To Be Found Faithful

Making the Choice to Live Faithfully to Your God

(A Study of 2nd Timothy)

Melanie Newton
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Melanie Newton is a Louisiana girl who made the choice to follow Jesus while attending LSU. She and her husband Ron married and moved to Texas for him to attend Dallas Theological Seminary. They stayed in Texas where Ron led a wilderness camping ministry for troubled youth for many years. Ron now helps corporations with their challenging employees and is the author of the top-rated business book, No Jerks on the Job.

Melanie jumped into raising three Texas-born children and serving in ministry to women at her church. Through the years, the Lord has given her opportunity to do Bible teaching and to write grace-based Bible studies for women that are now available from her website (melanienewton.com) and on Bible.org. Graceful Beginnings books are for anyone new to the Bible. Joyful Walk Bible Studies are for maturing Christians.

Melanie is currently a disciplermaking trainer with Joyful Walk Ministries. She equips and encourages Christian women everywhere to pursue a lifestyle of disciplermaking. Her heart’s desire is to encourage you to have a joyful relationship with Jesus Christ so you are willing to share that experience with others around you.

“Jesus took hold of me in 1972, and I've been on this great adventure ever since. My life is a gift of God, full of blessings in the midst of difficult challenges. The more I’ve learned and experienced God’s absolutely amazing grace, the more I’ve discovered my faith walk to be a joyful one. I’m still seeking that joyful walk every day…”

Melanie
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Using This Study Guide

This study guide consists of 9 lessons covering the last letter in our New Testament written by the Apostle Paul—2nd Timothy. If you cannot do the entire lesson one week, please read the Bible passage covered by the lesson.

THE BASIC STUDY

Each lesson includes core questions covering the passage narrative. These core questions will take you through the process of inductive Bible study—observation, interpretation, and application. The process is more easily understood in the context of answering these questions:

- What does the passage say? (Observation: what’s actually there)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation: the author’s intended meaning)
- How does this apply to me today? (Application: making it personal)

Questions identified as “To Live Faithfully” lead you to introspection and application of truth to your life.

STUDY ENHANCEMENTS

Study Aids: To aid in proper interpretation and application of the study, five additional study aids are located where appropriate in the lesson:

- Historical Insights
- Scriptural Insights
- From the Greek (definitions of Greek words)
- Focus on the Meaning
- Think About It (thoughtful reflection)

NEW TESTAMENT SUMMARY

The New Testament opens with the births of John and Jesus. About 30 years later, John challenged the Jews to indicate their repentance (turning from sin and toward God) by submitting to water baptism—a familiar Old Testament practice used for repentance as well as when a Gentile converted to Judaism (to be washed clean of idolatry).

Jesus, God’s incarnate Son, publicly showed the world what God is like and taught His perfect ways for 3 – 3½ years. After preparing 12 disciples to continue Christ's earthly work, He died voluntarily on a cross for mankind's sin, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven. The account of His earthly life is recorded in 4 books known as the Gospels (the biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John named after the compiler of each account).

After Jesus’ return to heaven, the followers of Christ were then empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread God's salvation message among the Jews, a number of whom believed in Christ. The apostle Paul and others carried the good news to the Gentiles during 3 missionary journeys (much of this recorded in the book of Acts). Paul wrote 13 New Testament letters to churches & individuals (Romans through Philemon). The section in our Bible from Hebrews to Jude contains 8 additional letters penned by five men, including two apostles (Peter and John) and two of Jesus’ half-brothers (James and Jude). The author of Hebrews is unknown. The apostle John also recorded Revelation, which summarizes God's final program for the world. The Bible ends as it began—with a new, sinless creation.
DISCUSSION GROUP GUIDELINES

1. **Attend consistently** whether your lesson is done or not. You’ll learn from the other women, and they want to get to know you.

2. **Set aside time** to work through the study questions. The goal of Bible study is to **get to know** Jesus. He will change your life.

3. **Share your insights** from your personal study time. As you spend time in the Bible, Jesus will teach you truth through His Spirit inside you.

4. **Respect each other’s insights.** Listen thoughtfully. Encourage each other as you interact. Refrain from dominating the discussion if you have a tendency to be talkative.

5. **Celebrate our unity** in Christ. Avoid bringing up controversial subjects such as politics, divisive issues, and denominational differences.

6. **Maintain confidentiality.** Remember that anything shared during the group time is not to leave the group (unless permission is granted by the one sharing).

7. **Pray for one another** as sisters in Christ.

8. **Get to know the women** in your group. Please do not use your small group members for solicitation purposes for home businesses, though.

PASTORAL LETTERS

Paul’s three letters—1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy and Titus—are called “pastoral epistles” because for the most part they are Paul’s counsel to his assistants who served in the pastoral or shepherd-like function of the local churches, particularly in the regions of Ephesus and Crete. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus and Titus on the island of Crete to continue the work of teaching the truth and resisting error creeping into the young churches there. These letters we have in our Bible were written to encourage the younger pastors, reminding them to teach and train others to be faithful to the true Gospel.

Because of the corruption, idolatry and heathen worship predominant in these areas, Timothy and Titus are being reminded and encouraged by Paul to teach and train others to be faithful to the true Gospel.

The three letters address the issues facing local churches just like the one you are attending now—issues faced by the pastoral leaders as well as the members. Four major themes are woven throughout Paul’s instruction to Timothy and Titus.

1) Teach and maintain truth and sound doctrine - guard against/avoid error

2) Importance of identifying leadership who will faithfully teach truth

3) Concern for the reputation of the church, “…so that God may not be dishonored”

4) Do good deeds demonstrating what you believe

These themes are especially evident in 1 Timothy and Titus, but you will see glimpses of them in 2 Timothy as well. The Joyful Walk Bible Study, *Adorn Yourself with Godliness*, covers 1 Timothy and Titus. This study, *To Be Found Faithful*, covers only 2 Timothy.
To Be Found Faithful

Jesus told a parable to His disciples in Matthew 25. A man entrusts some treasure to his servants while he goes away. When he comes back, he evaluates how faithful the servants were with the treasure. The master’s response to the two faithful servants is no doubt familiar to you,

“Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.” (Matthew 25:23)

Paul considered the task of spreading and preserving the gospel message a treasure entrusted to him by the Lord Jesus. While a prisoner in a Roman dungeon (~AD 67), Paul reflects on his life, which he viewed as a sacrifice to God. Paul knew he would be executed soon. The time for his departure had come. He could confidently say he had been faithful to God and what God asked Paul to do with his life. Thus, Paul could face death calmly, knowing that he would be rewarded by His Lord Jesus Christ.

