ONE AND TWO TIMOTHY



Welcome!

As you study 1-2 Timothy over these next weeks, here are some other ideas and resources to increase and enhance your experience!

Our prayer is that you hear God's voice as you study and reflect on this book over these weeks.

You may only have the margin to read through the chapter once and get a couple of questions answered in preparation for your time with your group or cohort. Or you may have lots of time that you are intentionally devoting to this study. Either way, we know God will meet you in the time and space you give Him!

How to go DEEPER in God's Word.

Reading the Bible is about having an encounter with God! Even if you only spend a few minutes reading a verse or two, God can meet you and bless your life through His Word. For those who want to peel back the layers and take a DEEPER breath, you can follow the DEEPER directions below.

Designate means to set aside time and make it a priority to read the Word. It could be first thing in the morning, during your lunch hour, or before you go to bed.

Enter into prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to understand God's Word.

Explore the passage by highlighting words that stick out to you. Think about how the passage makes you feel. Put yourself into the story and imagine you are one of the characters.

Pursue and study the background of the passage. Use online tools like Bible Gateway or Bible Study Tools to give background. Use commentaries and read other translations to help make sense of keywords or themes in the passage.

Examine yourself as you read. Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight areas of your life that need alignment with what you are reading. Ask yourself if there are areas of your life where you need Him to help you think differently or act differently in light of what you read.

Release the Word by living out and applying what you read. Your time in God's Word will give you direction and show you steps to take. As you put those into action, the Holy Spirit will release the power of God's Word into your life. Release God's Word by sharing it with others through conversations, texts, or emails.



Here are ideas for additional ways to interact with 1-2 Timothy.

Bible Project
Overview Video
Podcast on How (Not) to Read the Bible
New Testament Letters: Historical Context
New Testament Letters: Literary Context

YouVersion
Find a 1-2 Timothy plan

Podcasts
The Listener's Commentary on the New Testament
The Bible Recap

Grace Chapel Sermon Series
Breathing Oct. 15 - Nov. 26, 2023

Right Now Media

Study Resources
StepBible
Precept Austin
Blue Letter Bible
Bible Study Tools
Bible Gateway

Note: You can click on an underlined link to go to the resource!



Approaches to studying.

Head — What does this make me think? What is happening?
Heart — How does this make me feel?
Hands — What is this asking me to do?

Observation — Who? What? Where? When?
Interpret — What does it mean?
Application — What does it say?

SOAP

Scripture — Read a passage of scripture and write down a verse or two that jumps out to you.
Observation — What are your personal observations that you note from this scripture?
Application — How does it now apply to your everyday life? What can you do to apply this in your life today?
Prayer — Write a personal prayer based on your observation & application.

Lectio Divina *learn about Lectio Divina*

Read
Meditate
Pray
Contemplate

Studying a book of the Bible.

Identify the type of literature.
Study the background and context of the book.
Make an outline of the book.
Look for keywords or phrases.
Identify the main themes, ideas, and key verses.
Look for the main applications.

Ideas for your first gathering.

Watch the Bible Project Overview of 1 Timothy.
Talk through the Introduction to this study together.
Introduce yourselves — Key details and a fun fact!
Icebreaker question — Just to warm everyone up!

"If you were under house arrest, what is the one thing you would want to have with you?"

Weekly

Start by reading that week's passage out loud together.

Question

Will this study work with my coworker, neighbor, or friend who doesn't know Jesus?

Response

We usually suggest you start with a gospel and walk someone new to faith through the life of Jesus. The letters to Timothy address some contextually specific issues that might make this a challenging study for new believers to start with in their journey with God. If you run into any questions, please reach out and let us know because we'd love to be able to help and support you as you invest in others!

This study was a collaborative effort created by many of the Grace Chapel staff and partner ministries.



What can we learn from 1 Timothy today?

The main theme of 1 Timothy is that the gospel of Jesus Christ is transformational, both personally and relationally; it brings about a practical and visible outworking in the daily life of a believer. The main purpose of this letter is to discuss the false teachers plaguing the church of Ephesus and to promote godly living.

