

Become “Operational” for God’s Mission

2 Timothy 2:1-2

2 Timothy 2:1-2 is the operational definition of being a follower of Jesus at La Habra Christian Church:

QoD

What is the operational definition for making a peanut butter sandwich?

The operational definition of a peanut butter sandwich might be simply "the result of putting peanut butter on a slice of bread with a butter knife and laying a second equally sized slice of bread on top"

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

In the classic, "Rio Bravo," John Wayne's character summed up the essence of his cowboy philosophy by declaring to a less-than-perfect sidekick "Just showing up doesn't get the job done!"

Prepare Personally:

...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus ...

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Practice Publicly:

...the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

2 Timothy 3:10-11

Pass It On In Person:

...entrust to reliable people

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

By Teaching: v7a God says that we have to “impress” them on our children.

If you are going to be a teacher you must look for the possibilities instead of the problems. Several years ago I made a confession to my staff. In “religiousees” I had a “critical spirit” but in more common terms I was an SOB – you know son-of-a-boss. I knew it but kept thinking of it as

appropriate – the staff deserved it and if they did a better job I wouldn't have to be so critical. That was when I noticed a particular speech pattern. In almost every conversation I had with staff my response to them would begin, "the problem is..." or "here's your problem..." Once I had confessed this my attitude improved because I stop looking for problems and began looking for potential. One of the best things we could teach our children is that failure is always an option. the key is to fail forward, as author and speaker John Maxwell points out in his book, "Failing Forward." When Winston Churchill was asked what school experience had best prepared him to lead Britain and those dark first years of World War II he said it was the two years he had to spend that the same level and high school. "Did you fail?" "No," replied Winston. "I had to opportunities to get it right." We best equipped our children, family, friends and followers by teaching them that brilliance is not as important as perseverance.

By Example: vv 8-9 You cannot equip others to do what you yourself do not do. If your family sees you giving in to temptation and offering excuses, they are not going to be impressed with their ability to overcome temptation just because you instruct them.

re-Place Yourself ...who will also be qualified to teach others

Communion:

What would it mean if we were to become disciple-making churches?

A tourist collected a few of the signs in English that monolingual Americans traveling abroad must contend with. In an airline ticket office in Copenhagen, there is this promise: "We take your bags and send them in all directions." A Swiss restaurant announces to its customers that "Our wines leave you with nothing to hope for." A rather severe Acapulco hotel posts a sign assuring its customers that "The manager has personally passed all the water served here."

But my favorite is a sign spotted in Paris. One of the city's finer hotels invites its visitors to "Please leave your values at the front desk" (Taken from unpublished remarks by Jeanne M. Fox, regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region II).

Next Steps

Begin this week to make the First 15 minutes of each day my time with God.

Begin this week to read through the Bible, or, the Old Testament, or, the New Testament this year.

Stop doing the one thing that takes away from my testimony as a follower of Jesus.

Begin this week having a daily time with my family focused on God and His Word.

Begin this week doing what I have been taught to do by my leader's teaching.

Memory Verse

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:1-2