

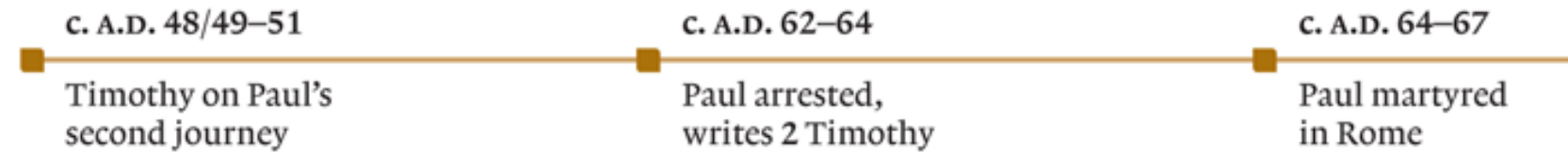


Disciple-making strategies and costs

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

Introduction to 2 Timothy

Timeline



- This is a deeply personal letter to a faithful companion.
- Paul wrote Timothy in Ephesus to provide him encouragement and fortitude in the face of difficulties and trials. He knows the end is near.
- Christians became a convenient target for Nero, who used believers as scapegoats for his city's own lack of preparedness for the great fire. Paul was one of those caught up in this persecution and was beheaded by Roman officials soon after writing this letter.
- It is as if Paul were giving Timothy a “state of the church” address, updating Timothy on the current state of their acquaintances and friends so that the young pastor could carry on after Paul's departure.
- The most striking feature of Paul's encouragement comes when the aging apostle used a phrase that showed up prominently in his letter to Timothy four years prior. In that earlier letter, Paul exhorted Timothy to “fight the good fight” ([1 Timothy 1:18](#); [6:12](#)).

2 Timothy 1:1-5

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** As I remember your

tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

2 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,^[a] 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.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

1 You then, my **child**, be **strengthened by the grace** that is in **Christ Jesus**, . . .

2 Timothy 1:9-10

. . . power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and **grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,** ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the **appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,** who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, . . .

2 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.

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2 Timothy 1:12-14

¹³ Follow the pattern of the **sound words that you have heard from me**, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the **good deposit entrusted to you**.

2 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.

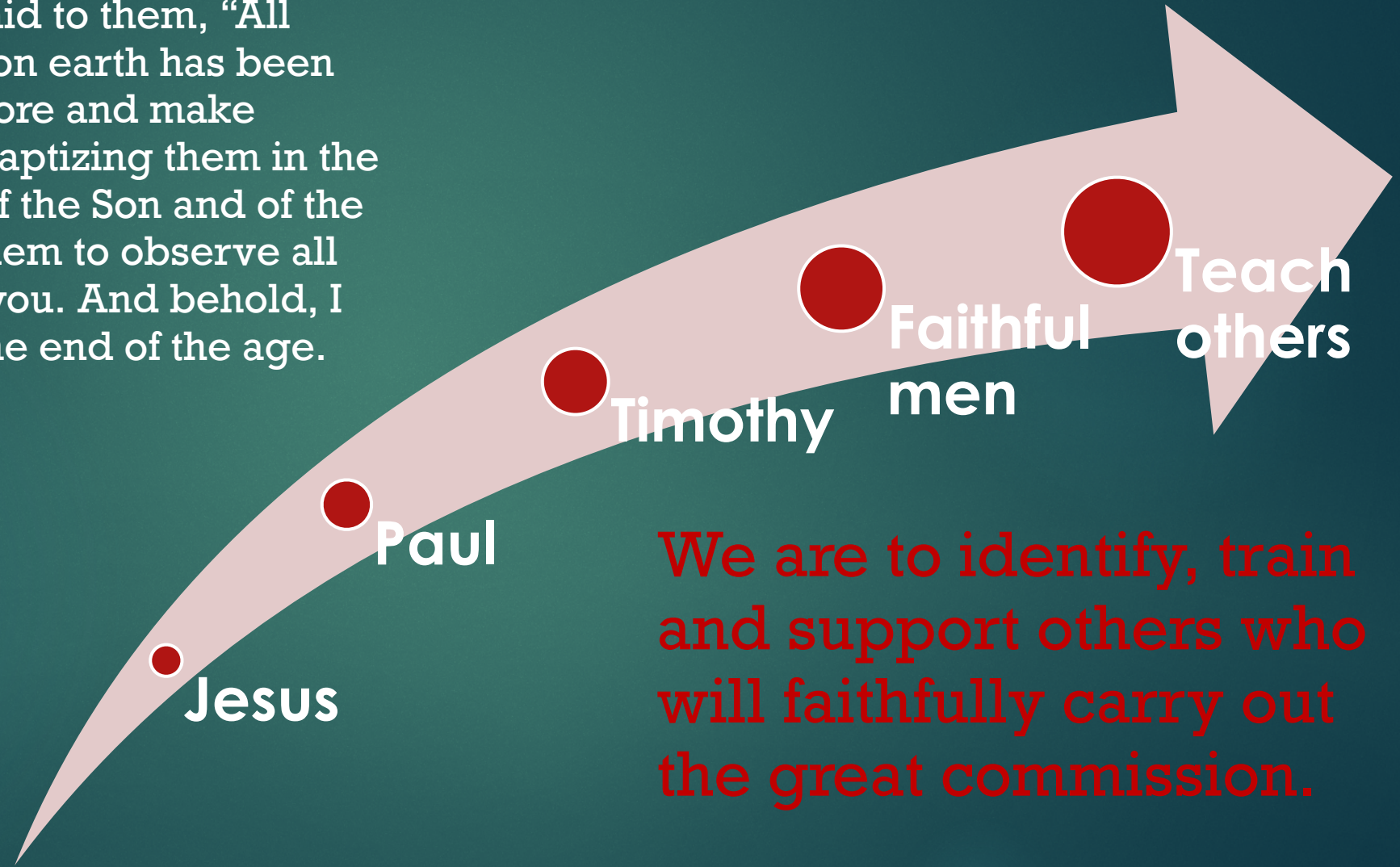
2 Timothy 1:12

¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day **what has been entrusted to me.**