Throughout the book of Timothy, as Paul discusses false teachers (1:3–20, 4:1–5, 6:2–21) and how Timothy should handle them, he also contrasts that charge with the call to daily gospel-centered living and holiness. Paul states in 1 Timothy 3:15 that he writes these instructions for Timothy to "know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth." We see Paul describe a gospel-centered life (2:1–3:13), address behavior in the church (3:14–16), and then list how specific groups of people in the church should conduct themselves (5:1–6:2).

“But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

– 1 Timothy 1:16-17

1 Timothy Chapter 1

v.3–7 How do you pray through and process when you feel like you have been exposed to false doctrine/teaching? How do you keep yourself from participating in "controversial speculations" and "meaningless talk?" How do you keep your speech focused on "advancing God's work?"

v.12–17 These verses talk about the amazing grace God has shown each of us (and Paul, specifically, talks about his own transformation). God is in the business of redemption and transformation. How have you experienced the Lord's grace, mercy, and transformation in your personal story? Is it hard for you to accept the Lord's grace and mercy? If so, why do you think that is?

v.18 "Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you…" (v.18). Paul is reminding Timothy of who he is, what has been spoken over him, and how he can keep in step with those promises. When we have people in our lives who we know God has called for a purpose, it's important for us to spur them on! Encourage one another to keep in step with the promises God has for us. The awesome thing is, we all have the same calling—to become more and more like Jesus and to express his transformative love to the world!

Prayer/Prophetic:

- Spend some time speaking life over one another. If you are in a group that has been together for a while, remind yourselves of the prophecies spoken over each other.

- One way of speaking prophetically is to call out the things of God that you see in others. For instance, if you have seen someone be gracious and kind to those in need, call out the spiritual gift of mercy in them. If you have enjoyed the warmth and welcome of their home, thank God for the way He exhibits hospitality through that person, etc.

- The fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) are available to each and every one of us as the work of the Holy Spirit. If this is your first week and you hardly know each other, pray the fruits of joy, patience, steadfastness, etc. over those in your group.



1 Timothy Chapter 2

v.1–4 God desires all people to be saved (v.4), so when it comes to praying for others (v.1–2), do you find it hard to pray for those you don't agree with or dislike (your enemies)?

Are you able to pray for all people, no matter their status, beliefs, or actions?

Do you have a story of how the Lord changed your heart when you prayed for those you don't agree with or dislike (your enemies)? If so, share how that changed your heart towards them and/or your view of them?

What does "living a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and holiness" look like for you?

How do you think it relates to praying for all people, especially those in authority?

v.8–10 In these verses, we see a picture of men and women who were allowing their own emotions and the trappings and values of the world to prevent them from truly worshipping. What might keep you from worshipping fully? Is it pride, fear, distraction, social standing, etc.?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- Spend time as a group lifting up others in prayer.
  - Pray that your families and friends would experience Jesus' love deeply this week.
  - Pray that we at Grace Chapel would be unified and seeking the Holy Sprit together.
  - Pray that the people in your workplace would get a glimpse of Jesus' love and grace through you this week.
  - Pray that those in political authority would be filled with God's wisdom as they lead.
  - Finally, who is one person in your life you would love to see come to know Jesus personally? Pray for them!

- Sometimes it's even fun to pray with specific goals or timelines. For instance, I am praying for a certain friend to make a concrete decision to follow Jesus before the New Year.

“Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh,
was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world,
was taken up in glory.”

– 1 Timothy 3:16

1 Timothy Chapter 3

What did the Holy Spirit highlight to you in reading through Chapter 3?

v.1 "...whoever aspires to be an overseer…." It is right for us to aspire to new realities in our relationship with God and within His church. What are you aspiring to in your walk with Jesus? Right now, what is the next thing God has invited you to pursue with Him?

v.4,12 What do you think "managing your household well" looks like?

v.2–13 Whether you aspire to be an overseer, a deacon, or neither, how do you think the list of qualifications applies to your life? Read the following list from these verses and ask God to show you any areas of your life you need to realign with His heart and desire for you!

