

2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

TIME ALONE WITH GOD

LESSON 8

GROUNDING YOURSELF

In the very last verse of the letter, Paul writes, "The Lord be with your spirit." Before diving into study, pray this simple prayer: "Lord, be with my spirit." And then sit in silence until you are ready to receive truth from His Word.

GRASPING THE SCRIPTURES

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 *(feel free to look up a few different translations)*

-First off, if you are reading this line, it means you made it all the way to the last lesson! Hooray! Wahoo! You did it! You have persevered in running this race all the way unto the end! Take a moment to celebrate your diligence. But even more, acknowledge His faithfulness unto you.

-Verses 16-18 stand as the heart of this passage. What does Paul proclaim here?

-It's as though all the names Paul mentions in this passage serve to illustrate the truths Paul voices in verses 16-18. Rather than just seeing them as a random assortment, how can you see all these people and relationships and encounters as descriptive of verses 16-18?

-The prosperity gospel of health and wealth is rampant in today's Christian cultural climate. Yet, this is not what Paul displays in his own life. Nor does he promise as much to Timothy. Instead, Paul names hardships to come for those who choose to pursue Jesus. What trials and tribulations do you see in this passage? What else does he say about this throughout the letter?

-In verse 15, Paul tells Timothy to be on his "guard" against those who strongly oppose the message of the gospel. How has he equipped Timothy throughout this letter to stand against opposition?

-Look closely at verse 18. What does it tell us about God as our rescuer and deliverer? What does Paul proclaim in regards to "safety" as a follower of Christ?

-This week, rather than turning to a commentary, we're taking a different route. A close reader of 2 Timothy 4 and Psalm 22 will notice close echoes resounding throughout. With this in mind, read chapter 4 as a whole. And then Psalm 22.

In your reading, look for parallels between the two. Then, consider how Psalm 22 also captures Paul's heart at this point in his life. Lastly, note how Jesus alluded to this same Psalm while on the cross as well. How might this add even extra weight to how you hear Paul's last chapter, in his very last recorded letter?

GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY

Paul tells us the truth in this passage about life as a follower of Jesus: the Lord will stand by our side and give us strength, but there will be plenty of hardship all along the way from those who oppose the gospel message. This week, search back through all of 2 Timothy to find Scriptures you need to be reminded of. These could be verses of encouragement, warning, instruction, or identity. What has God put on your heart through His Word through this letter?

Pick a handful of verses. Write them on post-it notes. And place them where you will see them. May the Word of God serve to stand as our strength in hard times.

USE THIS LESSON TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOV 19

2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

TIME WITH OTHERS

LESSON 8

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.

- What is the hardest thing you've ever finished/completed/accomplished? What was it like going through it all? What was it like to finish?
- How did you see verses 16-18 as central to this passage as a whole? And how did you see the rest of the surrounding verses serving to supplement these truths?
- Look at verse 15 in light of what it means to be on "guard". Now turn to Ephesians 6:10-20. How could Paul's words there give further guidance to Timothy here? You might also want to look to Jesus being tempted by the devil in Matthew 4:1-11. How does Jesus remain "on guard" as well?
- Our western Christian culture can make our faith sound like promises of health, wealth, and safety. But this is not what we find in this passage. What instead does Paul proclaim? Have you experienced hardships that have come with following Jesus? How have they shaped you for good rather than harm?
- We took time this to consider Psalm 22, 2 Timothy 4, and Jesus' words on the cross. Share what you discovered along the way. Why are these connections meaningful?
- Taking the letter in as a whole, how would you describe Paul as a follower of Christ? Based on this letter as well, what kind of man do you think he wants Timothy to be? Lastly, how has God been shaping and forming you throughout this time in His Word through 2 Timothy as well?
- You were encouraged this week to seek out Scriptures from this letter that you needed to soak in more and more. What verses did you choose? Did seeing them consistently this week have an impact on you? In what way?
- 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 4:22 (ERV)

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

Talk about it:

Grace means, "not getting what you deserve".

1. Tell about a time you got in trouble
2. Tell about a time you deserved to get in trouble, but you didn't?
3. God shows us grace when he forgives us of our sin. In the verse above, Paul prays, "Grace be with you." Why is it important for us to remember that God shows us grace?

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