

1 & 2 TIMOTHY



PURSUING GODLINESS

**"GODLINESS IS SATISFACTION WITH GOD ALONE,
BUT NEVER SATISFIED WITH OUR PRESENT
EXPERIENCE OF GOD. GODLINESS IS ALWAYS
YEARNING FOR MORE."**

JERRY BRIDGES, THE PRACTICE OF GODLINESS

**"HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GRANTED TO US ALL THINGS
THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH
THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM WHO CALLED US TO HIS
OWN GLORY AND EXCELLENCE."**

2 PETER 1:3



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GET A RUNNING START

Each lesson in our study begins by asking you to meditate on the passage of Scripture you are studying that week. But what does it mean to meditate on Scripture? How do you make observations about a passage in the Bible? And why is this an important place to start your study of God's Word?

MAKING OBSERVATIONS IN SCRIPTURE

Being an observer of God's Word is no different than sitting on a bench at a busy park and noticing all the people there. Who are they? What are they doing? Who is with them? How are they relating to one another? Why are they there? When you take time to look and listen, there are so many things you can observe. The same is true of God's Word.

Observation is the act and art of noticing details. In its simplest form, it's asking these seven basic questions: who, what, when, where, why, how and wherefore? And with that initial understanding, we can be effective observers of God's Word if we are patient and disciplined to do so. If you are in a hurry or are just trying to complete a lesson you will miss out on seeing exciting details in God's message to you. Stop, slow down and see what isn't obvious to the casual reader. Make observation of God's Word a habit you enjoy.

MEDITATING ON A BIBLE PASSAGE

Meditation is the act of pondering or thinking deeply. In the case of a believer, it's reflecting on the meaning, implication and application of a particular Bible passage. It provides the foundation for study by allowing God to reveal key verses, repeated words, phrases or ideas that point us to the message He has for us. Meditation comes naturally for some and is more difficult for others; but we are all called to meditate on God's Word often.

The challenges we face today are the many distractions and stresses in our daily lives. In order to effectively meditate on God's Word, we need the Holy Spirit's help in allowing us to block out worldly cares and to focus solely on His Word and its implications for our lives. Think of meditation as the quieting of your life to listen to God's voice. You may need a special place in your home that is away from others, or a particular time of day when no one else needs your attention. Either way, meditation doesn't just happen because we want it to. Just like effective observation, it must be intentional. Make meditation a priority and see what God can do in your life as you allow His word to sink into the very fibers of your soul.

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-20

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, **4** nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. **5** The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. **6** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, **7** desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, **9** understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, **10** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, **11** in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

DEVOTION • 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-20

1. Meditate on 1 Timothy 1:1-20. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What verses, repeated words, phrases and key points stand out to you?
2. Define devotion. Why is devotion to God vital for godliness? (See also Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 9:23, 16:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20.)
3. What do you learn about Paul and Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-16? (See also Philippians 2:19-22; 2 Timothy 1:5.) How do their lives demonstrate their devotion to God?
4. According to 1 Timothy 1:3-4, what charge did Paul give Timothy? How is this charge important to Christ followers, and to you personally? (See also Galatians 1:6; Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 6:3-5.)
5. What is at the heart of Paul's charge in 1 Timothy 1:5? What should this charge look like in your life? (See also Romans 12:9; Galatians 5:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:22-23; 1 Peter 3:13-16.)

- 6.** In what ways does straying from sound doctrine affect Christ followers and the church? How does the truth of the gospel presented in 1 Timothy 1:11-16 encourage and challenge you?

- 7.** What is the connection between sound doctrine and godliness? (See also Romans 12:2; Hebrews 4:12.) How do you discern truth, and what impact does it have on your life?

- 8.** How does the glory of God, as described in 1 Timothy 1:17, lead us to worship Him? (See also 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 29:2; Jude 24-25.)

- 9.** Why is it important to be prepared to defend the gospel according to 1 Timothy 1:18-20? (See also 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-12; 1 Peter 3:15.)

- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3:16

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

3 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above

reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. ¹⁶ Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

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

PSALM 26

- 26** Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without
wavering.
- ² Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.
- ⁴ I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- ⁵ I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O Lord,
⁷ proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ O Lord, I love the habitation of your house
and the place where your glory dwells.
- ⁹ Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,
¹⁰ in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- ¹¹ But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- ¹² My foot stands on level ground;
in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

INTEGRITY • 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3:16

1. Meditate on 1 Timothy 2:1-3:16. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What verses, repeated words, phrases and key points stand out to you?
2. Define integrity. Why is integrity in a Christ follower vital for godliness? (See Job 2:3; Psalm 26; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:17.)
3. According to 1 Timothy 2:1-4, what is Paul urging believers to do and why? For whom are we called to pray, and how does this encourage or challenge you? (See also Matthew 5:44; Romans 13:1; Ephesians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:10.)
4. What does 1 Timothy 2:3-6 teach you about God and Christ? How does knowing that God desires all to be saved motivate you? (See also Ezekiel 18:23; John 3:16-17; 14:6; Romans 10:12-13; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Peter 3:9.)
5. How do men and women demonstrate godliness according to 1 Timothy 2:8-15? What do you need to change outwardly to be a reflection of inward devotion to God? (See also Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 2:1-8; 1 Peter 5:5.)

