

# **THE CHRISTIAN LEADER**

## **6. A Teacher**



*(A series of studies from 1 and 2 Timothy)*

### **Introduction**

Some teachers know their subject well, but the test of a good teacher is whether their students learn! Paul exhorts Timothy to know the Word of God, but he is to do more than guard the truth. He is to teach it to others, so they in turn will be equipped to teach.

- ✧ What are the different stages in passing on the truth that are spoken of in 2 Timothy 2:2?
- ✧ In what ways had Paul been training Timothy to become a teacher? Look at 2 Timothy 1:13, 2 Timothy 3:10-13.

The Apostle Paul continues in 2 Timothy 2 by explaining the qualities and the ministry of the teacher using six vivid metaphors.

### **1. A Soldier      2 Timothy 2:3-4**

- ✧ While Paul was in prison he often reflected on the parallel between a Christian and the Roman Soldier. What qualities stand out in a soldier that are also important in the Christian life?
- ✧ How would Paul's comment, 'don't get entangled in civilian pursuits', be particularly relevant to Timothy? What does this mean to you?

### **2. An Athlete      2 Timothy 2:5**

- ✧ What conditions must the athlete fulfil to receive his prize?
- ✧ How does this apply to the Christian leader in his teaching? See 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

### **3. A Farmer      2 Timothy 2:6**

- ✧ What sort of farmer deserves to receive the first share of his crops?
- ✧ What harvest will the believer receive do you think?

### **4. A Workman      2 Timothy 2:15-17**

- ✧ How does a good workman handle the word of truth according to these verses?
- ✧ What affect will the teaching of those who do not handle God's Word correctly have on their listeners? V14-17

## 5. A Vessel

### 2 Timothy 2:20-22

- ✧ Think about your home and the different kinds of bowls and jugs that are used. What are the most expensive ones used for, and what are the cheaper ones used for? What are the two kinds of people Paul is portraying in these verses?
- ✧ How can we become vessels fit for 'noble use' according to these verses? Also see Romans 6:13

## 6. A Servant

### 2 Timothy 2:24-27

- ✧ What qualities should be seen in the Lord's servant? V24-25



We have learned much from the way Paul trains Timothy to become a leader. However Jesus, who is the greatest leader and teacher, calls Himself a servant. See John 13:12-17. As those called to be leaders, what can we learn from the example of Jesus?

## Conclusion

What an encouragement it must have been for Timothy to receive these letters from the Apostle Paul, the man who had seen the potential for leadership in his life. And yet it must have brought sadness too as he knew his mentor and friend would not be with him for long. This made Paul's words all the more challenging. No doubt Timothy would remember those pictures Paul had painted ... the picture of the soldier, an athlete, a farmer, a workman, a vessel and a servant ... as he continued to teach and preach the Word of God.

Which picture encouraged you the most? Which one challenged you as a leader? Let's be like good soldiers and athletes, hardworking farmers and noble vessels. And let's be strengthened in our task by Paul's words, "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."