

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

Today Pastor Don finishes our series in 2 Timothy by walking us through Paul's final words to his pastoral apprentice Timothy. At this point in Paul's life it has become obvious that, unless God provides a miraculous deliverance, his release from prison will come at the cost of his life - and Paul was in fact later put to death by the sword after a quick trial before the Roman Emperor. What we find in today's passage, then, are the last words of a man who wants to do his best to help Timothy carry on the message of Jesus' ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection. To get your group started today, let everyone tell of a time when they had to hand off an important job to someone else - what were the circumstances, how did you prepare for the transition, and what ended up happening?

BIG THOUGHT

No matter what happens in the world around us, God wants us to remain focused on Him and obedient as we partner with His work in the lives of the people around us.

1. Read 2 Timothy 4:1. Who does Paul name as witnesses to the responsibility he's passing on to Timothy? What does this tell us about Jesus' divine nature? And what tasks does Paul say are given to Jesus? How does this thought connect to Philippians 2:9-11?
2. Now read v. 2. What does Paul list as Timothy's responsibilities? What do you think he means when he says to persist in proclaiming the message about God whether it's "convenient or not"? (see 2 Timothy 3:1-5) Do you think it's always convenient in our culture to talk about Jesus? Explain.

3. Read v. 3-4. How do you think this shows up today? What do you think classifies as unsound or incorrect teachings about Jesus? How do you personally decide what's valid and what's not? And what spiritual "myths" do you think people follow today? (v. 4)
4. Now read v. 5. What does Paul see as four ways Timothy (and us, too) can stand firm against the pressure of false teachings about Jesus? Which one of these is the easiest for you? Which one of these is the most difficult?
5. Read verses 6-8. Here Paul tells Timothy explicitly what he expects to be the outcome of his upcoming trial (see Numbers 28:4-7 for the daily sacrifice to which Paul is referring). How does he assess his faithfulness up to this point? (v. 7) To what is he looking forward? Who also will receive the same reward? (v. 8) How can the reality of knowing we will meet Jesus inspire us to "fight the good fight" in our obedience to Him today?

Take it Further

Talk with God, and thank Him that He wants to partner with you to accomplish His purposes in the world. Then ask for His strength to help you keep focused on Him (a clear mind), persevering (in hard times), open about your faith (telling others), and obedient (fulfilling His calling on your life).

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: 1 Timothy 6:12

Day 2: James 1:12

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 9:24

Day 4: 2 Timothy 2:3-5

Day 5: Joshua 1:9

Day 6: Ephesians 6:10-18

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:5



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