



# Daily Bible Habit

## Pastoral Epistles

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### Focus Points...2 Timothy 2

#### Listen To...

Paul's directive to Timothy by which he urges Timothy to minister in a way approved for God's workman.

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You have called me to serve You. As I read Paul's advice to Timothy, help me to realize his advice is also directed to me. Move my heart to be an approved workman for You. In Your name I pray. Amen.

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#### Commentary:

"You then, my son..." (2:1). With these words Paul endeared himself to Timothy as a loving father to his son.

In fact, II Timothy 2 sounds very much like a father talking to a son. Though loving, it is direct. There is no unnecessary or frivolous chatter. It is concise, direct and very masculine.

Paul's tone is also more casual. Paul wrote in a more formal style when writing to the churches. But writing to his esteemed son, he avoids the social niceties necessary when addressing the brothers and sisters in Asia and Europe.

In many ways, II Timothy 2 mirrors The *Book of Proverbs*. Like Proverbs, II Timothy 2 has no real structure. It is merely a sequence of wisdom and advice for Christian living.

But these items are more than just an abstract sequence of wisdom and advice. Paul's advice may be best construed as a check-list for Christian living. How are you doing in your Christian life? Take Paul's "Christian Living Inventory" based on II Timothy 2.

### "Christian Living Inventory"

Yes/No	Questions
	1. Can you endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ? (2:3)
	2. If faith is a competition, are you playing by the rules...and winning? (2:5)
	3. Is your faith able to endure? (2:12)
	4. Do you trust God's promise that He will always be faithful? (2:13)

	5. I always present myself as best as I can because I represent Christ. (2:15)
	6. I avoid godless chatter and useless controversies. (2:16)
	7. I wish to be the most useful instrument for God's Word. (2:20)
	8. I avoid doing those foolish things of my youth that mature Christians have no business doing. (2:22)
	9. I don't have anything to do with stupid and foolish petty arguments because they don't help anybody and betray my noble witness of faith. (2:23)
	10. I do all I can to get along with everyone and to show them the kindness of Christ. (2:24)
	11. I am not resentful toward others and carry no grudges. (2:24)
	12. When people sin, I approach them gently, hoping that they will come to repent of their sin and joyfully receive Jesus' forgiveness. (2:25)

How did you do? All "Yes's?" Some "Yes's"? Or is there room for improvement?

Paul's words to Timothy were written in hope that he would embrace the noble character of Christ. Heed Paul's words and embrace the same character to which God calls every Christian.

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, sometimes I get in the way of the Gospel. By my anger, my meddling or by my impatient judgmentalism I discourage people in their faith. Change my heart that I may say "Yes!" to all to which You call me. Make me the "gold and silver" vessel (2:20) and use me for your noblest purposes. All this I ask in eternal gratitude for Jesus' grace and forgiveness given me. Amen.

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