“For I am already being poured out as an offering, and the time for me to depart is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith! Finally, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will award it to me in that day – and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:6-8

The definition of faithful is “unwavering in belief, consistently loyal.” We all want those closest to us—mate, family members, friends, co-workers—to remain faithful to us. What security we feel when we know their loyalty is consistent and unwavering! Faithfulness is an important character quality.

Our God is a faithful God. He is consistently loyal to those whom He loves and who place their trust in Him. God desires that we also be faithful to Him—to be unwavering in belief and consistently loyal to Him—throughout our spiritual walk. And, our God is the One Who protects and preserves that which He has entrusted to us—He enables us to live faithfully as we choose to do so.

Will you make the choice to live faithfully to your God every day?
Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy


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

To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 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. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

So, do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Here is a trustworthy saying:
If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

In a large house, there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.
They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
Lesson 1: Introduction

Historical Perspective

The Great Fire in Rome occurred in 64 A.D. Though an inhuman brute, Nero was a great builder. It is thought that Nero himself set fire to the city in order to build a new and grander Rome. The people suspected him, and historians have commonly regarded it as a fact that he was the perpetrator of the crime. In order to divert suspicion from himself, he accused the Christians of burning Rome.

Nero’s persecution of Christians is the direct background of 2 Timothy. This persecution brought Paul to his martyrdom and, possibly, Peter as well. Our source of information is the Roman historian Tacitus who knew that the Christians did not burn Rome. But somebody had to be made the scapegoat for the Emperor’s crime. Here was a new and despised sect of people, mostly from the humbler walks of life, without prestige or influence, many of them slaves. Nero accused them of burning Rome and ordered their punishment.

In and around Rome, multitudes of Christians were arrested and put to death in the cruelest ways. Some were crucified; others were tied in skins of animals and thrown into the arena to dogs for the entertainment of the people. Many were tied to the stakes in Nero’s gardens, with pitch poured over their bodies, and set afire as human torches to light Nero’s gardens at night, while he drove around in his chariot, gloating over the agonies of his victims.

It was in the wake of this persecution that Paul was once again arrested and brought back to Rome as a criminal, by the agents of Rome, not on some technical violation of Jewish law as before (when arrested by the Jews). We do not know specifically of what crime he was accused, but he was looked at as the leader of the people being punished for burning Rome. Whatever the crime was, his trial had proceeded far enough that he knew there was no hope of escape. While waiting in the Roman dungeon for the “time of his departure,” he wrote this last letter to Timothy, his “beloved son” and co-worker. Paul’s words were meant to encourage Timothy to be faithful, in spite of everything, as a minister of Christ and to hurry on to Rome before winter.

In that dark hour, is one of the most touching passages of Scripture. Paul would be executed for a crime of which he was not guilty. Even in the pain of his friends forsaking him and leaving him to suffer alone, there is no hint of regret that he had given his life to the service of Christ and the Church. Paul was still confident that the Church, though now apparently suffering attack, would eventually be triumphant. And, Paul knew that the moment of his death he would go straight to the arms of His Lord Jesus Christ, whom he had loved and served so devotedly.

After Paul’s release from his first Roman imprisonment (around AD 62), he and Timothy traveled to Ephesus where Timothy was left to care for the house churches there. Paul wrote a letter (1 Timothy) around AD 64 to encourage Timothy in his work. Around AD 67, Paul wrote another letter (2 Timothy), his last letter and the most tender and moving of all of Paul’s letters.

Where do we begin? Have you ever heard the saying: “You can’t see the forest for the trees?” The best way to study any book of the Bible is to begin with the “forest” – survey the whole – and then proceed to the “trees” – the individual parts. We are going to take the first lesson to acquaint ourselves with the letter. This lesson will take more time than the rest, as you will be reading through all of 2 Timothy. So, let’s begin…
1. The background information above gives you a better idea of what was happening around Paul as he wrote this second letter to Timothy. Describe what Paul was experiencing.

2. Read 2 Timothy to get the feel and atmosphere of the letter and to gain Paul’s perspective on everything that he shares.

A copy of the letter is included in this study guide in the “Introduction.” Mark key words and phrases as well as anything of interest to you. Pay attention to any themes in the letter. What do you notice?

Pastoral Epistles

Paul’s three letters—1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy and Titus—are called “pastoral epistles” because for the most part they are Paul’s counsel to his assistants who served in the pastoral or shepherd-like function of the local churches, particularly in the regions of Ephesus and Crete. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus and Titus on the island of Crete to continue the work of teaching the truth and resisting error creeping into the young churches there. These letters we have in our Bible were written to encourage the younger pastors, reminding them to teach and train others to be faithful to the true Gospel.

Because of the corruption, idolatry and heathen worship predominant in these areas, Timothy and Titus are being reminded and encouraged by Paul to teach and train others to be faithful to the true Gospel.

The three letters address the issues facing local churches just like the one you are attending now—issues faced by the pastoral leaders as well as the members. Four major themes are woven throughout Paul’s instruction to Timothy and Titus. Did you see them?

1) Teach and maintain truth and sound doctrine - guard against/avoid error
2) Importance of identifying leadership who will faithfully teach truth
3) Concern for the reputation of the church, “…so that God may not be dishonored”
4) Do good deeds demonstrating what you believe

These themes are especially evident in 1 Timothy and Titus, but you will see glimpses of them in 2 Timothy as well.
**Major Theme: Truth vs. Error**

One of the themes in Paul's pastoral letters (those written to Timothy and Titus) is “teach and maintain truth and sound doctrine; guard against/avoid error.” This theme really breaks down into positive versus negative.

