

2 TIMOTHY 2:3-14

TIME ALONE WITH GOD

LESSON 3

GROUNDING YOURSELF

Read 2 Timothy 2:7. Take a moment to pause and ask yourself, "Do I trust that the Lord will give me insight and understanding of His Will as I reflect on His Word?" Ask the Spirit to do this for you as you walk through this week's passage.

GRASPING THE SCRIPTURES

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-14 (feel free to look up a few different translations)

- If you could summarize this passage in 3 sentences or less, what would you say?
- Why might Paul use the illustrations of the soldier, the athlete and the farmer in verses 3-6? What illustration might you use to convey the same message?
- Verse 4 states that "no one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-- he wants to please his commanding officer" (NIV). What might Paul be referring to as "civilian affairs?" If Paul were living in our community in the present day, what "civilian affairs" might he warn us against?
- What does Paul proclaim as his gospel in verse 8?
- For whom does Paul write that he is enduring everything? Why?
- In verses 11-13, Paul inserts a poem into his letter to Timothy. Verse 12a reads, "If we endure, we will also reign with him." (NIV) Read the following excerpt by N.T. Wright:

"In God's eyes, a human being, reflecting his image and likeness, is more important than the brightest star in the sky. True, some passages in the New Testament do speak of Jesus and his people shining like stars...but the 'glory' of which Paul and the other New Testament writers speak has more to do with the status, the role which God's people will be given. In verse 12, as in passages like Romans 5:17, Paul talks about 'reigning' with Christ. God's new world will not simply be a place of rest and refreshment, as people often imagine. That's what awaits God's faithful people immediately after death; but after that again, when God brings the new creation into existence, there will be new work to do, new tasks to stretch our ability and imagination. Those who are faithful in the present world will be given authority in the next one, where they will share Jesus' reign." (Pastoral Letters for Everyone, 103)

- How does this excerpt influence your outlook on endurance for the sake of the gospel?

GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY

N.T. Wright states that the poem in verses 11-13 is "the sort of thing you can imagine people learning by heart, teaching to their children and friends, and then repeating under their breath when standing before tribunals, when threatened by angry magistrates or beaten by guards, when facing sudden and fierce temptation." (Pastoral Letters for Everyone, 103) Write out this poem and place it somewhere that you will see it daily. See if you can memorize it. Consider taking a picture of this poem and sending it to a friend. Maybe even teach this poem to someone... What impact will this poem have on you and your circle of influence?

USE THIS LESSON TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCT 15

2 TIMOTHY 2:3-14

TIME WITH OTHERS

LESSON 3

GLEANNING INSIGHT FROM OTHERS

To work through with a small group

We encourage you to begin your time by reading through the passage aloud and closing your time in prayer with one another.

- Is there a quote or saying that you know by heart? Perhaps it's something you occasionally mutter under your breath at various times during your daily life? If so, what is it?
- How did you summarize 2 Timothy 2:3-14 in this week's homework?
- How do the following scriptures reinforce Paul's declaration that "God's word is not chained" in verse 9 (NIV): Philippians 1:12-18; 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- In verse 14, Paul urges Timothy to warn against "quarreling about words." Why might quarreling over words be dangerous to the gospel message?
- What's something from this week's time in 2 Timothy that has left a mark on you?
(something you need to think about more, something you want to talk with someone about, something you want to put into practice, etc)
- In the "Getting Your Hands Dirty" section on the front side of this page, you were encouraged to write out / memorize / teach / share the poem from verses 11-13. If you did this, what impact did it have on your week?

GUIDING OTHERS

To work through with Family & Friends

The idea behind this section is to give parents a few questions they could talk through with their kids at the dinner table or while tucking them in at night. But this is not limited to parents of young children. These questions could be discussed with folks of any age.

Read 2 Timothy 2:13 (ERV)

"If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful, because he cannot be false to himself."

Talk about it:

1. What do you think this verse means?
2. What are some qualities other than "faithful" that are true about God? Pick your favorite.
3. How has God shown that quality to you or your family?
4. How can you show that quality to someone else this week?

USE THIS LESSON TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCT 15