- 6.** Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. What are the qualifications for church leaders? What is the importance of godliness for church leadership? In what ways will you pray for the leaders of your church?

- 7.** Which of these leadership qualities do you personally wrestle with the most, and how can our group pray for you?

- 8.** How is the church described in 1 Timothy 3:15? Why is it important for a Christ follower to have integrity? (See also John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 2:19-22.)

- 9.** Who is the mystery of godliness, and how is he described in 1 Timothy 3:16? (See also Luke 2:12-14; John 1:14; Acts 1:2; Philippians 2:6-11.)

- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

DISCIPLINE • 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16

1. Meditate on 1 Timothy 4:1-16. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What verses, repeated words, phrases and key points stand out to you?
2. Define discipline. Why is discipline in the life of a Christ follower vital for godliness? (See 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Titus 2:11-14.)
3. What do Paul's strong words in 1 Timothy 4:1-5 regarding the end times and false teaching reveal about the importance of truth? Where do we learn truth? (See also Psalm 86:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 20:29-30; Ephesians 4:20-21.)
4. According to 1 Timothy 4:3-8, how do Christ followers keep themselves from being deceived? (See also Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 5:14.) What lies have you believed and attempted to justify?
5. According to 1 Timothy 4:7-10, what is the value of godliness, and how does spiritual discipline help train us for godliness?

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

5 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,² older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

³ Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵ She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶ but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹ Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband,¹⁰ and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹ But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry¹² and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. ¹³ Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. ¹⁴ So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. ¹⁵ For some have already strayed after Satan. ¹⁶ If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” ¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. ²¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. ²³ (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ²⁴ The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵ So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

6 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. ² Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

- d. How are widows to be treated and why? What are some specific ways you could offer assistance? (See also Acts 6:1; James 1:27.)
- 5.** In Paul's words in 1 Timothy 5:17-18, how do believers show respect to church elders?
- 6.** To maintain the integrity of the office of elder and the congregation, what steps should be taken according to 1 Timothy 5:19-25? (See also Deuteronomy 19:15.)
- 7.** How are Paul's words in 1 Timothy 6:1-2 relevant to employers and employees today and why? (See also Ephesians 6:5-9; Titus 2:9-10.)
- 8.** What are the ultimate goals for being respectful to those we serve at church, in our workplace, in our homes, and in the community? (See Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:5-7; Colossians 3:17, 23.) How can you apply this to your own life? (See also 1 Thessalonians 5:11.)
- 9.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?

1 TIMOTHY 6:3-21

3 Teach and urge these things. ³ If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁰ O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

Grace be with you.



CONTENTMENT • 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-21

1. Meditate on 1 Timothy 6:3-21. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What verses, repeated words, phrases and key points stand out to you?
2. Define contentment. Why is contentment in Christ vital for godliness? (See Psalm 63:3-5; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 13:5.)
3. How does Paul identify false teachers as characterized in 1 Timothy 6:3-5 and Titus 1:13-16? What was their motivation? (See also Acts 20:30; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Peter 2:3.)
4. How are Christ followers able to recognize false teachers? (See also Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 17:10-11; 1 John 4:1-3.)
5. What does Paul teach about contentment in 1 Timothy 6:6-8? (See also Job 1:21; Proverbs 30:8.)

- 6.** How does 1 Timothy 6:9-10 describe a threat or hindrance to contentment? How do worldly pursuits affect your contentment? (See also Proverbs 15:27; 23:4; Luke 12:15.)

- 7.** What did Paul instruct Timothy to do in 1 Timothy 6:11-14? How do these charges help believers live contented lives? (See also Psalm 34:14; Philippians 3:8-12.)

- 8.** How is God described in 1 Timothy 6:15-16? What is one aspect of God's nature described in these verses that is especially significant to you and why?

- 9.** According to 1 Timothy 6:17-19, what charge was Timothy given regarding rich believers and why? (See also Proverbs 3:9; Matthew 6:19-21.)

- 10.** What is the significance of Paul's final words to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:20-21? (See also Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 1:18-19.)