3. **The POSITIVE**: Read the following verses. What does Paul keep emphasizing?
   - 2 Timothy 1:13-14 —
   - 2 Timothy 2:2 —
   - 2 Timothy 2:15 —
   - 2 Timothy 3:14-17 —
   - 2 Timothy 4:2,5 —

4. Read the following verses to answer this question, “What specifically is the truth or sound doctrine?”
   - 2 Timothy 1:8-11 —
   - 2 Timothy 2:1 —
   - 2 Timothy 2:8 —

5. Now, summarize your notes in the two questions above to come up with one common message.
6. The **NEGATIVE**: Read the following verses to see what we are supposed to do when we encounter error.
   - 2 Timothy 2:14 —
   - 2 Timothy 2:16-18 —
   - 2 Timothy 2:23 —

   **Summary:**

7. Read 2 Timothy 3:2-7 and 4:3-4. Where does error lead?

8. Once again, Paul emphasizes over and over a common message. In your own words, what is Paul teaching them to guard against…and why?

9. **To Live Faithfully:** If Paul made this many comments on the same subject, it should be taken seriously and seen as a pattern woven throughout each letter. What could happen to the local church … therefore you … therefore the world … if we do not seriously and energetically apply Paul’s emphatic message to Timothy and the church?

   What specific actions can you or do you take in your daily life to ensure that you don’t wander away from God’s truth or sound doctrine?
Think About It: To be faithful means to be unwavering in belief or consistently loyal. We all want those closest to us—mate, family members, friends, co-workers—to remain faithful to us. What security we feel when we know their loyalty is consistent and unwavering! Faithfulness is an important character quality.

10. To Live Faithfully: Our God is a faithful God. He is consistently loyal to those whom He loves and who place their trust in Him. God desires that we also be faithful to Him—to be unwavering in belief and consistently loyal to Him—throughout our spiritual walk. And, our God is the One Who protects and preserves that which He has entrusted to us—He enables us to live faithfully as we choose to do so. Will you make the choice to live faithfully to your God every day?
Lesson 2: Serving Christ

2 Timothy 1:1-7

“...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, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Who Is Timothy?

Timothy was born and reared in Lystra in Lycaonia. His mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, were devout Jews who became believers in Christ (Acts 16:1, 2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy’s father was a Greek who evidently did not convert to Christianity. Timothy first heard Paul preach the gospel on Paul’s first visit to Lystra. Paul then became a spiritual father to Timothy, and he accompanied Paul on his 2nd missionary journey.

Six of Paul’s epistles include Timothy in the salutations (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians and Philemon). Paul was so fond of Timothy that in his last message, he requested that Timothy join him during his final days of imprisonment (2 Timothy 1:4, 4:9, 21).

On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, Timothy helped to establish churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea (Acts 16:1–17:14). When Paul left Berea to go to Athens he left Timothy and Silas behind, but later sent word for them to join him (Acts 17:13-15). Timothy was sent to Thessalonica to strengthen the faith of believers there (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2). He also traveled with Paul to Corinth, Ephesus, Caesarea, Jerusalem, Antioch and back to Ephesus (Acts18:18–19:1). While Paul remained at Ephesus, he sent Timothy and Erastus to Greece to minister to churches there (Acts 19:22, 1 Corinthians 4:17, 16:10). But before Paul left Ephesus, Timothy rejoined him (Romans 16:21, 2 Corinthians 1:1). They then traveled to Macedonia, Achaia and back to Macedonia and on to Asia (Acts 20:1-5).

The Bible does not mention Timothy during Paul’s two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. After Paul’s release (around AD 62), Timothy and Paul traveled to Ephesus where Timothy was left to care for the church. Paul wrote 1 Timothy around AD 64 from Rome or Macedonia.

The most tender and moving of Paul’s letters was his last one to Timothy. He was a prisoner in a Roman dungeon when he wrote 2nd Timothy, approximately AD 67. He knew he had a short time to live, so the letter is his spiritual last will and testament – his “dying wish” – to friend and co-worker, Timothy.

The area surrounding Ephesus probably had a number of young churches, not just one, with each church led by an elder. Timothy was sent as an “apostolic representative,” that is, as Paul’s substitute. He was not appointed as an elder, bishop or overseer of the churches. He had the authority to order worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15) and appoint elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-3).

So, what happened to Timothy? The Bible does not reveal any details of the death of Timothy. According to Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, which was written several centuries later (originally published in 1563), Timothy remained in Ephesus until AD 97. During a pagan celebration of a feast called “Catagogion,” Timothy severely reproved the people in the procession for their ridiculous idolatry. This, of course, antagonized the partygoers who beat him with clubs “in so dreadful a manner that he expired of the bruises two days later.”
Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7.

1. What words and phrases in this passage reveal the depth of Paul's relationship with Timothy?

2. Why do you think their relationship is so meaningful?

3. **To Live Faithfully:** Consider the role of mentoring in your life.
   - Have you ever had a spiritual parent or mentor like Paul? If so, who, and how did that person influence you?
   - Have you ever had a spiritual child or trainee like Timothy? If so, who, and what do you do to mentor him/her?

4. In 2 Timothy 1:3, Paul compares himself with his forefathers/ancestors. Read Hebrews 11, especially verses 17-40, (but read the entire chapter if at all possible). What sort of spiritual heritage did Paul's Jewish forefathers leave him?
5. According to 2 Timothy 1:5, who were Timothy’s primary spiritual mentors as he was growing up? What gift did they impart to him?

_Historical Insight:_ A Mother’s Legacy—Eunice (v. 5) was Jewish, but apparently her father was not very orthodox: he violated one of the clear commands of the Law in arranging a match for his daughter with a Gentile (Acts 16:1). Later, when Timothy was born, he wasn’t circumcised (16:3). So, it seems that neither Eunice’s father nor husband were observant of Judaism. But Eunice was. Paul praised her for her “genuine faith,” which she shared in common with Lois, her mother (2 Timothy 1:5). Eunice imparted that faith to her son, Timothy, and more than anyone else equipped him for a lifetime of usefulness for God. Eunice is an encouragement for every woman faced with the daunting task of nurturing the spiritual life of her children, especially is she can’t count on the help of a strong male. Eunice may have had no formal religious education and little encouragement from her family, except for Lois. But she had two crucial things going for her that offer hope for mothers today—the inherent power of being a mother and the dynamic power of a loving God. (_The Word in Life Study Bible_, p. 746)

6. _To Live Faithfully:_ What are you doing to impart a spiritual legacy, or heritage, to your children (grandchildren, nieces/nephews etc.)? Is this process a “team effort” in your family? Explain.

