

Scripture Guide for 2 Timothy 2:3-13

Vs. 3- The word translated “suffering” carries the idea of “suffering with”- the implication is that when we suffer as believers, we suffer along with others - others in Jesus’ family. *Have you experienced this in your own life?*

Vs. 4- In this analogy, we’re reminded that we are in a spiritual battle - and that Jesus is our leader, “commanding officer.” The “entangled” idea is about being distracted or having our focus taken off our central priority - what Jesus has for us. *What distracts you/pulls your focus away these days?*

Vs. 5- The “rules” likely refer both to the training period before a contest, as well as the games themselves. We see some athletes in our day taking “shortcuts” by drug use or other ways of cheating. Paul speaks elsewhere of rewards—look at 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Philippians 3:13-14. *What do you think “crown” or reward looks like? Why do you think we’re told so much about eternal rewards?*

Vs. 6-7- Think about the process of farming- how much work goes in before there is a “payoff”? What are we meant to learn from this analogy?

Vs. 8- Paul summarizes the gospel in this short phrase - two key realities: the resurrection of Jesus and His fulfillment of God’s promise to David that the Messiah would come through David’s lineage. *How does this summarize the gospel?*

Vs. 9- Paul is in prison in Rome, chained to a Roman soldier - meaning he could not continue to spread the gospel by starting new churches. Yet he says God’s Word is not chained - God is not limited. *How does this encourage you?*

Vs. 10- *What would cause Paul to care this much about people who need to know Jesus?*

Vs. 11-13- Dying with Christ is the spiritual reality that God chooses to identify us with Christ in applying to us the benefits of Jesus’ death and resurrection, meaning that we are even now fully alive to God, that we will experience physical resurrection one day, and that we will reign with King Jesus as well. The degree to which we will reign will be connected to our perseverance and faithfulness on this side of eternity. There is both a potential for reward as well as warning if we persistently and finally reject or deny Christ.