

Disciplined One

Introduction

Paul to Timothy

Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV) 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Timothy is a believer... Paul is not saying that we have to work for our salvation... That would contradict 95% of everything Paul taught elsewhere He wants to make sure that Timothy understands... That the walk of a true disciple is work He is telling Timothy to work hard to make sure that his Christian walk reaches its full potential. In other words...Paul tells Timothy that he must work to grow the seed that he has been given

Have you noticed that most skills take discipline? Where do you find gardeners? Out working in the garden... They are reading about gardening....going to meetings about gardening They read magazines about gardening They study different soils....compost....fertilizers...rain...watering... To create the best garden...to be on the garden tour...takes a lot of work

You must be really focused...willing to give up other things Olympic Athletes.... Spend years training...rising early in the morning...training late at night Sticklers to healthy eating and taking care of their bodies Disciplined and focused...on getting enough sleep...training regimens... Total devotion to get the rewards... To reach their dream of experiencing the Olympics Maybe even winning a medal

Yet many Christians.... Think that they instantly become disciples of Jesus without any effort Somehow they believe that they can live by the word of God without having to actually know it. They live based on what they think should be in the Bible.

Disciple means Disciplined one. If we want the rewards of living the kind of life Jesus promises If we want to Overcome the Stronghold of Sin in our life We are going to have to decide to be disciplined We are going to have to tend to our spiritual growth With as much effort as an award winning gardener or Olympic Athlete

But there is one exception... Our rewards...are guaranteed to us... If we devote ourselves to being true Disciples of Jesus.... We are guaranteed to reach our destination Too many Christians live in cells... Cells that we have decorated... Prison Photo Cells where we have become comfortable.. Imprisoned but having given up hope of ever experiencing freedom.

Jesus broke down the bars that imprisoned us...and told us we have been set free... Yet we still live our lives...sitting in our cells....looking at our decorations...wondering when God will change things Until then...we sit....blaming God that things aren't as He promised Our prison doors are unlocked...standing wide open We stare out the window...wondering when God will do something

And never living in the freedom Jesus provided This image represents the life of many Christians Free from what binds them...but living imprisoned. Failing to experience the promise... Because many of us have missed the message of Jesus

He came to pay the price for our sins...to connect us to God To offer us eternity...but....He also came to set us free right now.. From the world that imprisons us.

On day Jesus stood in His home Synagogue and said...

Luke 4:17–18 (ESV) 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

He sent me.... To make sure when we get through this miserable life..in this God forsaken world...that we go to heaven? No! Jesus says, I was sent here to proclaim liberty to the captives...to set a liberty those who are oppressed. To tell my Children that the prison door is open now....they can step into a new life....

Galatians is a letter written by Paul It has been called "The Declaration of Independence for Christians" Look at what Paul tells those at Galatia and us.

Galatians 3:23–26 (ESV) 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

He continues....

Galatians 5:1,7 and 13-14 (ESV) 1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. 7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers.

Paul is telling us...You are free....when are your going to live like it? Peter said this...

1 Peter 2:16 (ESV) 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

And John Said...

John 8:36 (ESV) 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

This series.... Is about realizing the freedom you have already been given....in the areas of strongholds in your life

We have to understand the steps of freedom we must embrace.... The key to walking out of the cell of your stronghold... Is to replace your thinking in that area of your life...with God's Truth To replace your ideas...your solutions...with those of the Holy Spirit.

All of us have been imprisoned in areas of our lives... With a lie...we have been deceived about ourselves...and we have bought the lie Our prison could be.... Living in Fear rather and buying the lie that disaster must be on our horizon Rather than believing the Spirit's Truth that.... God has not given me a spirit of fear or shyness. Instead I have power, love, and self-discipline

We could be living in imprisoned in guilt.... Buying the lie that our mistakes define us... Rather than believing the Spirit's Truth that.... I'm in Christ, and therefore I'm a new creation. My record of wrongs is erased, and I'm no longer defined by my past or mistakes, but I have a fresh new start!