7. According to 2 Timothy 1:5, we know that Timothy possessed sincere faith, which is a precious treasure in a church leader. Because of this faith, what was Paul encouraging Timothy to do with his God given gift (his ability for ministry and leadership)?

8. _To Live Faithfully:_ Paul is encouraging you to use the gifts God has given you, also. How are you using your abilities and experience for serving Christ?
9. Read 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 Corinthians 16:10, and Romans 8:15. If the challenges facing Timothy were causing him fear, of what does Paul remind him in verse 7?

10. To combat fear, what does God’s spirit provide to us?

11. Why would these qualities be so important for those who want to serve Christ with their lives?
   - Spiritual power —
   - Spiritual love —
   - Spiritual self-control —

12. If God’s spirit within us is one of power, love, and discipline, what should (or could) characterize our response towards life’s hardships? Glean the following verses for your answer:
   - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 —
   - Philippians 4:13, 19 —
   - Hebrews 4:15-16 —
Think About It: “Craving, cringing, panicky fear is one of the devil’s greatest weapons. I have a better chance of solving problems if I deal with them in a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.” (Tim Stevenson, Mind Games)

13. To Live Faithfully: What specific fears or inabilities tend to get in the way of your service to Christ? How can you apply 2 Timothy 1:7 to your life?
Lesson 3: Battling for the Truth

2 Timothy 1:7-18

“...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.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

Read 2 Timothy 1:7-18.

1. What is the earnest counsel Paul gives Timothy in verse 8?

2. What pressures might pull at Timothy to be ashamed of the Gospel or of Paul?

3. According to 2 Timothy 1:12 and Romans 1:16, what kept Paul from being ashamed of himself?

4. In 2 Timothy 1:9-10, Paul outlines the gospel he has received from God and entrusted to Timothy. Timothy was not to be ashamed of this gospel and was to take his share of suffering for it. What key words and phrases describe this gospel?

Focus on the Meaning: “Three times in this chapter Paul uses the word ashamed. Paul must have known that timid Timothy was especially vulnerable to the temptation of cowardice. “The terrible world would seem indescribably hard to meet without succumbing to the ‘shame’ attached to a seemingly lost and certainly hated cause (i.e. Christianity), and to a leader utterly discredited (i.e. Paul).” (Irving Jensen, study guide, p. 84)
5. **To Live Faithfully:**
   - Are you ever ashamed of Christ’s name, other believers, or the gospel? When and in what ways?

   - How can you practice the truth of verse 7 (review our study of this verse from the last lesson) to help you tell others about the gospel and to guard against being ashamed of it?

6. In verse 11, Paul defines himself in 3 specific roles. God appointed Paul to be a preacher or herald (*kerux*, “one who announces and proclaims”), an apostle (*apostolos*, “one who is sent”), and a teacher (*didaskalos*, “one who imparts knowledge and gives instruction”). How are these roles the cause of his suffering (verse 12)?

7. What motivated Paul to endure suffering as awful as imprisonment (v.12)?

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**Scriptural Insight:** In 2 Timothy 1:12, the phrase “what I have entrusted to Him” literally means “my deposit.” What deposit of Paul’s is God supposed to guard or protect? Commentators differ on this. Some understand this to mean that, because Paul was in prison and facing death, (1) God would protect the teaching of Jesus Christ through others such as Timothy. Or, (2) that God would guard Paul’s deposit of faith in Christ until His second coming. The deposit could also be (3) the souls of those converted through Paul’s preaching. Whatever Paul meant, we are sure of his absolute conviction that God was in total control.

8. **To Live Faithfully:** Think of a time in your life that tested your physical or emotional endurance. What kept you going?
9. According to verse 14, what “treasure” is Timothy supposed to guard/protect? (See 1 Timothy 1:11 and Titus 1:3.)

10. How can we guard/protect the Gospel today?

11. Read 2 Timothy 1:15-18. In what ways did Paul’s friends from the province of Asia react to his imprisonment?

**Think About It:** This was one of the saddest things in Paul’s life. In Ephesus, where he had done his greatest work, and almost turned the whole city to Christ, the false teachers had so gotten the upper hand that they were able to make capital of Paul’s arrest to turn the church against him, at the time of all times when he needed their love and sympathy. (*Halley’s Bible Handbook*, p.585)

12. Why do you think there was such a difference in how people responded?

13. What examples do you see of people like Onesiphorus, Phygelus and Hermogenes in today’s Christianity?
14. **To Live Faithfully:** Choose one missionary (someone you know or someone your church supports) and pray this week that the grace of God will sustain them. Pray also for all others that you know who are suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ in the world.
Lesson 4: Standing Up for the Gospel

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Historical Perspective

As a result of Paul’s missionary journeys and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, local churches were formed. These believers met in homes or wherever they could gather to continue in the apostles’ teachings and to live out the Christian faith among one another as well as among the unbelieving world.

When Paul visited Ephesus after his release from Roman house arrest, he discovered that during his absence, the church was plagued with all kinds of spiritual problems. The city itself, with all of its corruption and idolatry was proving to be a spiritual battleground for the congregation of believers. Having faithfully done all he could to develop and teach the truths of the gospel throughout his ministry, Paul is concerned near the end of his life that his faithful disciples would entrust these truths to other faithful Christians who would in turn entrust them to still others, and on and on. Paul viewed this body of truth as a special stewardship from God, to be managed with great care. Since this truth leads to godliness by pointing believers to Jesus Christ, it was the most valuable of treasures. The local church leaders were not only to faithfully teach truth to their congregations but also to sternly resist all attempts to undermine, pollute, or attack the true gospel.

