

# THE REACH

*filtering everyday life through the word of God*

Filtering everyday life through the word of God; that's what the Reach is all about. Let's press on as we filter through the book of 2 Timothy. For review, this book was written by Paul, while awaiting his death sentence. It is a letter to his beloved "son" Timothy. They weren't actually related, but Paul loved him as a son, deepening the intimacy of this letter. Therefore, we should consider 2 Timothy as Paul's final encouragement for young Timothy.

- **Think about a big upcoming game for your coach. What kind of preparations and encouragement do you convey to your husband before the event? For most, we start by making sure the game clothes are washed and ready, but what does your final pre-game, communication look like?**

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-7. Paul, because of his closeness with Timothy, used three physical illustrations that were relatable to both of them. But, how are they relatable to you and me? To figure this out, let's ask questions... What do I see? What does it mean? What should I do? Paul says in verse 7, "Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things." This simply means, "Pay attention!"

- **Name one circumstance in the last few weeks where you were challenged to "pay attention," asking the basic questions, who, what, why. It might have been while studying Scripture, maybe interacting with your spouse, or perhaps confronting a colleague, child, etc.**

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-4 again. As we contemplate this soldier, on the heels of 9/11, consider the men and women who gave their lives for America that day. While some were first responders, most were not. But on that day, all Americans instantly shifted their priorities from ordinary civilian pursuits to the good of their fellow countrymen.

Consider the heroic efforts of Todd Beamer on 9/11. He was aboard the hijacked Flight #93, heading towards our Capitol Building. His final words, before he and others rushed the cockpit, were, "Are you ready? Okay. Let's Roll." Beamer led the charge, shifting his priorities from ordinary, everyday things to a much bigger picture... saving the United States Capitol Building!

- **Most will not be faced with saving a historic institution, but, as a follower of Jesus, our priorities must continually shift. We can't always worry about normal things that maybe other friends worry over. Being a CW comes with a price tag. How should our "shifting priorities" look different from non-coaches' wives? How are they distinct? What makes your "Let's Roll," different from your non-coach's wife's "Let's Roll?"**

*"Some of our greatest moments have been acts of courage for which no one could have been prepared. But we have our marching orders. My fellow Americans, let's roll!" – President George Bush, in his address to the nation following 9/11.*

Read 2 Timothy 2:5. Now this is an illustration with which we can easily relate! In order to "compete according to the rules," we must train. The Greek translation for "train" actually means to "exercise naked," and that's pretty much what took place in ancient gymnasiums. (CAN YOU IMAGINE?!) Yet, as a student of Scripture, it is important to let the physical teach the spiritual, so, what can we learn from this picture? The ancient Roman/Greek athletes stripped down so nothing would impede their physical movement. And, as Christians, we are called to strip away any and all hindrances that impede our spiritual growth. Paul is saying, let this physical picture teach a spiritual lesson.



- **What are your daily hindrances? How can you strip them away? What will it take?**
- **Competing according to rules requires training, discipline, and strenuous effort, all in front of onlookers. Thinking about this, who is your crowd of onlookers? How important is it that you follow the rules while giving your all? What can negate your credibility?**

The coaching profession in and of itself has turned rocky over the last few years, and sadly, it appears the desert is growing wider and wider. In 2021, over 7000 coaches, in Texas alone, left our profession. Furthermore, 20%, of 1st through 5th-year coaches, continue to leave.

- **Do you feel you and your husband are plowing a land that's getting rockier and rockier? Are the boundaries disappearing into a dry desert? How can we encourage our husband to continue in the daily plowing? WHY should we continue plowing day after day, season after season? WHO are we plowing for? WHAT is our harvest?**

*"The secret of my success of the 400 meters is that I run the 200 meters as hard as I can. Then, for the second 200 meters, with God's help, I run harder."*  
 – Eric Little, Olympic Champion 1924

Read 2 Timothy 2:6. Farming is examined over and over throughout Scripture. Again, this is a physical picture teaching a spiritual principle. In ancient Bible times, fields were passed down, and, whether rocky or fertile, you got what you got. So, some were harder to plow than others.

Even though actual "farming" is kind of a stretch for most of us, we all understand the basics; the hardworking farmer gets rewards that the lazy farmer doesn't. AND, not all fields are level. For further insight, I've included an excerpt from the book, The Genesee Diary, by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen recounts a letter from an African missionary, despairing over the people's starvation. The missionary writes, "During the Roman Empire these African countries were prosperous, full of wheat and cattle. Now, they are a desolate desert growing wider and wider. (However) Farmers keep plowing their dry land simply so that they might not lose their skill but without hope of harvest." Woah! Did you catch that, they keep plowing merely for the sake of preserving the skill!

*"One of the most cowardly things ordinary people do is shut their eyes to facts."* – C.S. Lewis

As we look to the days and weeks ahead, what would happen if we disciplined ourselves to ask important questions regarding everyday life situations? Insightful questions will help you mature in your relationships with others as well as develop your time in God's word.

**What do I see? What does it mean?  
 What should I do?**

*"In a time where there is so much knowledge, there is very little wisdom."*  
 – Keith Moore

