 - He spent time with them **Matt 9:10-11; 26:69-72**
 - He witnessed faithfulness from them **Matt 7:24**
 - He taught by precept and demonstration **Matt 7:28-29**
 - He taught by delegating his responsibilities **Matt 10:1-15**
 - He taught by supervision and encouragement **Matt 16:13-19; 21:18-22**
 - His goal was reproduction **Matt 28:16-20; Luke 6:40**

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” **Luke 6:40**

- v.2 **“what you have heard from me”** | The pattern of Paul’s life which he learned from his mentors

“...many witnesses...” | Paul a mentor to many (e.g. Timothy, Titus, Silas, Luke, John Mark, etc.)

“...entrust ...” | Investing “good deposit” – **2Tim 1:14** “guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

“...to faithful...” | Proven – Phil 2:22 “But you know Timothy’s proven worth...”
Jesus’ pattern: Preached to the thousands... invested in the faithful few.

“able to teach others...” | The goal (as with Jesus) is reproduction (cf. **Luke 6:40** above)

The way you invest your deposit is to entrust it to others, who will turn around and do the same.

6 Generations of the faithful: Jesus → Barnabas → Paul → Timothy → Faithful → Others

The substance of Paul’s encouragement:

- v.3-4 **The “Good Soldier”:** If you are going to do it, do it well. Be a “good soldier”
The soldier’s “aim” (βίος = “life”) is to please the Lord
- v.5 **The “Winning Athlete”:** He only does those things within the rules that accomplish the goal
- v.6 **The “Fruitful Farmer”:** He works hard, in season/the right time, towards the goal/the crop
- v.7 **“Think over what I say”** | Paul is still mentoring Timothy, 6-Generations
Almost 2,000 years later, he is still mentoring us today