

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

TIME ALONE WITH GOD

LESSON 6

GROUNDING YOURSELF

This passage ends with the line, "So that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Pray today for the Lord to equip you - more and more - through His Word. That God would prepare you to be ready and willing to carry out any and every good work.

GRASPING THE SCRIPTURES

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 (feel free to look up a few different translations)

-The passage moves in four separate directions: from Paul's own life, to the lives of others, to Timothy, and lastly to the Holy Scriptures. How do you see the breakdown of these sections?

-Now, move into each section and write out the main point of each part. What is Paul getting at in these individual slices?

-At this point, consider the passage as a whole. Put all the parts together. If you were to explain this portion of Scripture to a friend, how would you sum it up? What are the main things you would want them to know about? What would you not want them to miss?

-Paul tells Timothy Scripture is able to make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." What do you believe this phrase means? What else does Paul say Scripture is useful for?

-Out of the purposes for Scripture Paul mentions above, is there one of these usages of Scripture you do not resonate with - is one of them sometimes neglected in your own life?

-Go back and re-read the first half of 2 Timothy 3. Then read the following excerpt from *The Message of 2 Timothy* (Stott, 104):

"Looking back over this chapter as a whole, we can appreciate the relevance of its message to our pluralist and permissive society. The 'times of stress' in which we seem to be living are very distressing. Sometimes one wonders if the world and the church have gone mad, so strange are their views, and so lax their standards. Some Christians are swept from their moorings by the flood tide of sin and error. Others go into hiding, as offering the best hope of survival, the only alternative to surrender. But neither of these is the Christian way. 'But as for you,' Paul says to us as he did to Timothy, 'stand firm. Never mind if the pressure to conform is very strong. Never mind if you are young, inexperienced, timid and weak. Never mind if you find yourself alone in your witness. You have followed my teaching so far. Now continue in what you have come to believe."

-In response to the turbulence of the times, the writer - who wrote this in 1973 - says Christians either fall into more sin themselves, or shelter themselves off from the world. Which of these ring truer for you?

GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY

Consider Paul's word to Timothy in verse 14: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it." In this letter, Paul reminds Timothy not only what he has learned, but here he also notes whom Timothy has learned it from.

Who is someone who has taught you how to live the Gospel in your own life? This week, write a letter to one person that helped raise you up in the faith. Or write to someone who has recently helped teach you new things in the Scriptures you never would have learned on your own.

USE THIS LESSON TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOV 5

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

TIME WITH OTHERS

LESSON 6

GLEANING 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.

-Paul tells Timothy to continue in what he has learned. What is something you learned early in life that you continue to live out to this day? It could be as simple as a habit or hobby. Or something a little deeper and more meaningful.

- We spent time in our individual study breaking down the passage and looking at its overall flow. Take a moment together to share how you see the passage divided up into its parts, and then how it comes together as a whole.

-Suffering and hardship has been a constant theme throughout this letter, and also shows up in this passage. Look at Paul's writing in Romans 5:1-5. What does he reveal about suffering here? How does this add to what we've learned about it so far in 2 Timothy?

-We find the title of our sermons series - *But as for you* - in this passage. After having spent the past several weeks in this book, why is this phrase significant? What does it mean for you? How could it apply to us as a body of believers?

-Consider Paul's word about Scriptures at the end of this passage.. First, consider "god-breathed" in relation also to Genesis 2:7. What does this phrase mean? Second, Paul tells us the Scriptures are useful for "teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." How have these qualities arisen in your time studying the scriptures together so far?

-You were encouraged this week to write a letter to someone who has helped you grow in your faith. Whom did you write to? And how did that person impact your understanding of God?

-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)

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 3:16 (ERV)

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

Talk about it:

1. Genesis 2:7 says "the Lord God formed the man from dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being."

Thinking about this verse and 2 Timothy 3:16, what do you think "God-breathed" means? What does that tell us about the Bible?

2. What is something that you have recently learned from the Bible?

USE THIS LESSON TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOV 5