Maybe our prison is temptation.... Believing the lie that everyone else does it and we don't have the power to resist.... Rather than the Spirit's truth that... I submit myself to God. I resist the devil, and he must flee from me. I draw near to God, and He draws near to me

Maybe your prison is anxiety and worry.... Because you have bought the lie that you are in control.... Rather than the Spirit's truth... I don't worry about anything. Instead I seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and I trust that all of my needs will be met).

We are imprisoned, not by the events of our lives, but what we have been deceived to believe about those events and what they mean

If we are going to no longer remain slaves to sin...if we are going to live in the freedom Jesus promised We are going to have to learn...how to replace the lies we believe... Even those we believe subconsciously... With the truth of God...

In many ways...we need to upgrade our operating system to a new one We have to destroy the virus that has corrupted our data And replace it with God's program for our lives... Jesus said....

John 8:31-32 (ESV) 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

During this series..I want you to memorize this verse If you want to break the lies...the strongholds....that you have decided to believe about yourself... If you want the freedom that comes from reprograming your subconscious thoughts... You must commit yourself to the discipline of discipleship

You must...Jesus says...Abide in my Word. If you abide in my Word...you are truly my disciples... You want to know which Christians are truly His disciples...which ones are

really growing? It is easy...those who are disciplined to devote their lives to learning the Word of God.

Jesus did not say.... Those who feed the poor- they are my disciples Those who attend church...they are my disciples Those who give money to the church...they are my disciples Those who serve at the church..they are my disciples Those who attend small groups...they are my disciples... Jesus said my Disciples...Abide in...and Know the Truth And that truth...sets them free...

Then in that freedom...as they mature...they feed the poor...support God's Kingdom through service.... and give their resources to my mission But their motivation is not guilt or trying to impress me... Their motivation comes from knowing the truth and the freedom that has been given to them

So...as we begin this series... Can you say...that you are living in the freedom that Jesus gives you?

Or are you living in the decorations of your cell.... Not realizing the door has been opened by Jesus And focusing on how things will be better in eternity Completely living as if you are imprisoned in this life?

In what areas of your life are you truly free? What areas are you still imprisoned? What are the strongholds in your life? What obstacle seems huge to you? What obstacle keeps getting in your way?

How badly do you want to live out the promises of God?

Romans 8:37 (ESV) 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Conquerors? in All things? The word here means Abundantly conquering...or Super Conqueror... God says...we don't just win..we always win...and it is always a blow out How badly do you want to experience and live in that place?

2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV) 14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,

How badly do you want to join the victory parade? It is time for Believers to wage war against lies To Put on the Armor Of God...and fight strongholds

Armor of God

Ephesians 6:12–18 (ESV) 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of

peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Do you see our weapons?

Almost everything in this passage is defensive Breastplate of righteousness...shield of faith...helmet of salvation But we have been given two weapons...

One weapon is our sword...our sword is of the Spirit...our sword is the Word of God. The weapon we have is the Word of God...of the Spirit. Did you see the other weapon?

Praying at all times in the Spirit

Notice that both the Word and Prayer...our weapons...are from the Spirit.. We will unpack that in this series. Could you imagine going into battle... Without your weapon? Or Your ability to talk to Headquarters? Imagine a marine...who purposefully left his weapon in the barracks... Along with his communication device It would never happen....He or she would never be that dumb

In fact I tried to find a picture of a marine in battle Without their weapon...and I couldn't find one So you know why? They live by [the Rifleman's Creed Marine Photo 1](#)

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. Without me my rifle is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than the enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will.

My rifle and I know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit. My rifle is human, even as I am human, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother.

I will learn its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other. Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life. So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy.

But imagine...if it happened. In the battle..He would be scared...helpless...worried...vulnerable...targeted...weak... And dependent upon others to fight for him... He would be disconnected from their communications He would have no idea of the overall strategy

No idea of how he or she is to be used in the mission No ability to communicate and understand what is going on Completely left to his or her own interpretation of what is happening Limited by what he knows..and only what he has experienced That is how most

Christians live.... Fearful...worried...weak and vulnerable Hoping that someone else will do their fighting for them

Completely disconnected from Headquarters...unaware of the mission..and how they fit into it Limited by their perception of how life is going...based only on what they have experienced and can see Making decisions based on what they think is best...rather than on what others know as true.