1. In verse 1, what is Paul urging Timothy to do?

2. Why do you think Paul tells Timothy to be strong in “grace,” rather than something like knowledge?

3. How could God’s grace help Timothy pass on the gospel of Jesus Christ?

4. To whom is Timothy supposed to entrust the gospel?
5. Why do you think faithfulness (or reliability) is more important to Paul than position or influence?

6. **To Live Faithfully:** Do you consider yourself a faithful or reliable person who can “guard” the truth of Jesus Christ and teach it to others? If so, what steps will you take or opportunities will you seek to do this in your life?

7. Read 2 Timothy 2:3-7. What 3 examples did Paul use to motivate Timothy to endure?

As Timothy preached and taught, he would face suffering, but he should also be able to endure (verse 3). In verses 4-6, Paul uses 3 vivid examples to motivate his beloved son Timothy, illustrating the attitude that Christ’s followers must have through suffering. The first example is that of a soldier.

**The Soldier**

8. What are the characteristics of a good soldier?

9. In what ways does a believer “endure” or “suffer” hardship in the same manner as a soldier?

10. “Civilian affairs” (verse 4) is also translated “matters of everyday life.” Give some examples of these. How can such affairs “entangle” a Christian?

11. How can we avoid such entanglement?
The Athlete

12. Paul then turned to the image of the competitor in the Greek games (verse 5). How does being an athlete relate to being a Christian?

The Farmer

13. The third example is that of a farmer. What does laboring have to do with being a Christian worker?

14. To Live Faithfully: Read the following paragraph.

Focus on the Meaning: John Stott, in his Bible study guide, states that by these first three metaphors that illustrate the duties of the Christian worker, Paul isolated three aspects of wholeheartedness that should be found in Timothy and in us: The dedication of a good soldier, the law-abiding obedience of a good athlete and the painstaking labor of a good farmer. Without these we cannot expect results. There will be no victory for the soldier unless he gives himself to his soldiering, no wreath for the athlete unless he keeps the rules and no harvest for the farmer unless he toils at his farming.

Considering this, how would you describe:

- Your dedication to Jesus Christ? What gets in the way?

- Your obedience to Christ? What tempts you not to obey?

- Your laboring for Christ? What sidetracks you?

Pray that God will help you live out the standards for a Christian worker you have just studied.
15. Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13. Paul’s own example should also motivate Timothy. How would you describe Paul’s attitude towards his circumstances in verses 9-13?

*Think About It*: “...Paul could confidently endure everything knowing that God remained in control...A woman endures the pains of childbirth for the sake of her child. We must never think of suffering as some form of work of merit to earn our salvation or to work off our guilt, nor as some form of punishment from God. Although Paul experienced very real pain as he spread the gospel, he focused on the results of his suffering—others were finding salvation in Christ.” (*Life Application Bible Commentary*)

16. What convictions enable and motivate Paul to have such an attitude? (See also 2 Corinthians 4:15).

17. *To Live Faithfully*: What are you learning about the cost of following Jesus? Are your expectations of the Christian life different now than when you first became a believer? How so?

*Think About It*: God is faithful to his children, and although we may suffer great hardships in this life, God promises that someday we will live eternally with Him. What will this involve? It means believers will live in Christ’s kingdom, and that we will share in the administration of that kingdom. This truth comforted Paul as he went through suffering and death. Are you facing hardships? Don’t turn away from God—focus on your wonderful future with Him. (*Life Application Bible Commentary*)
Lesson 5: Watch Your Words

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Paul continues to deal with the issue of false teachers. These people caused strife and division within the new church by their meaningless quarreling over unimportant details that focused not on Scripture, but on their own ideas. Paul reemphasizes to Timothy not to be “drawn in” to debates with these people.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26.

1. In the following verses, note the instruction that Paul gives to Timothy regarding wise and productive speech—what to avoid and why:
   - Verse 14 —
   - Verse 16 —
   - Verse 23 —

2. Quarreling about words is still a major problem today. Churches split over nonessentials, and many innocent people are attacked verbally. Why do you think some Christians engage so readily, perhaps even eagerly, in such negative talk?

3. What is the difference between quarreling about words and standing up to false teaching?

4. Although Paul instructs Timothy not to engage in quarrelsome talk, he realizes that it will surface within the church. In verses 24-26, what attitude is Timothy to have towards those who oppose him, and what actions should he take?

5. Why is having such an attitude so important, according to verses 25-26?
6. In verse 26, Paul uses a phrase, “come to their senses (NIV),” which could also be translated “return to soberness.”
   - Under whose influence are quarrelsome people operating?
   - Do you think they realize this?
   - What is God’s desire for them? (See also 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and Titus 2:14.)

**Think About It:** Satan is at the root of all false teaching and division in the church. He knows the strength of a unified church and fears it. So, he creates a "trap"—money, fame, pride of feeling intellectual—to draw people away from the faith and to false teaching. But there is hope—escape is possible. (*Life Application Bible Commentary*)

7. **To Live Faithfully:** Consider your words and actions (in general). Do you think they promote unity or division within your church? Ask someone you love and trust to help you evaluate this. Pray with that person that God will continue to bring you into a knowledge of Him, that your words and actions would bring encouragement to those around you.

8. In 2 Timothy 2:15, how are we to present ourselves to God?

9. How can we handle God’s Word…?
   - Correctly —
   - Incorrectly —

10. What does Paul’s use of the term “diligent (NIV)” or “make every effort (NET)” imply?
11. **To Live Faithfully:** Think of someone you know who knows how to correctly handle the Word of Truth. How did he/she cultivate this ability? (If you don't know, you might ask.) Discuss at least one step you can take to bring you closer to the goal of correctly handling God’s Word.

12. Read 2 Timothy 2:20. What types of “vessels” or “articles” are present together in a large house, and what purposes do they serve?

**Scriptural Insight:** The identification of the vessels Paul mentions is a source of debate among commentators. Some believe Paul is clearly referring to true and false teachers within the church, while others believe they are persons within the church at various stages of spiritual development. Whatever Paul specifically meant, we know God can use every “vessel” within his church to accomplish His will.