Above reproach	Able to teach	Worthy of respect
Faithful in your marriage	Not given to drunkenness	Sincere
Self-controlled	Not quarrelsome	Not pursuing dishonest gain
Respectable	Gentle	Not malicious talkers
Hospitable	Not a lover of money	Trustworthy

v.14–15 Paul tells us why he is writing this letter in these verses. The people of the church actually have a responsibility to know God's laws and hold their church to them! This means peers as well as leaders. How would you respond if a friend came to you with a gentle correction?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- The guidelines for church leadership are pretty clear and set pretty high expectations! Spend time praying for your leaders, that they would follow God's lead in humility.

- It is only the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit that allow us to walk in the way of Jesus in any of these areas! No person will do this perfectly, but let us pray for the strength and desire to pursue aligning our hearts and lives with Jesus and let us pray that over our leaders!



1 Timothy Chapter 4

v.1–5 The Bible says that the enemy "masquerades as an angel of light," often using Biblical words and sayings with a subtle twist of deception. What is something that you see in today's world that seems good, and even biblical, but the outcome doesn't match? (Think of seeing a mirage in the desert, only to find more sand.) Are you aware of demonic influences around you? If so, what influences do you believe you see? How do we diminish them with truth?

Asceticism is the practice of forgoing or abstaining from certain pleasures of life with the intention of attaining or increasing in righteousness. There were some sects of Judaism in the first century that pushed strict ascetic disciplines, like forbidding marriage and forced abstinence from certain foods. This is one example of the differing doctrines of that day. What might be some of the differing doctrines we hear in the world today, in some parts of the church? How do you handle hearing differing doctrine from teachers and influential leaders of today? Are you able to see through the insincerity of the liars and their demonic teachings, and instead defend the gospel of grace scripturally? To what or whom do you turn for help with discerning the doctrines and issues of today's culture?

Paul writes that bodily training is of some value, but godliness is of value in every way. A few verses earlier, he mentions that abstinence from foods and marriage are being taught (bodily training) but corrects them, saying that anything received with prayer and thanksgiving (godliness) is made holy. What does this contrast teach us about God's desire for us? What is an area of your life that you may be focusing on a change in actions more than a change of heart?

v.7–8 How do you personally train yourself for godliness? Are you spending as much time training yourself for godliness as you do physically training your body?

v.12–16 Read through these verses. What do they describe as the outward manifestations of a deep inner life with Jesus, no matter your age?!

v.14 Every believer has been entrusted with a spiritual gift. Our spiritual gifts often combine our heart, abilities, passions, and experiences. Have you identified and specifically used your spiritual gifts? In what ways are you using them? Is there a spiritual gift that needs to be rekindled? (2 Timothy 1:6). What might be holding you back from putting your spiritual gifts into practice?

Prayer/Prophetic:
God, we ask You for an extra measure of discernment. Would You help us see with Your eyes and hear with Your ears? May we be so immersed in Scripture that motives, thoughts, and attitudes of those of this world are easy to discern. Show me the gifts that You have given me and how You want me to use them to bring You glory! Help me to love people well while also not being swayed from the truth of You! God, please give us the strength to persevere as it says in verse 16, in order that, by persevering, others would see glimpses of You! Amen.

Descriptive vs Prescriptive

When studying the Bible, it is important to determine whether the verse or passage at hand is descriptive or prescriptive. The difference is this: a passage is descriptive if it is simply describing something that happened, while a passage is prescriptive if it is specifically teaching that something should happen.

Simply put, is it a description or a command? Is the passage describing something (it happened) or is it prescribing something (it should happen)? The difference is important. When a biblical passage is only describing something but is interpreted as prescribing something, it can lead to errant thinking and behavior.

How do we determine which passages are prescriptive and which are descriptive?

