

HOW TO MAKE IT IN THIS WORLD

2 Timothy 1:7

May 20, 2007 Sunday A.M.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Everybody is trying to make it in this world. Some, however, are trying the wrong way.
 - 1. Some athletes take or are accused of taking steroids. (i.e. Barry Bonds).
 - 2. Some NASCAR drivers cheat on their equipment (i.e. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.).
 - 3. Some professionals pad their resumes (i.e. Marilee Jones).
 - 4. All of these are just trying to make it in the world.
- B. There's a better way, though, to make it. Its found in the Bible. What does the Bible say about making it in the world?

I. FIRST, YOU MUST FACE YOUR FEARS IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT IN THE WORLD TODAY.

- A. Everyone is afraid sometimes.
 - 1. According to a Gallup Poll, Americans are afraid of the following:

Snakes	51%
Public speaking:.....	40%
Heights:.....	36%
Being closed in small spaces:.....	34%
Spiders and insects:.....	27%
Needles and getting shots:.....	21%
Mice:	20%
Flying on an airplane:.....	18%

*"Snakes Scariest Than Public Speaking," USA Today Snapshots; source:
Gallup Poll of 1,016 adults, February 19-21, 2001*
 - 2. Its not wrong to have fears, but it is wrong to let fear control you.
 - 3. I like John Wayne's definition of courage: "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."
- B. How can we "saddle up" in spite of our fears?
 - 1. Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:7.
 - 2. He is writing to a young man named Timothy.
 - 3. First, he wants him to know that his fears did not come from God. In other words, God doesn't want us to be filled with fear.
 - 4. Next, he told Timothy of God's resources to overcome fear-power, love, and a sound (not fearful) mind.

II. SECOND, YOU MUST FORGET YOUR FAILURES TO MAKE IT IN THE WORLD TODAY.

- A. Our society hates failures.
 - 1. But everyone fails at some point in their lives.
 - 2. Every baseball player dreams of making it to the majors, but to set a record within the first week would be something really special. Chase Wright, a rookie pitcher for the New York Yankees, tied a Major League Baseball record in the first week he was called up from Double-A ball—though probably not in the way he had hoped.

On Sunday night, April 22, 2007, Wright gave up a record four consecutive home runs to the Boston Red Sox, allowing the Red Sox to sweep their division rivals in their first meeting of the season.

Wright tied the record previously held by Paul Foytack, who gave up four consecutive homers in 1963. Rather than berate the young pitcher, Yankee skipper Joe Torre said, "It's just another piece of experience for that kid. It has nothing to do with what he's going to be or what's going to happen in the future. I still think he's going to be special. He's a pretty tough kid."

While Torre's confidence was certainly heartening to Wright, he received some support in the mail from someone who can empathize. Paul Foytack, Wright's partner

in baseball infamy, mailed Wright a letter of encouragement the next morning. "He's kind of young to be going through that," Foytack said. "Hopefully, he'll take it to heart."

3. Failing, though, isn't the end of the world. It's the beginning of success.

B. Paul wrote about failure in Philippians 3:12-14.

1. He made several serious mistakes himself-persecuted Christians putting them in jail and holding the coats of those who stoned Stephen to death.

2. Paul's advice is not to dwell on your failures, but to look past them.

III. THIRD, YOU MUST FOLLOW YOUR FAITH TO MAKE IT IN THE WORLD.

A. On day six of the ill-fated mission of Apollo 13, the astronauts needed to make a critical course correction. If they failed, they might never return to Earth. To conserve power, they shut down the onboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a thirty-nine-second burn of the main engines. How to steer? Astronaut Jim Lovell determined that if they could keep a fixed point in space in view through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually. That focal point turned out to be their destination--Earth. As shown in 1995's hit movie, Apollo 13, for thirty-nine agonizing seconds, Lovell focused on keeping the earth in view. By not losing sight of that reference point, the three astronauts avoided disaster.

1. The earth was their reference point.

2. We all need a reference point in life too.

B. What is the reference point for Christians?-Hebrews 12:1-3.

CONCLUSION

A. This is how you can make it in this world.

B. Not by taking steroids, driving an illegal car, or lying on your resume.

C. But by...

1. Facing your fears.

2. Forgetting your failures.

3. Following your faith.