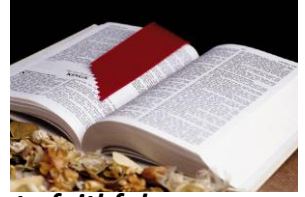


The *Perfecting Believers Discipleship* Ministries

(Discipleship: Challenging Believers to Be Complete in Every Way)

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A Key Discipleship Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:2 Some “New” Insights

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (KJV)

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. (NIV)

Various Interpretations and Emphases Regarding 2 Timothy 2:2

- ❖ Most interpretations of this passage see **three or four** groups/classifications of people who pass on the “teaching” which Paul gave to Timothy.
- ❖ Some see a **one-to-one** teaching, instruction (*discipleship*) relationship here – **Paul to Timothy**.
- ❖ Others (particularly Avery Willis, creator of the MasterLife Discipleship Program) see this as a reference primarily to **one-to-group** relationships. **Paul to a Group** (Many Witnesses); **Timothy to a Group** (Reliable Men); **The Individuals of That Group to Another Group** (Others)
- ❖ Still others see **four groups** here teaching **one-to-one** – **Paul, Timothy, Faithful Men, Others**.

Consider the Five Groups of Individuals in This Passage

Well, I’d like to propose an additional group (#5) and offer some suggestions regarding “types” of instructors (mentors/disciplers), students, and types of training.

I see **five groups** of individuals here. (NIV)

1. **Timothy:** “*And the things you have heard*”

2. **Apostle Paul:** “*me say*”

3. **Witnesses** (The Group Paul taught/mentored. Timothy was in this group of students/mentees.): “*in the presence of many witnesses*”

4. **Other Teachers/Mentors:** “*entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach*”

5. **Other Students:** “*others*” [The reliable men teach still other students/mentees]

So here it is as I see it.

Point #1

Apostle Paul taught a group of men as students and mentees – Timothy was in that group. Paul also specially instructed Timothy (one-to-one) as a “troubleshooter” and his special emissary to churches. And Timothy was commissioned by Paul to “straighten out” things for the churches in Asia Minor, specifically Ephesus. This is a similar role to that of Titus for the churches in Crete, Titus 1:5 (NIV).

IMPORTANT NOTE HERE: Not ALL those Paul mentored in his group (classroom) were specially trained or “called” to the same ministry as Timothy. But, all received “training” in the Disciplines of the Christian Faith and Way of Christ.

Point #2

Timothy was to teach/mentor a specially chosen group of those whose calling was to MENTOR OTHERS who would MENTOR STILL OTHERS. Today, this would be called a “**Train the Trainer**” Program. At West Angeles we will do this for some in our **Certified Christian Life Mentor (CLM) Training Program**.

NOW A SECOND IMPORTANT NOTE: Not all of these Trainers will become “professionally called trainers.” Some will take the Christian Life Principles of Living they have learned and live their lives in the world and “in the market place.” (Greek *agora*, ἀγορά, the place of commerce and business activity.)

Some of these will be **one-to-one** in their instruction to others and others will prefer to teach a **group**. Some will teach the principles in the **business** arena and others will teach them in **other professions**. Some (both male and female) will teach them primarily to their **children** and their **children’s children**, and **families**.

However, SOME of the trainees (Christians being who they are) will “forget” to pass this on to the world and just sit dormant until they are reminded by the Holy Spirit through life’s circumstances and experiences that they are qualified or need to re-qualify to do this and they are indeed, commanded to do this by the Lord.

And there is a “**General Call**” to ALL believers. This is the beauty of teaching the Spiritual Disciplines. They can be lived out anywhere and you don’t even have to be a professionally trained “called one” to teach them.

Point #3 (Final Point)

Key Discipleship Mentoring Relationships and Categories:

1. **One-to-One Mentors**
2. **One-to-Group Mentors**
3. **Professionally Gifted and Called Mentors**
4. **Not Professionally Called (but gifted) Mentors**
5. **Formal Instruction and Curriculum**
6. **Informal Instruction and Curriculum**
7. **The General Call to Each Believer to Mentor** (teach/instruct/disciple) Someone in Some Way during His or Her Lifetime.



I believe that in this passage we find one-to-one **AND** one-to-group mentoring relationships mentioned. Both types of mentors produce other mentors who teach **either** or **both** a FORMAL and an INFORMAL discipleship training curriculum. Some of these will be Professionally Gifted and Called. Others, are not called as “Professionals (business or full time ministry),” but **yet gifted** to serve the Body of Christ.

There are some who are specially called to be “**Train the Trainer**” mentors (Some West Angeles CLMs). That is, they wish to and feel called to FORMALLY teach (using written curriculum) others **how to be** mentors. HOWEVER, there are also others who feel called (Gifted and Called) to solely TEACH OTHERS how to live the Disciplines and Principles of the Faith. (Also, a primary goal of our Certified Christian Life Mentor (CLM) Training Program.) These teachers do not feel a calling to instruct individuals in a “teacher training program” as to how to be teachers.

All believers have a “**General Call**” from the Lord to be examples of Christ to the world and to witness IN SOME WAY to it about His salvation in Christ. Also, the “General Call” includes assisting other believers to walk effectively for the Lord through SOME FORM of mentoring, even if it is informally.



So, this is my Contemporary Discipleship Insight on 2 Timothy 2:2.

Hopefully, this adds positively to the discussion about **teaching/discipling/mentoring** others. And to the types of mentees that will be a part of our one-to-one or one-to-group experiences whether FORMALLY with some type of “Written Curriculum” or INFORMALLY through the “Curriculum of Life Experiences.” And, may you see your place in this Biblical Christian Mentoring Process and serve the Lord faithfully and enthusiastically.

**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor
(KJV, *fervent in spirit*), serving the Lord.**

(Romans 12:11, NIV)