



## READY TO SERVE

*VESSELS MADE USEFUL TO THE MASTER*



VERIFIED



READY TO SERVE MEANS ... GOOD SOLDIERS WHO ENDURE SUFFERING,  
ATHLETES WHO RUN FOR THE CROWN AND HARDWORKING FARMERS WHO WAIT  
PATIENTLY FOR THE PRECIOUS FRUIT.

## 1. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when grace is our strength, 2:1-7.

- (2 Timothy 2:1–7 ESV) You then, my child, **be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus**, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as **a good soldier of Christ Jesus**. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 **An athlete** is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is **the hard-working farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

### A. The grace that is in Christ Jesus is our strength.

**This grace that is in Christ Jesus** by which we are saved and strengthened is God's active favor toward us and is based on the finished work of Christ on the cross. Through no merit of ours God has predetermined to act by his power, authority, wisdom and riches to carry out his plan and purpose in our lives for our good and to his glory.

### B. The grace that is in Christ Jesus is sufficient for us.

- (2 Corinthians 12:7–9a ESV) **So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.** 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”**

### C. His grace is sufficient for good soldiers to fight the good fight.

- (1 Timothy 6:12 ESV) **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.

### D. His grace is sufficient for athletes to run the race with endurance.

- (Hebrews 12:1a ESV) ... **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.**

### E. His grace is sufficient for the hard working farmer to wait patiently for the precious fruit of the harvest.

- (James 5:7–9 ESV) Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. **See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth**, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, **be patient. Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 **Do not grumble against one another**, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

## 2. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when we remember Jesus Christ as preached in Paul's gospel, 2:8-13.

- (2 Timothy 2:8–13 ESV) **Remember Jesus Christ**, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, **as preached in my gospel**, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 **The saying is trustworthy**, for: **if we have died with him, we will also live with him**; 12 **if we endure**, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him**, he also will deny us; 13 **if we are faithless**, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

### A. We are to remember Jesus as he is portrayed in the gospel as preached by Paul—the one who died for our sins and rose from the dead.

- (1 Corinthians 15:1a, 3–4 ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, **of the gospel I preached to you** ... 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.**

### B. If we died with him, we will also live with him.

- (Romans 6:8 ESV) **Now if we have died with Christ**, we believe that we will also live with him.
- (Colossians 3:3 ESV) **For you have died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

### C. If we endure, we will also reign with him.

### D. If we deny him, he will deny us.

- (Matthew 10:32–33 ESV) So everyone

who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 **but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.**

- (1 John 2:23 ESV) **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

E. He will remain faithful to who he is—a just and holy God of which he cannot deny himself.

### 3. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when we remember to do what does good and remember to not do what does no good, 2:14.

- (2 Timothy 2:14 ESV) **Remind them of these things,** and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which **does no good,** but only **ruins the hearers.**

A. We need to remember that **what does good** is presenting Christ as preached in Paul's gospel.

B. We need to remember that **what does no good** is quarreling about words.

### 4. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when we do our best to present ourselves to God as those approved, 2:15-19.

- (2 Timothy 2:15–19 ESV) **Do your best to present yourself to God** as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.** 16 But **avoid irreverent babble,** for **it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,** 17 **and their talk will spread like gangrene.** Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 **who have swerved from the truth,** saying that the resurrection has already happened. **They are upsetting the faith of some.** 19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

A. The person who has no need to be ashamed is the one who does his best to be approved of God in his approach to the word of truth.

B. The "right handler" fully intends to communicate what God says matters and does good.

C. The "wrong handler" intends to communicate what humans believe matters and does good.

### 5. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when we cleanse ourselves from what is dishonorable, 2:20-21.

- (2 Timothy 2:20–21 ESV) Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 **Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.**

### 6. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when we flee evil desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, 2:22-23.

- (2 Timothy 2:22–23 ESV) 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.

A. Flee these things and pursue these things.

B. Observe the very sharp contrast between the things we are to pursue and the foolish, ignorant controversies that breed quarrels.

- (1 Timothy 6:3–4 ESV) **If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,** 4 **he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.** He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions.

C. Observe the description of the quarreling person—puffed up with conceit and understanding nothing.

### 7. We are ready to serve and are useful to the Master when we act as the Lord's servants should act, 2:24-26.

- (2 Timothy 2:24–26 ESV) **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, 26 and they **may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil,** after being captured by him to do his will.



**B**UT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY TO SHOW  
THAT THIS ALL-SURPASSING POWER IS FROM GOD AND NOT FROM US.

(2 CORINTHIANS 4:7 NIV)