13. Paul emphasized to Timothy that God would use “cleansed” vessels for honor and for noble purposes. Commentators disagree on exactly what the vessels are cleansed of—false teaching, godless chatter, moral impurity are all possibilities. According to verse 21, what three qualities characterize such a “vessel?”

14. **To Live Faithfully:**

- How can you be a vessel that Jesus can “set apart” and use for his noblest purposes?

- If your life has NOT been one used for God’s noble purposes, God still welcomes you with open, loving arms. If you haven’t done so already, repent (turn away) from your independence from God and offer Him your life. He will take your willing heart and renew you through the Holy Spirit, redirect your life, and use it for His glory and honor!
Lesson 6: In the Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1-9


1. What does 2 Timothy 3:1 say the last days will be like?

2. Read the information below then answer the questions that follow.

Scriptural Insight: As in his previous letter, Paul warned Timothy about the collapse predicted for the last days (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1-3), a term which includes the entire period between the first century and Christ’s return. During this interim, according to the prediction, the world will see terrible times of societal degeneration. Paul gave an extraordinary list (cf. Romans 1:28-32) of 19 general characteristics believers should expect. Though these characteristics are cataloged under the auspices of a prediction about “the last days”, it is clear that Paul considered them to be already present in Ephesus. Though they would intensify with time, Timothy had to beware of such people and have nothing to do with them. No doubt Paul had in mind here Timothy’s official associations, since he has already instructed Timothy to be kind to everyone (cf. 1 Timothy 2:24). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament, p. 756)

Imagine for a few moments that you are a person who has been transported to America from a foreign country, and you’ve only had information from TV news to tell you about the people here. What kind of impression would you have of “our days?”

3. Read 2 Timothy 3:2-5. Do you think that our days could be considered difficult? Why or why not?

It would be easy to skim over the list of negative behaviors in 2 Timothy 3:2-5, assuming that Paul is describing an especially depraved person, certainly not any one of us. However, we can learn a lot about what we ourselves are like, and what God desires us to be, if we take time to evaluate these negative behaviors.
4. Choose several from the selected ones listed below (drawn from the NIV), consider what would be the opposite of this behavior. Read the verses provided to gain insight from God’s Word about this behavior. Add other verses that apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Behavior</th>
<th>Opposite of This</th>
<th>What God’s Word Says</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boastful</td>
<td></td>
<td>James 4:14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proud</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Peter 5:5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disobedient to parents</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ephesians 6:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unthankful</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Thess. 5:18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unforgiving</td>
<td></td>
<td>Luke 11:4</td>
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<td>Without self-control</td>
<td></td>
<td>Galatians 5:22,23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malicious gossips</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proverbs 16:23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slanderers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proverbs 17:27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Reread 2 Timothy 3:2-5. The first two vices and the last one of verse 4 all point to wrong love corrupting potentially good things.
   - What should people love (verse 4)?
   - What do these people love (verses 2, 4)?
6. Read 2 Timothy 3:5-7. How do these people seek to influence others?

**Focus on the Meaning:** "Worm their way into homes/households" means to sneak in, to introduce yourself gradually and cunningly into a position, especially a place of confidence or favor. "To gain control over" means to make a prisoner of, take captive especially thoughts and emotions.

7. Modern media wasn’t even any kind of possibility in Paul’s time, but how might TV, movies, internet and social media fit this description (from 2 Timothy 3:6-7)?

8. **To Live Faithfully:** How then can we deal with the temptation of immoral media presentation and programming, both for our children and for ourselves?

9. How are the women in 2 Timothy 3:6-7 described? Write out the descriptions using your own words.

**Focus on the Meaning:** The phrase "weak-willed women" is literally "little women," which is referring to someone who is silly and vulnerable, the opposite of someone who is wise.
10. Discuss why these women are vulnerable to that evil influence by considering the following questions:
   - How do women get loaded down with sins?
   - How might this make them feel?
   - How does guilt make them vulnerable?
   - How do they deal with their guilt?

11. In what kind of situations do you think people are “always learning but never able to acknowledge, or come to the knowledge of, the truth?”

12. **To Live Faithfully:** How might you be able to come alongside another woman, who has some or all of the tendencies described above, and help her to be stronger? What can you do if she doesn’t want to change?

13. Read 2 Timothy 3:8-9. According to 2 Timothy 3:9, what 2 things will be evident in the lives of those who oppose the truth?
Scriptural Insight: Wherever people accept the truth of God and begin practicing it, counterfeits soon surface. That’s what Paul found at Ephesus, and what he warns Timothy about (v. 8-9). He mentions two characters, Jannes and Jambres, whose names mean “he who seduces” and “he who is rebellious”. Neither name is in the Old Testament, but Jewish legend held that these were the names of 2 Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses’ demand of Pharaoh to free the Israelites (Exodus 7:11-12, 22). They tried to duplicate the miracles of Moses in an attempt to discredit him. But God showed that Moses’ authority was more powerful. (The Word in Life Study Bible, p. 751)

14. To Live Faithfully:

- Does 2 Timothy 3:1-9 offer any warnings you think you should take to heart? If so, what are those warnings?

- What can you plan to do, or ask God to help you do, about the warnings you have named?
Lesson 7: An Example of Godliness

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

1. Looking first at 2 Timothy 3:10-11, list the areas of life in which Timothy “followed” Paul.

2. In light of verses 10-13, why do you think Paul might be reminding Timothy of how he had followed Paul in the past (verses 14-15)?

3. To Live Faithfully:
   - Who would you say you “follow” in their teaching? In their conduct?
   - Why have you chosen that person (or persons) to follow?
   - Whom in your life are you currently intentionally discipling or modeling the Christian life through example? Explain.

4. The last two areas in 2 Timothy 3:10-11 are “persecutions” and “sufferings.” According to verse 11, what does Paul say God did for him during this time of trouble?
Scriptural Insight: Paul refers to what he endured in his early days as a missionary. Timothy probably met Paul when the apostle first arrived in Lystra (Acts 14:8-23). Some Jews had already run Paul and Barnabas out of Pisidian Antioch and Iconium for preaching about Jesus (Acts 13:13-14:7), but Lystra warmly welcomed the missionaries until Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived. The Jews persuaded the Lystrians to turn against Paul and Barnabas. Then the crowd stoned (Paul) and dragged Paul's body outside the city, presuming he was dead. But Paul survived, and after spending some time in Derbe he returned to strengthen the disciples in Lystra. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” Paul reminded the Lystrian believers (Acts 14:22). These memories of when Timothy and Paul first met must have been fond and vivid for both men. (2 Timothy Life Change Bible Study, pg.60)

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:12. Who does this verse say will be persecuted?