We should ask this question: what would this have meant to the people who first heard or read it? The closer we get to that answer, the closer we get to how it applies to us today. We want to know who was writing this passage, to whom, why, in what genre, and when. We believe the more we know about the culture of the day, the more we can understand the core principle the biblical writer was addressing.

Even with these tools, it's important to approach the Scriptures with humility while relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance. Ultimately, the goal for correct Bible interpretation is to have a deep fellowship and knowledge of God through His word.

1 Timothy Chapter 5

v.1 What is Paul saying about how we treat others? When he references treating others as if they are family—father, mother, brother, sister—we must remember that he is referencing the ideals of family relationships rather than encouraging us to draw on our own experiences.

How do you treat those in other generations? Do you have patience and communicate with kindness? Do you exhort with love, or do you shame harshly? Do you avoid them? Do you invite them in and ask questions to get to know them and hear their hearts?

Ask God to put someone on your heart who needs to be invited and invested in, someone you might not normally reach out to and ask for a coffee date. Make a plan to reach out to them this week!

What kind of family legacy do you want to leave in relation to caring for one another? You get to continue writing—or rewriting—your family's legacy!

v.3–16 Generally speaking, how do you think the church and families are currently doing in caring for their elderly relatives, particularly widows? Where could we improve in our society?

Personally, what do your family relationships look like? Is there anyone in your own family you need to ask God if there is something He is asking of you in caring for that person?

v.17–20 How have you seen church government (particularly eldership) done well? How have you seen it done poorly? How could you encourage your elders, those who preach and teach, this week?

v.18 Paul uses two different sayings that essentially mean the same thing, but the first is from Deuteronomy 25:4 and the second is from Luke 10:7. Using the Old Testament and Jesus' teachings helped validate his point from a traditional Jewish context as well as the current times, which were intertwined with Roman rule. How can we be better at sharing our faith, which has been around for millennia, in these modern times? In what ways are you intentional to be "in the world but not of the world" (John 17:15–16)?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- Pray for the desire, willingness, creativity, and strength to truly live your life the way Paul is describing. God, help us be people who care so beautifully for one another that our actions shout the wonderful truth of the gospel. Help us be willing and helpful representatives of You!

- 1 Timothy addresses multiple issues for which we need to ask the question, "Is this prescriptive or is this descriptive?" If these issues are descriptive, what does that mean for us? Can we just ignore them? How do they impact our lives today?

- We have heard Mike talk about the slow drift we may experience as believers. That slow drift may not just be a personal drift away from alignment with God, but it can also address the slow drift of the ideologies, philosophies, values, etc. of the world drifting into our churches.

- The men and women of Ephesus were being influenced and infiltrated with ideas and habits that did not align with Jesus. What worldly influences are creeping into our churches today?



A quick note

A surface-level reading of 1 Timothy 2:8-15 suggests that women, in general, ought to dress modestly, learn in quietness and full submission, and refrain from teaching and assuming authority over men.

We see that Paul has given Timothy a command to root out false teachers who are causing problems in the church. We don't know much about these false teachings, other than that they involved "myths and genealogies" likely imported from local pagan religions.

Paul is not writing a general, universal treatise on women in the church.

Rather, he is giving particular, context-based instructions to the women in Ephesus (the location of Timothy's church) in order to address a larger issue (or set of issues). That larger issue is his main concern and purpose for writing. The immediate context for Paul's instructions involves two important details: (1) the presence of false teaching (and false teachers) in the church, leading to (2) problems arising in the church's worship gathering leading to division and other harmful consequences.

It is probably no coincidence that the one passage in the Bible prohibiting women from teaching Scripture appears in the one set of letters where we explicitly know that false teachers were targeting and working through women.

The main problem is the false teaching, not the gender of the person doing the teaching. It is very likely that there were women in the Ephesian church who were voicing false teachings. They are being instructed to be quiet and listen to the authoritative teaching of the church and its gospel.