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (ESV) 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Christians are called to War Spiritual war And it is time that we started living like it The War is Spiritual...the weapons are Spiritual... Our weapons have divine Spiritual power to destroy strongholds Our target is lofty arguments of man's mind Ideas of man raised against the truth of God ready to punish our disobedience... To destroy it and replace it With God's truth.

We are saved in a moment.... But we must be trained and engage in the mission The war is between God's Truth and our Mind The war is about killing our flesh...our lofty opinions...our stronghold with the truth of God Slaying them in the Spirit

I want you to think about your commitment to God's Mission for your life Marine Chaplain Picture Your willingness to learn, embrace, surrender to, and to embody the Word of God...Your Sword. Jesus calls you to become and then make disciples...by abiding in His Word. I want to invite you to a new Creed...**Marine Photo 2**

Bible Creed

This is my Bible. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. Without my Bible, I am useless. My Bible, The Word of God, is the essence of my life. Thus I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its parts, its insights, its use and its power. I will keep my Bible ready and I am ready. We will become part of each other.

Before God I swear this creed. My Bible and I are the defenders of God's Kingdom. We have already defeated our enemy. Jesus is the Savior and He holds my life. So be it, until victory is God's, and there is no enemy.

About three years ago, I began praying that God would raise up men who could come along Ed and I as Elders. God brought Grayson to us but at that time, I felt God telling me that we didn't have elders because I had not taken my responsibility seriously to make disciples.

I felt convicted and began a men's discipleship group with some men that God laid on my heart. I challenged them to do the hard work of discipleship. We have now spent over two years together and they have taken men under this wings to disciple...

As Ed, Grayson and I began praying about elders, God raised up and selected 4 men. We have spent months vetting and examining these men. We have asked for and received your feedback.

Today we are here to ordain these 4 men into the role of Elder at Remnant.

The four men are Kevin Arrant, Miles Dunlap, Keith Elcock and Tom Malak

Tom is with us online and we will be meeting with him this week for a private ordination service.

Recently I taught a series on the roles and responsibilities of church leadership as outlined in Scripture. I am not going to reproach that series today, but if you want to review it, the series was called The Protege.

I am going to ask these 3 men here today to come up on stage.

Ordination

The Elders of Remnant Church on behalf of our congregation...are acknowledging... What God is doing in our midst. We are affirming that God's Hand is on Kevin, Keith, Miles and Tom and to reaffirm that they have been set apart by God to be an ordained elder at Remnant. Like all those leaders who passed before us...you are as a congregation.. affirming the call of God on the lives of these men...to set them apart for the ministry God has called him to We have explored each of their relationships with God.. And are confirming their role as Elders

Since all of us have been set apart.....the term used for those who are set apart to be church pastors or elders....is called ordination. The act of officially investing someone with religious authority. Several synonyms are "appoint," "institute," "make," and "establish." In current usage, the words "ordain" and "ordination" are applied to persons, signifying selection and appointment to God's service.

Why does God call some of us to be pastors? I have no idea. I know in my case I was as surprised as anyone. Tell your phone call story Throughout the OT...God chooses and appoints who He wills The First Levites Priests were presented in front of the congregation to God

So we see in the early church and in the church today....that there are people among those who have been called out...who have been further called to a new purpose.

1 Timothy 6:11–15 (ESV) 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

1 Timothy 4:6–16 (ESV) 6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come

9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 6:20–21 (ESV) 20 Guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

2 Timothy 2:22–25 (ESV) 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels

24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (ESV) 4 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Kevin do you accept this charge? Keith do you accept this charge? Miles do you accept this charge?

Because of your affirmation...the Elders will anoint you with oil and pray over you Then the congregation will lay hands on you and pray for you