

## 2 Timothy

### Keeping the Faith

### *Staying Faithful Despite Defections*

**INTRO:** *Many of Paul's associates had defected from ministry. A dejected Timothy was considering doing the same. What could the Apostle possibly share to encourage his protege to stick it out?*

**I. Ministry is a \_\_\_\_\_ effort strengthened by the mutual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of its \_\_\_\_\_.** *Paul surrounded himself with people who supported and encouraged him to stay the course.*

**II. \_\_\_\_\_ of team members can be deleterious to ministry \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_ (1:15-18).** *Defections can happen for a variety of reasons but they can also be discouraging to those who remain behind.*

**III. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ in ministry despite discouraging \_\_\_\_\_ (2:1-13).** *But **how** does one persevere in ministry when fellow disciples are defecting?*

**A. Reflect on the disciple's \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Paul illustrates with the **soldier, athlete, and farmer.***

**B. Remember Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Jesus suffered and was vindicated. Though we might be faithless in ministry, Jesus will never be unfaithful to us!*