The women in Ephesus were being banned from teaching and leadership not because they were women, but because they were not ready, or adequately trained for the job.
Paul tells women to learn in quietness and full submission in the worship service, thus refraining from teaching. Elsewhere he expects that women will prophecy during worship—yet prophecy is vocal and includes a teaching component. How can a woman prophecy, and so edify others publicly, when she is also expected to remain quiet? This indicates that Paul's instructions are not universal and absolute, but contextual and time-bound.

It is important to interpret difficult texts, such as this one, in light of clearer texts, individual parts in light of clear patterns, developments, insights, and teachings that we observe from reading the entire Bible.

In conclusion, this passage is not a general ban prohibiting women from teaching and having authority in the church.

Paul is writing a letter to a particular congregation, in a particular place (Ephesus), at a particular time (the ancient world), and for a particular set of reasons (to address false teachings and harmful, worldly power dynamics taking place in the church).

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

– 1 Timothy 6:11-12

1 Timothy Chapter 6

v.18 Generosity and sharing isn't always easy but typically turns out to be life-giving. Name a time when you've shared or been generous and how that impacted you.

v.4 Where do your words lead? In your family, on social media, in the workplace, on the sidelines of the soccer/football/basketball games, do they result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction? Or do your words lead to life and peace? When do you struggle with this the most?

v.6–11 'We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing out.' What things do you give yourself credit for bringing into this world? Is it your bank account, your children, your success, your reputation?

Are you content with having food and clothing, or do you consistently find yourself craving more? How would you fill in this blank: I would be content with food, clothing, and _____.

From what things do you need to flee to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness?

v.12 What do you think Paul meant by the exhortation to "fight the good fight of the faith?" What does that concept mean to you or look like in your daily life?

v.17–19 Whether you feel like it or not, the United States is arguably the wealthiest nation to ever exist, which means you are rich! In closing, Paul commands that the rich, "Do good, be rich in good works, be generous and ready to share." The result? "If they do that, they will build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life" (6:19 MSG). Take a few moments to observe your habits surrounding your finances. Do you trust God with your provision? Are you actively being generous and doing good works with your resources? If not, why not?

Identify a small step you can take into deeper trust and dependence on God. For example, you could start tithing, support a missionary, sponsor a child, be generous to those around you, 'pay it forward' at your local church, coffee shop, etc. This is how you begin to build a better foundation for the future. Pray for bold obedience to walk in whatever you identified above as your small step.

Prayer/Prophetic:

- There is power in declaring the truths of who God is—anytime, anywhere! Pray this declaration of Paul's and release the magnificence of God into your lives and the lives of others:

"At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen." (v.15–16 NLT).



What can we learn from 2 Timothy today?

As Christians today, we can gain great encouragement and exhortation from Paul's final letter to Timothy. First and foremost, we can learn to expect suffering in the life of a Christian and to boldly persevere through it for the sake of the gospel. Paul starts his letter off by encouraging Timothy to lay aside all fear and timidity through the power of God's spirit (1:7). Paul also brings about multiple references to the daily need, doctrine, and purpose of Scripture in the life of a believer. We as believers must continue to learn, grow in, and believe the Scriptures that are "able to make you wise through faith in Christ Jesus" (3:15). Paul states here that "all scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (3:16). If we believe this verse to be true, then we must learn to come to Scripture ready to lay down our own ideas, opinions, perceptions, and filters. We must allow God's word to teach, rebuke, correct, and train us.

General Question:

Paul wrote 2 Timothy from prison, serving a sentence that he did not think he was going to survive. Living imprisoned in this time was extreme, and Paul was likely one of the lucky ones, since he was able to write letters and receive visitors. However, abuse, starvation, isolation, and violence were common. In such horrific circumstances, Paul wrote some of his most formational pastoral wisdom to his friend Timothy. When he was hungry, cold, and abandoned, he had the clarity to speak on strength and unity. When times are hard, how do we remain clear? When we are stuck in survival mode, how can we remember the big picture?

Have you ever had the experience of being in a hard struggle and yet having clarity and peace in the midst of it? What role did your community play in this? What role could it play?

