

1) Paul's Letters – Start & End with Grace & Peace

a) **Grace** - A greeting for Greek speaking people

'Grace' = (Grk: charis), *I greet you with Favour & Grace*

b) **Peace** - A greeting for Jewish people

'Peace' =(Grk: Eirene, Hbr: Shalom), *Peace be with you, go well, be strong*

2) Timothy & Titus – Challenges & Hardship

- 3 x Letters were written to Timothy & Titus – Personal letters
- These letters have sandwiched in the middle the word '**Mercy**'

3) Paul instructs Timothy "*be Strong in Grace in the Lord*"

2 Tim 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

a) Grace

- **Grace** traditional Def (Grk: 'Charis'): "**Unmerited favour**" – but much more
 - Grace is not an excuse to live as you wish / liberal view / overlook sin
- **Grace is a Present Continuous Empowerment:**
 - **Unmerited Favour, God's: Ability, Power, Strength, Help, Mercy**
 - If there is a job to be done, no matter what kind of atmosphere surrounds you, God's Grace, God's mercy is here to help you.

b) Mercy

- Paul faced hardship; he reminds Timothy:
 - What persecutions, afflictions
 - Faced the mouth of lions
 - "*Out of them ALL the Lord delivered me*" (**Mercy**) 2 Tim 3:11b
 - "*The Lord WILL deliver me form every evil work*" 2 Tim 4:18
- The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Lam 3:22
- But by the Grace of God 1 Cor 15:10

4) Paul instructs Timothy “*Endure hardship as a good soldier*”

2 Tim 2:3-4

- **Ensure Hardship** = (Grk ‘sun-kako-patheo’)
 - ‘sun’ = connects you to someone else
 - ‘kakos’ = something that is vile, foul or wicked
 - ‘pathos’ = mental suffering

5) As a **SOLDIER** you must **Fight!**

- Get Ready... “*Fight the good fight of faith...*”

1 Tim 6:12

a) **Stand Strong / Outlast** the enemy

- “*Be strong in the Lord & power of His might - Grace*”

Eph 6:10

- Get Ready... Stand some more...

Eph 6:13 & 14

- I don’t care devil what you throw at me...I’m standing
- My healing will come! My breakthrough will come!

- **Endure hardship = Outlast**; when this is all done & dusted... I’m still standing

b) **How do we stand?**

Eph 6:14-17

- **Belt** - Wrap the **Word** (Logos) around you; it holds everything together v14
- **Breastplate** – Don’t condemn yourself; stand in His righteousness v14
- **Sandals** – Walk in God’s peace v15
- **Shield** of Faith – Don’t doubt God’s Grace, Peace & Mercy v16
- **Helmet** – Protect your mind from voices contrary to your salvation
- **Sword** – Speak the **Word** (Rhema) of God v17

The fact is, crisis only serves to reveal the genuineness of people’s faith