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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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Perseverance in Leadership A Study in 2 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
06/28	Introduction	
06/28	Perseverance in Heritage	1:1-18
07/12	Perseverance in Work	2:1-13
07/19	Perseverance in Character	2:14-26
07/26	Perseverance in Following	3:10-17
08/02	Perseverance in Word	4:1-8
08/09	Summary & Review	

Food for Thought

Steadfast Service

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot
move, Grounded firm and deep in the
Savior's love.

*Be steadfast, immovable, . . . knowing
that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread" Jan 24, 2004)

PERSEVERANCE IN CHRISTIAN WORK

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

A preacher on a cross-country flight was witnessing to the non-Christian woman in the seat next to him. However, to every statement the he made the woman would respond, "Well, that's just your opinion." Each time his counter-response would be, "You are correct in saying that that is my opinion. But that's not the real issue is it? The question really is, 'Is the statement I just made true?'" After several rounds of dialogue with these identical endings, the woman, beginning to smile, knew what was coming next and changed her reply. This woman had a postmodern outlook. This viewpoint claims that there is no truth that is "external," or true for everyone, there is only truth that is "internal" or relative to each individual. But that is not the apostle Paul's outlook! He went to a martyr's death because of certain things he knew to be true for everyone. **God expects Christians to labor, suffer, and contend for truth.** Today's lesson shows us the way! Today's lesson text speaks to us in two areas of life where we need reminders. First, it **reminds us how blessed we are to have the Bible so accessible to us.** Before the invention of the printing press, handwritten copies of the Bible were too expensive for the average person to own. Today, we can choose from a dizzying array of Bible versions and study aids in all price ranges. Some areas of our world still do not have that kind of access. A man once spoke to a congregation with a distressing story about distributing Bibles with a Christian organization in a third-world country, and running out. People were pleading for Bibles with tears in their eyes. They begged the men to come back. Some of the children tore their Bibles so they could give parts to friends. It is easy to forget how blessed we are to have access to the Scriptures. Second, today's text also **speaks to us at a philosophical level. It assumes that there is such a thing as truth and that we can know truth.** This is a foreign concept in a world that has largely rejected the concept of objective or absolute truth. Paul believed that truth existed and that God had revealed it. This lesson also reveals that Paul believed that sharing God's truth was worth the cost and sacrifice. The lesson presents to us Paul in his old age, facing a martyr's death (2 Timothy 4:6; Philemon 9). He is concerned that his protégé Timothy continue the same plan for spreading the gospel that Paul himself had followed. Timothy had learned of faith from his mother and grandmother. He had learned the fullness of the Christian gospel from Paul himself. Timothy had shared Paul's hardships. Many were deserting the gospel (2 Timothy 1:15; 4:10a), but not Timothy. **The conviction of truth undoubtedly was what kept Timothy faithful.** In this lesson we will see how Paul admonished Timothy to make sure that truth is passed on regardless of personal consequences. The stakes were just too high to do otherwise.

(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Second Timothy was the last epistle Paul wrote that is part of the canon of Scripture. It was written while he sat in a Roman prison awaiting his execution (4:6-7). These facts give his words to Timothy an added sense of urgency and seriousness. **Impending death tends to focus the mind on the things that matter the most. Two of the things that clearly mattered a great deal to Paul were living with the right priorities and being a faithful proclaimer of God's Word.** He had learned from hard experience that the Christian life, though filled with great blessings, was nevertheless a hard struggle. He wanted Timothy to bear up under the hardships and not lose sight of what his purpose on this earth was. **In the midst of life's battles, the Word of God is the believer's stronghold,** so Paul was especially concerned that Timothy handle and teach it properly. The Christian life is hard enough under the best of circumstances; it is well-nigh impossible without a proper grounding in God's inspired revelation to His people. Paul's exhortations to Timothy concerning single-mindedness and fidelity to God's Word remain very relevant to us today. Let us resolve to take his instructions to heart. Today there are many religious groups, all claiming to follow God and yet believing and practicing things contrary to Scripture. Many of these are even leading Christians astray. This happens because believers are not firmly grounded in the truth of God's Word. This week we explore why it is so important to know the Word and therefore what we believe. We also will learn that this is the key to God's approval of our work and witness in the world.

(Excerpts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

TEACH SOUND DOCTRINE (2 TIM 2:1-2)

Teach with strength through grace (vs 1)

- Strength through God's grace (2 Cor 12:9)
- Grace that was guaranteed through faith (Rom 4:16)
- Grace given to the remnant (Rom 11:5-6)
- Gift of grace to teach (Rom 12:5-7)
- Grace that makes one work harder (1 Cor 15:10)

Teach what has been confirmed (vs 2)

- Confirmation of sound doctrine (Titus 2:1)
- Confirmation through the aid of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 1:13-14)
- Confirmation through the Bible (2 Tim 3:14-17)
- Confirmation through God's gifts (1 Tim 4:14)
- Confirmation of faith (1 Tim 6:12-14)

Be faithful in teaching (vs 2)