- 11.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, **9** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, **10** and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, **11** for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, **12** which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. **13** Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

¹⁵ You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷ but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸ may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

COURAGE • 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18

1. Meditate on 2 Timothy 1:1-18. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What verses, repeated words, phrases and key points stand out to you?
2. Define Courage. Why is courage through Christ vital for godliness? (See Joshua 1:9; Psalm 27:14; Proverbs 3:5-6; 28:1; Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:10.)
3. What do you learn about Paul and Timothy from 2 Timothy 1:1-5? Who has played an active role in your relationship with Christ? Where is God asking you to model the same?
4. According to 2 Timothy 1:6-7, in what ways did Paul encourage Timothy and why? In what ways do you need to be courageous? (See also Deuteronomy 31:6; John 14:27; Ephesians 3:20.)
5. What does Paul say about the gospel in 2 Timothy 1:8-10 and Titus 3:4-7? What keeps you from sharing the gospel, and where do you need to trust God? (See also Romans 1:16.)

- 6.** What did Paul know and believe about God that encouraged and equipped him for his calling as stated in 2 Timothy 1:1-12? (See also Romans 8:37-39; Philippians 1:12-14, 21; James 1:2-4.)

- 7.** According to 2 Timothy 1:13-14, how is Paul an example to follow, and how does this motivate you? (See also John 14:26; 16:14; 1 Corinthians 11:1.)

- 8.** In the age of information overload and competing voices, how can you hold fast to sound teaching that accords with godliness? (See Acts 17:11; Romans 12:2-4; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:6-8.)

- 9.** According to 2 Timothy 1:15-18, what had happened to Paul? How are the men mentioned in these verses examples of courage or lack thereof? (See also Proverbs 17:17.)

- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-26

2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:

- If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
- ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
- ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. ¹⁹ But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

- 6.** What encourages or challenges you in 2 Timothy 2:11-13? (See also Matthew 10:33; Romans 8:17, 38; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:13.)

- 7.** What commands and warnings does Paul give in 2 Timothy 2:14-18? What are you doing to know and rightly handle the word of God? (See also John 14:15; Titus 2:1.) How does “irreverent babble” affect the body of Christ? (See also Psalm 37:30; Isaiah 5:24; Romans 3:12-14.)

- 8.** What does 2 Timothy 2:19 say about God’s firm foundation? (See also John 10:27-28; 1 Timothy 3:15.)

- 9.** According to 2 Timothy 2:20-26, what characteristics of godliness are essential for diligently serving the Lord? How do these verses convict, challenge or comfort you?

- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-4:22

3 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.
² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹ But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

4 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people

will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹² Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.

²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

FAITHFULNESS • 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-4:22

1. Meditate on 2 Timothy 3:1-4:22. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What verses, repeated words, phrases and key points stand out to you?
2. Define faithfulness. Why is faithfulness to Christ vital for godliness? (See 1 Samuel 12:24; Daniel 6:4; Matthew 25:14-21; Galatians 5:22-23.)
3. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 describes what the last days will look like. Write down an opposite characteristic of godliness for each sin listed. How can practicing these godly attributes help Christ followers remain faithful? (See also 2 Timothy 2:22-26; John 15:4-5.)
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:5-9. What does the “appearance of godliness” look like today? How can you avoid getting caught up in our current culture and faithfully reflect Christ in dark places? (See also Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 8:7; 1 Corinthians 2:14.)
5. According 2 Timothy 3:10-15, in what ways does Scripture give hope when evil appears to be winning? (See also Psalm 34:19; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 5:2-5; 2 Corinthians 4:17.)

- 6.** According to 2 Timothy 3:14-17, what is the purpose of Scripture? How does remembering what you have been taught help you demonstrate faithfulness to an unbelieving world? (See also 1 Corinthians 1:4-7; Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Peter 4:10-11.)

- 7.** Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8. In light of Christ's second coming, how does Paul's charge to Timothy to remain faithful encourage you to finish well? (See also Acts 20:24; Titus 2:11-14.)

- 8.** What examples of faithfulness and unfaithfulness given in 2 Timothy 4:9-15 are a warning and/or encouragement to you and why? (See also Psalm 27:10; Hebrews 12:3.)

- 9.** According to 2 Timothy 4:17-18, to whom does Paul give all the glory, and why is this important for a Christ follower? (See also Isaiah 42:8; John 15:8; Philippians 1:21.) How does our faithfulness to the Lord bring him glory?

- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?



**"THE ROOT OF GODLINESS IS GRACE.
THE PATTERN OF GODLINESS IS THE LORD JESUS.
THE AUTHOR OF GODLINESS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.
THE DESIGN OF GODLINESS IS THE DIVINE GLORY."**

JAMES SMITH, THE POWER OF GODLINESS (1859)

**"PHYSICAL TRAINING IS OF SOME VALUE, BUT
GODLINESS HAS VALUE FOR ALL THINGS, HOLDING
PROMISE FOR BOTH THE PRESENT LIFE AND THE
LIFE TO COME."**

1 TIMOTHY 4:8



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