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”

– 2 Timothy 1:7-8

2 Timothy Chapter 1

v.5 Paul was quick to point out to Timothy that he had some amazing mentors in his life, his mother and grandmother. Timothy grew up around Lois and Eunice, strong women with “a sincere faith” (v.5). Paul says he expects Timothy’s own faith is just as strong because of their leadership. Do you have strong women speaking into your life? Women with a sincere faith whose spiritual legacy you carry?

v.7 Paul declares that God has not given us a spirit of fear, “but one of power, love, and sound judgment.” With that in mind, are there any areas of your life where you might be operating from a place of fear or timidness rather than a place of power, love, and sound judgment? Does one of these three words—power, love, sound judgment/self-control—jump out as one you need in the season of life you're in right now?

v.9 Paul reminds us that we have been saved and called—not by anything we’ve done, but by God’s own purpose and grace revealed in Christ Jesus. Are there any parts of your faith life where you feel you may be functioning from a place of working for God rather than from a place of receiving grace from God? Why might that be?

v.11–12 What has following Jesus cost you? Do you fear rejection/opposition? Is it difficult to be a witness to your closest friends and family?

Paul's self-identification is always striking: above all, he identifies himself as "an apostle (meaning ‘sent one’) of Christ Jesus," and you can see how deeply he believes this by the way he lives his life! Do you ever think about yourself this way? Why or why not?

v.14 What do you think it looks like to "guard" that which has been entrusted to you?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- God, You have not given me a spirit of fear and yet I give in to fear so often. Help me to extend grace to myself in those moments I fall into fear. Give me the wisdom to invite You to replace that fear:
  - Replace it with power! Psalm 46:1–3; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Deuteronomy 3:22
  - Replace it with Your love! Perfect love casts out fear! 1 John 4:18; Romans 8:38–39
  - Replace it with sound judgment! Isaiah 41:10,13; Matthew 6:33–34; Proverbs 29:25



2 Timothy Chapter 2

Throughout Chapter 2, we are called to be able to correctly teach the word of truth (vs. 2,15) and instruct our opponents with gentleness (v.24–25). How important is it to you to know God's word so that you can correctly teach others? What hinders you from knowing and doing God's word? How does God move through you to instruct others with gentleness?

v.3–7 God doesn't want our short-term pains and gains on earth to distract us from His kingdom work and eternal rewards. How have you allowed your external trials to distract you from the race ahead?

v.8–10 Trials will come, and so will opportunities to share your faith through them. With whom are you praying you can share your faith? How can you begin the process of sharing your faith with them? Share a brief testimony of the last time you shared your faith with someone.

v.11–13 How do we reconcile within ourselves that on one hand, if we deny God, he will deny us, and also that, if we are faithless, God remains faithful?

v.16 Paul suggests that when we sin, it isn't merely something we do, but it actually changes us and makes us more "ungodly." How might this impact the way we think about disobedience to God?

v.22 Paul says that a life of following Jesus involves both a FLEEING FROM evil things and a PURSUING OF godly things. Which do you find to be more challenging?

v.22–25 Can you think of any conversations where it was easy to fall into a "quarrel" or as The Message interpretation puts it, "inane discussion," that resulted in needless arguments or fights, even if your intent was to share the gospel? How might that conversation have looked differently if we had heeded Paul's words to "be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful"?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- Take a moment and practice sharing your Jesus story. If the opportunity arose to share your faith, do you have a few key moments ready in your mind? 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Ideas to help you get started:

Before/After: What was your life like before meeting Jesus? How did it change afterwards?
People: Were there key people who impacted your life for Jesus? Was there someone who invited you to know Jesus?
What do you love? What gets you excited about your life with Jesus?
Moments: When did you realize you needed Jesus?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy Chapter 3

v.1–5 The temptation when reading the first five verses of Chapter 3 is to immediately start thinking of everyone else who we think is like Paul mentioned. Instead, let's take a moment to ask ourselves if any of the things Paul lists may be something we ourselves still need to improve upon.