- Faithful through trustworthiness (Prov 13:17)
- Faithful in speaking God's word (Jer 23:28)
- Faithful in being a wise servant (Matt 24:45)
- Faithful in the trust given (1 Cor 4:2)
- Faithful through preparation (2 Tim 4:2)

BE DISCIPLINED (2 TIM 2:3-6)

Be disciplined in hardship (vs 3)

- Disciplined to endure hardships (2 Tim 4:5)
- Disciplined to not get weary and lose heart (Heb 12:2-3)
- Disciplined to persevere (James 1:12)
- Disciplined to delight in weakness so that God's strength will be made perfect (2 Cor 12:8-10)

Be disciplined by not getting entangled with the affairs of this life (vs 4)

- Do not get entangled by not yielding to life's worries, riches and pleasures (Luke 8:14)
- Do not get entangled by striving to get the goal of my faith (1 Cor 9:24-27)
- Do not get entangled by making it my goal to please God (2 Cor 5:9-10)
- Do not get entangled by striving to be approved by God (1 Thess 2:4)
- Do not get entangled by escaping the corruption of the world (2 Peter 2:20-21)

Be disciplined in obedience to God's rules (vs 5)

- Obey God's rules by being a slave to righteousness (Rom 6:15-18)
- Obey God's rules by living a life that proves obedience (2 Cor 9:13)
- Obey God's rules so that I will know God (1 John 2:3)
- Obey God's rules by living in God (1 John 3:24)
- Obey God's rules by being ready to do whatever is good (Titus 3:1)

Be disciplined by living what is being taught (vs 6)

- Live what is taught by persevering (Heb 10:36)
- Live what is taught by being a doer of the word of God (James 1:22)
- Live what is taught by not neglecting God's word (Ps 119:16)
- Live what is taught by putting God's word into practice in my life (Ezek 33:31-32)
- Live what is taught by remaining in God (John 15:4)

BE ENCOURAGED BY GOD'S WORD (2 TIM 2:7-9)

Encouraged that God gives the understanding of His Word (vs 7)

- Understanding to do what God has called me to do (1 Chron 22:11-13)
- Understanding from God the creator (Ps 119:73)
- Understanding through discernment (Ps 119:125)
- Understanding of life (Ps 119:144)
- Understanding that adversaries will not be able to contradict (Luke 21:15)
- Understanding of the Scriptures (Luke 24:45)
- Understanding that comes through the Holy Spirit (John 14:26)

Encouraged through the truth of the gospel (vs 8)

- Truth that convicts me to believe and obey (Rom 16:25-27)
- Truth that comes with power and deep convictions (1 Thess 1:5)
- Truth that comes with a seal (Eph 1:13)
- Truth that brings hope (Col 1:5)

Encouraged by the freedom of God's Word (vs 9)

- Freedom that comes from truth (John 8:31-32)
- Freedom that comes from earnest study of the Bible (James 1:25)
- Freedom of the heart (Ps 119:32)
- Freedom that comes from God's precepts (Ps 119:45)
- Freedom to speak and act according to God's word (James 2:12)

ENDURE ALL THINGS (2 TIM 2:10-13)

Endure for the sake of the elect and their salvation (vs 10)

- Become all things to all men so that by all possible means some might be saved (1 Cor 9:19-23)
- Endure for the comfort of the elect (2 Cor 1:6-7)
- Having a spirit of faith for the benefit of the elect (2 Cor 4:13-15)
- Rejoicing in suffering for the elect (Col 1:24)

Endure knowing we will live with Jesus (vs 11)

- Knowing that I will be raptured (1 Thess 4:17)
- Knowing that I will live together with Jesus whether I am alive or dead when He returns (1 Thess 5:10)
- Knowing that if I spiritually died with Jesus, I will live with Him also (Rom 6:8)
- Knowing Jesus so that I will share in His resurrection (Phil 3:10-11)
- Knowing of a living hope of the inheritance waiting in heaven for me (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Endure knowing we will reign with Jesus (vs 12)

- Reigning because of enduring (2 Tim 2:11-13)
- Reigning because of being made a kingdom of priest (Rev 5:10)
- Reigning because of being a part of the first resurrection (Rev 20:6)
- Reigning because of being with Jesus eternally (Rev 22:5)

Endure knowing if we don't deny Him, He won't deny us (vs 12)

- Not denying Jesus because to deny Jesus is to be denied by Jesus (Matt 10:33)
- Not denying Jesus because of having the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 John 4:2-3)
- Not denying Jesus so as to have God open a door that no one can shut (Rev 3:7-8)
- Not denying Jesus so that I will have God (1 John 2:23)
- Not denying Jesus so that God will live in me (1 John 4:15)

Endure knowing that Jesus is faithful (vs 13)

- Jesus is faithful because He cannot change His mind like man (Num 23:19)
- Jesus is faithful because nothing can nullify His faithfulness (Rom 3:3-4)
- Jesus is faithful because He will do what He promise (1 Thess 5:24)
- Jesus is faithful because He strengthens and protects (2 Thess 3:3)
- Jesus is faithful because He cannot lie (Titus 1:2)
- Jesus is faithful because of His oath (Heb 6:18-19)