



## Pictures of the Christian Life

*By Shannon Ford on August 25, 2021*

**TODAY'S READING:** 2 Timothy 2

In chapter 2, Paul gives us seven pictures of what believers are to look like:

*The Steward (2:1-2)* - God's grace, His Word and His ministry are not things intended for us to receive and keep to ourselves. We are to be good stewards looking for opportunities to away to others who will in turn pass it on.

*The Soldier (2:3-4, 8-13)* - Endures difficult situations. We should avoid getting too entangled in the affairs of the world. A soldier wants only to obey and please the commanding officer.

*The Athlete (2:5)* - Athletic illustrations were very common in Paul's writing. If we want to win the game and receive the prize, we must train and compete according to the rules.

*The Farmer (2:6-7)* - A farmer must work constantly and not leave his job. A field left to itself will turn to weeds. A farmer has the joy of seeing the crop produced from the hard work he put into it.

*The Workman (2:14-18)* - We are to be approved workmen in God's Word. FYI. This is where we get the AWANA acronym (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed).

*The Vessel (2:19-22)* - We are a vessel for God's service. We must be a vessel of honor that is empty, clean and available so God can fill us and use us His glory.

*The Servant (2:23-26)* - We are servants -- slaves to Jesus Christ. The servant of God ministers to God's people with the Word. There will be opposition in this, but we cannot quit.

An overview of these pictures teaches us that the Christian life is work. I see that in all these pictures. There is no place in church for the loafer or one who wants to play religious games. We are in a battle. There is a real game with a real Judge. There is a harvest that must be harvested. There is work to be done and we are servants of the Lord. Would the lifestyles of these seven pictures describe our walk with God right now? Perhaps Paul is reaching forward through the pages of scripture and calling you in the same way he called Timothy. Will you answer the call?

**PRAYER:** Lord, I am humbly reminded today that I exist for Your glory alone. Please help me live and work to please only You. Help me not become involved in the things of the world as I strive to faithfully follow Jesus today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 2 Timothy 3

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