6. Why is this so? Look up the following verses to help you answer this question.
   - 2 Timothy 3:13 —
   - John 15:18-25 —

7. To Live Faithfully: Have you experienced persecution in any form for your faith? Explain.

8. To Live Faithfully: How can we best respond to persecution or difficulties in our Christian walk? Read the following verses and write out in your own words what these verses are saying to you. Summarize what you learn for yourself and your life.
   - James 1:2-4 —
   - 1 Peter 1:6-7 —
   - Romans 5:3-5 —

Summary:
9. Read 2 Timothy 3:14. Paul also wants Timothy to draw strength from what he has “learned and become convinced of,” according to this verse. What do you think is the difference between what you have “learned” and what you have “become convinced of?” Refer back to 2 Timothy 3:6-7.

10. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Then, read the information below and summarize what “God breathed” means regarding the Scriptures.

   From the Greek: “Inspired by God” in NASB, RSV. The Greek word theopneustos is composed of theo, meaning “God,” and pneustos, which refers to “breathing, blowing, or sending forth one’s spirit.” In the Bible, the breath, wind, or Spirit of God is closely connected with His creative Word and inspired speaking. (Genesis 1:2-3, 1 Kings 19:11-13, Acts 2:1-4). When God breathed His Spirit into men so that they might be His spokesmen (prophets, writers of Scripture), He did not take over their minds or wills but somehow guided them to speak His truth as they gave Him their attention. (2 Timothy Life Change Bible Study, p. 63)

   Summary:

11. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, how is “God-breathed” Scripture useful or profitable to us? List the ways given in these verses, and explain them in your own words.

12. From verse 17, what is the ultimate goal of using God’s Word for these purposes?
13. **To Live Faithfully:**
   - What does the truth that Scripture was actually “God-breathed” mean to you personally?

   - What implications, or applications, does this passage have for you...in your teaching, your way of life, your purpose, your faith, your character...?
Lesson 8: No Regrets

2 Timothy 4:1-8

“I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the message, be ready whether it is convenient or not, reprove, rebuke, exhort with complete patience and instruction. For there will be a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. Instead, following their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves, because they have an insatiable curiosity to hear new things. And they will turn away from hearing the truth, but on the other hand they will turn aside to myths.” (2 Timothy 4:1-4)

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

1. Paul’s final words to Timothy in this letter carried a particularly solemn charge (command or injunction). According to verse 1, who is witnessing this charge?

2. What key facts does Paul cite about Christ?

3. How would reading these facts motivate Timothy to carry out Paul’s charge?

4. The content of Paul’s charge represents the central thrust of every minister’s task. First and foremost, what was Timothy to do, and when was Timothy to do this?

As he preached the gospel message, Timothy would undoubtedly come up against false teaching, believers who are willingly sinning, and those sincerely trying to grow in the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

5. How is a minister of Christ to deal with all of these people, and what should characterize his interaction with them?
6. **To Live Faithfully:**
   - What responsibilities and tasks do you administer that require great patience and instruction?

   - What happens when you carry them out in anger and frustration?

   - How does Galatians 5:22-23 apply here?

Reread 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Paul’s continuing concern about false teaching was a catalyst in issuing such a charge (v. 1-2) to Timothy. When Paul spoke about false teaching, he usually focused on the evil intentions of the false teachers. However, false teachers could not flourish if they had no audience.

7. This time, who was Paul faulting, and how were they willing participants in their own deception?

8. Why is it so important to maintain sound doctrine and refute false teachings?

9. In your opinion, what is it about the truth (sound doctrine) that propels people away from it?

10. In what way do people take comfort in their “own doctrine?”
11. **To Live Faithfully:** Do you personally know anyone like those described in verses 3-4? Or, on a deeper level, was this ever a portrait of you? If so, how have you changed? To what do you attribute this change?

12. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 again. Paul follows his discussion of wayward people (v.3-4) with a strong contrasting “but you” for his disciple Timothy. What earnest instruction does Paul give Timothy in verse 5?

13. Why do you think Paul felt it necessary at this point to give such instruction to Timothy?

14. After exhorting Timothy once again to be faithful and strong (v.5), Paul reflects on his life, which he viewed as a sacrifice to God (v.6). Paul knew he would be executed soon. The time for his departure had come. What had he accomplished in order to claim that he had fought the good fight and finished the race?

**Scriptural Insight:** A drink offering consisted of wine poured out on an altar as a sacrifice to God (see Genesis 35:14; Exodus 29:41; Numbers 28:24). *(Life Application Bible Commentary)*

15. What do you think it means to “keep the faith?”
16. In Whose strength was he able to “keep the faith?” See also 2 Timothy 1:7, 2:1.

17. Why do you think Paul compared the task of “keeping the faith” to a “good fight” and a “race?”

18. Looking at verse 8:
   - What reward is Paul anticipating?
   - Who will bestow this reward?
   - To whom will this reward be given?

19. To Live Faithfully: As he neared the end of his life, Paul could confidently say he had been faithful to God’s call. Thus, he faced death calmly, knowing that Christ would reward him. Is your life preparing you for death? Do you share Paul’s confident expectation of meeting Christ? How do Paul’s words challenge your life?
Lesson 9: Stand Firm to the End

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22.

In Paul’s final words we get an intimate glimpse of his character, needs, and humanity. Although Paul had the assurance of eternal life and confidence in Christ, loneliness and isolation had hit him with devastating impact.

1. What seems to be a major catalyst of Paul’s loneliness in prison?

2. Demas (v. 10) was one of Paul’s close associates. Read Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24.
   - Why did Demas abandon Paul?
   - What could the world have to offer Demas that would cause him to neglect Paul in his time of need?

