

To What Shall We Liken A Disciple?

(2 Timothy 2:1-7)

- Introduction:
1. The apostle Paul was a great illustrator as was Jesus.
 2. He employed illustrations to help us understand spiritual truths.
 3. This is demonstrated in 2 Timothy 2:1-7.
 4. In no more than seven verses, Paul uses for illustrations to help us grasp what a disciple of Jesus ought to be doing.
 5. Let's examine his description and then ask ourselves if these traits are demonstrated in our lives.

I. A Disciple Is A Teacher

- A. (2 Timothy 2:1-2).
- B. We need to be about the business of teaching others the gospel of Christ in order that they too many teach others.
- C. Does this trait characterize you? Who is it that you have taught and equipped to teach others.
- D. (Hebrews 5:12).

II. A Disciple Is A Soldier

- A. (2 Timothy 2:3-4).
- B. A good soldier endures hardship.
- C. Ills. Shelby Johnson, 19th Admiral Bn. Bataan Death March. POW 42 months. Weighed 93 lbs.
- D. Are we willing to endure hardship for the cause of Christ.
- E. Could we be guilty of becoming soft, and willing to flee at the least bit of resistance?

III. A Disciple Is An Athlete

- A. (2 Timothy 2:5).
- B. Athletes must compete according to the rules.
- C. Ills. Fred Merkle, New York Giants, 1908.
- D. The rules of this contest are set forth in Scripture.

IV. A Disciple Is A Farmer

- A. (2 Timothy 2:6).
- B. Notice the description of the farmer - "hardworking" (v. 6).
- C. There's plowing, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, etc.
- D. Would anyone look at our discipleship and say of us that we are "hardworking?"

- Conclusion:
1. Paul concludes his illustrations with an appeal to consider and understand what he is saying.
 2. Well, I believe it's easy enough to understand; the question is whether we will consider the expectations of his words and bring our lives into conformity with them.