



Sunday, April 7, 2019  
Pastor Doug Phillips

## **Introduction to 2 Timothy 2:1-10**

During WWII the American people were forced to cut back to help with the war effort. There were limits placed various household goods. Rubber, sugar, coffee, gasoline, meat, butter and many other goods were rationed in order to conserve goods for the troops. In addition to cutting back on purchasing goods many people planted Victory Gardens. Again, with the aim of conserving industrially farmed goods for the troops. During the war years Americans understood that they would have to sacrifice since they were at war. Similarly, Paul describes the Christian life in terms of spiritual warfare. We are to be soldiers for the Kingdom of God, doing battle with the Kingdom of Darkness. Such a war will surely push us out of our comfort zone and challenge some of our traditional, cultural, American beliefs. But, in the end it is God's Kingdom not the Kingdoms of Man that will be victorious.

### **Context**

The battle for God's Kingdom goes on throughout the entire Bible. The serpent deceives Adam and Eve, Cain kills Abel, the kings murder the prophets. In the New Testament King Herod, the earthly king of the Jews, seeks to destroy any newborn that could potentially be the true king of the Jews. Paul finds himself in prison writing 2 Timothy, his last letter, amidst such a struggle. He is awaiting death from Caesar another puppet of the kingdom of Darkness. He has encouraged Timothy to pass on the true faith so that the kingdom of God may spread throughout the world. As we move into 2 Timothy 3 Paul will encourage Timothy to remain faithful despite the coming wickedness. The Kingdom will always remain under attack, but we are to strive towards God.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Suffering Hardship in the Midst of Serving”

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Connect

- Spiritual Warfare
  - OT Context
  - NT Context
- Avoiding Entanglement
- Urgency and the Coming End
- Following God Practically

## **Discuss**

- 1) What is the hardest part of your day? Do you live a difficult or comfortable life?
  
- 2) Do you live your life as if it was war time, harvest season, or the day of the race? Have you allowed yourself to be caught up in the cares of this world? How so?
  
- 3) What are some practical ways you can live like a Christian in war time? Are there times in your daily life you could have more intentionality? Is there a person at work you could reach out to? Explain your answer.
  
- 4) How do you navigate enjoying the good gifts that God has given you and not allowing yourself to get “entangled in civilian affairs”?