After listing these sins, Paul instructs his readers to have nothing to do with these types of people. How does this fit alongside the call to love our neighbors and make disciples of all nations?

Is there a friendship or environment rife with these sins that keeps you from being your best for Christ? What can you do to remove that hindrance?

v.1–9 Teachers and knowledge were highly esteemed and regarded at the time 2 Timothy was written. In verses 1–9, Paul warns against some pretty charismatic-sounding teachers making their way through the area; maybe they were even charming. That sounds a little bit like today!

We care a lot about knowledge but only hear it from those who are charismatic and even charming. How do we discern the message from the presentation? How do we remove the allure of pretty packaging to see if the gift inside is a lie or truth?

v.5 How are you making sure not to slip into a practice of holding onto a form of godliness while denying His power? How do we avoid becoming good learners but never actually coming to the knowledge of the truth about Jesus? How do we experience the truth of Jesus and then express it in our lives? His power undergirds the experience and fuels the expression!

v.10–12 Truth can often have consequences. Generally, we don't like consequences and avoid pain at all cost. However, Jesus never promised us that following Him would be pain-free. Paul is a prime example of that. When following truth, proclaiming truth, and living out truth is unpopular, pain can follow (v.12). When you enter a situation, conversation, or relationship where truth is needed, but you know it will be painful, how do you proceed? Do you speak the truth or shy away? How can we arm ourselves with truth in a way that allows us to enter those spaces with confidence?

In times of persecution, what themes of Scripture do you find encouraging and helpful? In what way have you been persecuted for your faith? How did you respond?

v.17 Paul says that God's word equips us for every good work (v.17) – how have you seen this to be true in your own life?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- God, would You give us the courage to step into hard situations carrying Your truth? Give us perseverance in the face of persecution, and discernment to know what is of you and who is from you. God, may your Word equip us and embolden us as we walk in Your ways! Amen!



2 Timothy Chapter 4

v.2 Paul urges us to be “ready in season and out of season.” He wants us to be able to explain the truths in God’s word to others at any point in time, in any season. How will you strive to fill your life with God’s word and the Holy Spirit? Can you give an effective answer that clarifies what you believe and why you believe it? What can you do to develop a strong offense without being offensive? In what areas of your life do you have to contend for the faith?

‘Preaching the word’ doesn’t have to look like a pastor’s message from a stage on Sunday morning. It can happen in simple conversations, by actions, and through service. In what ways might you be able to present the gospel to people within your work and family who don’t know Jesus? How can you better prepare yourself for those moments, whether “in or out of season,” as Paul mentions?

In season / Out of season: Out of season means whether it is a good time or not—convenient or inconvenient, you must be ready whenever and wherever!

v.2–5 Paul urges Timothy to stay the course of his ministry, even when the whole world seems to change around him. Remaining faithful to the message is following in the ways of Christ, hearkening back to an earlier verse in this book (2:13). To be a follower of Jesus, we must stay the course, no matter what the enemy or the world throws at us. How do we do that? What tools can we add to our toolbox to help us remain faithful to the message of truth, when all other messages seem to change?

It is so easy to hear descriptions of people "only hearing what they want to hear" (v.4) and think of others, but take a moment and consider this: are there false teachers/teachings/worldviews that you find yourself tempted to buy into and believe?

v.7 Paul's words about having “fought the good fight and finished the race” well are inspiring! They remind us of his exhortation in 1 Timothy 6:12, ‘Fight the good fight….’ When you think about your own life and how much time the Lord might have left for you on Earth, what types of things do you need or want to make an effort to do in order to be able to, at the end of your life, say what Paul said?

Prayer/Prophetic:

- Pray that we would be ready, discerning, and steadfast.

- Pray that we would fight the good fight, finish the race set before us, not for the crown or reward at the finish line, but for the joy of Jesus, of walking with Him, and representing Him on this Earth, filled with the Holy Spirit, carrying truth that leads to life!

What chapter in this study spoke the most to you?

What section in this study spoke the most to you?

What verse in this study spoke the most to you?




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