

22 July 2018: Preached by Rev Clement Chew

**Topic: A Study of 2 Timothy: A Lawful Contest**

Scripture text: 2 Timothy 2:5-7

1. Paul uses the picture of an athlete to describe a Christian's service (verse 5). Our service is like a race where we struggle with all our energy. We are not competing with one another but helping one another to compete against the world until we reach heaven. All Christians are involved and so we all have to be prepared to struggle. We must be determined to follow God and not give up. We also must be disciplined to follow God. We must follow the Word of God to know how to run this race. We are to serve God in God's ways, with clean hands and pure hearts. We should not use service to cover up sin and disobedience.

2. Paul also uses the picture of a farmer to describe a Christian's service (verse 6). We must work very hard and give our best. It involves toil and effort. It can be routine and lonely but we must press on to the end. Those who persevere will experience the rich blessings of God. The reward is seeing believers grow in Him and seeing His name be glorified.

3. The command is for us to consider (verse 7). This means to have the teachings in our minds to meditate carefully. We must understand intimately and know the principles clearly.