2Timothy "Courageous Ministry in Dark Times"

Theme: Paul's Practical Appeal - 2Timothy 2

Lesson 2: Know Who You Are and What You Do - part 1

Text: 2Timothy 2:1-26

Introduction

- 1. Paul did not want Timothy to have an identity crisis, so he carefully explained what a minister of the Word (and a Christian in general) is and does.
- 2. Before we get into chapter 2, remember that we have taken on a "Big Name".
 - a. Sometimes you have to "grow into the name."
 - b. As Christians, we have before us the same task.
 - (1) We have a great name.
 - (2) Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26
 - c. How are we doing with this new name?
 - (1) Ephesians 4:15
 - (2) Do others see Christ in us?
 - (3) We've all taken on a "Big Name!"
- 3. Not only are we called "Christian" but Paul presented to Timothy some other ways we are described in this chapter.

I. Seven Pictures of Christian Ministry - 2Timothy 2:1-26

A. Steward of what we teach - 2:2

- 1. The ministry is not something we keep to ourselves.
 - a. We are stewards of a spiritual treasure.
 - b. What is our responsibility once we have received the word of God? _____
- Where do we get this original treasure from?
 a. The ______ of God.
 - b. How should we test what people say or teach about the word of God?
 - c. Example: see Matthew 24:36
- 3. It takes courage and strength to teach and preach the word of God.
 - a. Proverbs 2:1-10; 3:13-18; 8:1-11
 - b. 1Corinthians 15:10-11
- B. Soldier 2Timothy 2:3-4, 8-13
 - 1. Paul often used military illustrations in his letters. Why?
 - 2. Paul describes the characteristics of a "good soldier" of Jesus Christ. vs.3-4
 - a. He endures hardness -vs.3

- (1) Matthew 10:16-18 (2) Galatians 1:4-11 (3) What must a good soldier remember? b. He must **avoid** worldly entanglements. **vs.4** c. He magnifies Jesus Christ – vs.8-9 d. He thinks of the whole army. vs.10
 - (1) Who are the elect?
 - (2) 2Thessalonians 2:13-14
 - (3) What would you think of a soldier that only thinks about himself in battle?
- e. He trusts his commanding officer. vs.11-13
 - (1) 1Timothy 1:15; 4:9; Titus 3:8
 - (2) Where do we start our Christian walk?
 - (3) We should not be afraid to face the enemies of Christ. Why? 1John 5:4-5
 - (4) What a paradox: **Death leads to life.**
 - (5) Paul makes it very clear that even our doubt and unbelief cannot change Him. vs.13 see Romans 3:3-4