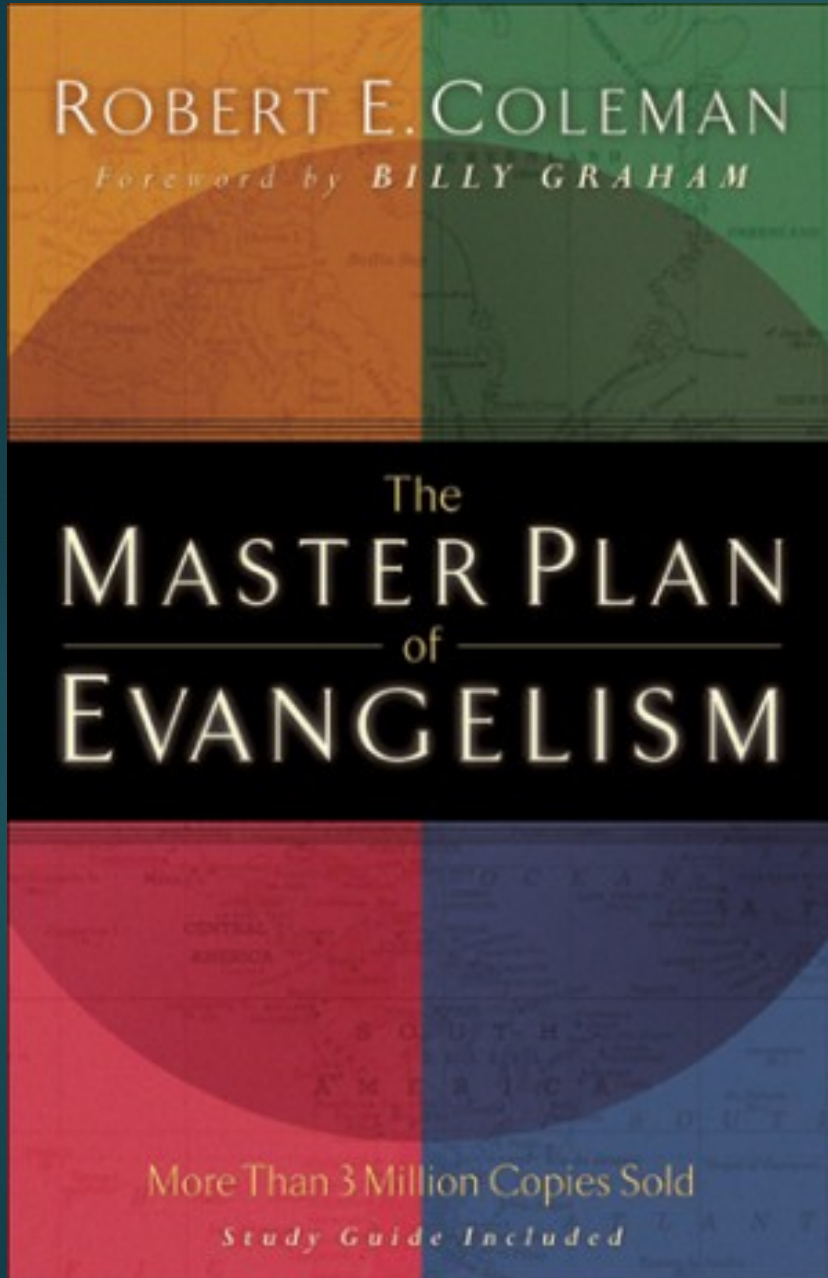
Biblical strategy for discipleship

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make **disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20



We are to identify, train and support others who will faithfully carry out the great commission.



- Published in 1963 and has sold 3.5 million copies
- Asked one simple question: *What was the evangelism strategy of Jesus Christ?*

Coleman's analysis of Jesus' strategy

A. Selection.

B. Association.

C. Consecration.

D. Impartation.

E. Demonstration

F. Delegation

G. Supervision


H. Reproduction

Summary by Justin Taylor, who is an executive vice president for book publishing and publisher for books at Crossway.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

2 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.

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	<u>Command</u>	<u>Promise</u>
Soldier	Not be entangled (Focus)	Please God
Athlete	Keep rules (Integrity)	Crowned
Farmer	Work hard	First share of the harvest

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.



What does this mean for us?



1 . We can only fully participate in the “making disciples of all nations” by the strengthening grace of God.


2. We are called to be discipled and to disciple others.



We are to identify, train and support others who will faithfully carry out the great commission.



3. Church is a place for rest, growth, and encouragement, but that is not the end of the matter. We are to be equipped so that we can equip others.



4. Like the single-minded soldier, the athlete who competes with integrity, and the farmer who works with diligence, ask God to give you the grace and strength to suffer hardship for the Gospel.



5. Think on these things. Ask God to give you insight and application for your life.

Let's
Pray