3. Looking at verses 14-15:
   - How had Alexander the metalworker affected Paul and his ministry?
   - What is Paul’s exhortation to Timothy regarding this man?

4. To Live Faithfully: Describe a time when you felt abandoned by your family and/or friends. What caused them to desert you? How did their neglect affect you?
Historical Insight: In 2 Timothy 4:16 Paul talks about his “first defense.” This was most likely a preliminary hearing (leading up to his present trial) at which advocates for the accused person were usually heard. The Roman legal system allowed for several steps in the prosecution of an accused criminal. But in Paul’s case, no one came to speak in his defense or to stand by in support; everyone had deserted him (see also 2 Timothy 1:15). Under emperor Nero, it was dangerous to be a Christian in Rome. Identifying themselves with the courageous and outspoken apostle Paul would almost certainly result in agonizing death.

5. Paul seemed to understand the fear that gripped the Roman Christians. What was his response towards these friends and companions who abandoned him as well as those who opposed him (verses 14, 16)?

6. To Live Faithfully: Paul exemplified one of the toughest tasks a Christian may have to do—to leave his/her hurt with the Lord. When others oppose you and undercut your authority, leadership, or even your friendship, what is your natural response? How could this natural response damage you more than the person inflicting such pain?

   - What do these scriptures tell us about the response we should have towards those who hurt us?
   - To whom are all people accountable at the end of our lives for our actions on this earth?
   - How does this motivate you to bring your emotions in line with Biblical truth (i.e., following Paul’s example) when you’ve been deeply wounded by someone?
8. Read 2 Timothy 4:16-18. During that hour of darkness, who stood with Paul and strengthened him? For what reason?

From the Greek: “Strengthened” comes from the Greek word endunamai, which literally means to “infuse with strength.”

9. How did Jesus both warn and encourage his apostles about such times? Read these verses:
   - Matthew 10:17-20 —
   - Mark 13:9-11 —
   - Acts 18:9-10 —
   - Acts 23:11 —

10. What was the temporary outcome for Paul after this hearing?

Focus on the Meaning: “Delivered out of the lion’s mouth (v.18)” Some have seen this as a reference to Nero throwing Christians to the lions in the Coliseum, or perhaps to Satan (for a parallel, see 1 Peter 5:8). More likely, Paul used a common biblical metaphor describing deliverance from extreme danger (see, for example, Psalm 22:2; Daniel 6:22). Paul knew he wouldn’t get out of prison alive, though he was experiencing a temporary reprieve due to a delay in the Roman judicial system. (Life Application Bible Commentary)

11. According to verse 18:
   - How does Paul view his impending death?
   - Where will the Lord bring Paul?
   - How will He bring him? What do you think this means?
12. Paul’s confidence in and appreciation of God is absolute, despite the cruelest of circumstances. Just as Paul praised God in life, what does he write in the face of death?

13. **To Live Faithfully:** When adversity strikes, what is your “proclamation” towards God? Do you ever search for God’s purpose amidst your pain, or do you usually try and get out of the situation on your terms? Pray that God will continually help you to respond more like Paul—to be aware of His presence, draw from His strength, and be yielded to His purpose for you.

*Think About It:* Every time God allows us to be in difficulty, it is a marvelous opportunity to give witness and testimony. The most powerful witness is from people in pain, still walking in faith with Jesus Christ...theirs is the kind of stalwart, courageous witness that shouts and proclaims God is real. (Charles Stanley)

14. **To Live Faithfully:** From this study, what have you learned about making the choice to live faithfully to your God every day?

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Read “The Rest of the Story” on the next page to see what happened to some of those Paul mentioned in this letter.
The Rest of the Story…

Here is more information about Paul’s associates mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:9-21:

- Crescens: Nothing is known about him, except he was dispatched elsewhere by Paul for God’s service.

- Titus: Close friend who aided Paul in two crises and pastored the church at Crete.


- Mark: Although Mark had been a deserter on the first missionary journey, he was later restored. Once considered untrustworthy (Acts 15:36-40), he was now helpful to Paul in his ministry.

- Tychicus: A close companion of Paul (Acts 20:4) he carried Paul's letters to the Ephesians, the Colossians, and Titus (see Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7 and Titus 3:12).

- Alexander the metalworker (or coppersmith-NAS): May be the same man named in Acts 19:33-34, or the person in 1 Timothy 1:20. But since the name Alexander was common, no one can be certain.

- Priscilla and Aquila: The well-known couple who were fellow Christian leaders with whom Paul had lived and worked (see Acts 18:2-3, 18, 26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19). While in Corinth, they had made tents together with Paul. They used the freedom and the money garnered from their tentmaking to carry out a ministry of hospitality and teaching in various places. They taught Apollos in Ephesus.

- Onesiphorus: Philemon’s slave whom Paul had met and led to the Lord when he ran away from Rome. He had visited and encouraged Paul in jail during this final imprisonment.

- Erastus: The city treasurer of Corinth whom Paul sent with Timothy into Macedonia. He was one of Paul’s trusted companions and Timothy’s close friend (Acts 19:22).


- Linus: May have been the first bishop of Rome following the martyrdom of Peter and Paul.
Sources

1. *2 Timothy Life Change Bible Study*
2. Charles Stanley quote
3. *Halley’s Bible Handbook*
5. John Foxe, *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*
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TO BE FOUND FAITHFUL

faithful = unwavering in belief, consistently loyal

How important is it to you that your closest friends remain faithful to you? For most of us, the faithfulness of a spouse, family member, friend and co-worker is very important to us. Faithfulness matters. What security we feel when we know their loyalty is consistent and unwavering!

To Be Found Faithful examines the last of Paul’s letters in the Bible—his second letter to Timothy. Through this study, you will learn about the faithfulness of your God. He is consistently loyal to those whom He loves and who place their trust in His Son Jesus. As a Christian, your God is faithful to you.

To Be Found Faithful will show you what it means for you to be faithful to your God—to be unwavering in belief and consistently loyal to Him as you live each day. And, your faithful God is the One who enables you to do so. The wisdom of His Word and His Spirit living inside you give you the ability to remain faithful. The choice is up to you.

Will you make the choice to live faithfully to your God every day?

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