

Living Faithfully: Living as Jesus' Disciple in the 21st Century

Week 5: Faithfully Aware

Introduction: 2nd Timothy 3:1-9

Children imitate superheroes. Elementary kids grow up and want to be like their favorite athletes. Little girls sing with their hairbrush in front of a mirror emulating their favorite singer. Teenagers follow the style and interests of pop culture. I have watched seminary students try to mimic the style of their favorite preacher. We have all observed the power of an example. In my opinion the most powerful form of persuasion is the spoken word. Just under it, and connected to it, is the persuasive power of example. Jesus Himself did both. His teaching explained His life; His life exemplified His teaching. He gave us both word and example.

The world is broken and cannot get better on its own. Only the gospel offers a deep enough solution to this radical problem created by sin. Behavior modification, rules, or the law are not enough. They may manage sin, but they cannot transform the heart. Clearly, when the love of God is replaced with lesser loves, only trouble follows.

The Big Picture: Christians must live faithfully aware of the world's trouble so that the Gospel is unhindered!

Discussion:

Open:

- Did you ever have a bad influence in your life? (the kind of person you desperately wanted to be like, but knew it was just wrong)

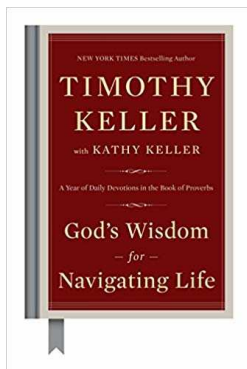
Discuss:

Read 2nd Timothy 3:1-9. Review the sermon. Write down any questions you have or any statements that stood out to you.

At Cornerstone, we believe the following six values will help you live faithfully to Jesus in the 21st Century: grace, growth, gather, gifts, generosity and goodness. These shaping values lead our discussion points.

- **Grace: Experiencing Regular Renewal and Refreshment through the Spirit**
Why do therapy and rules ultimately fail to cause people to love one another? How else does secular society address this problem?
- **Growth: Learning from and Applying the Word of God to My Everyday Life**
How does awareness of the nature of temptation help us fight it? Which temptation—narcissism, hedonism, or materialism—is most difficult for you?

- **Gather: Experiencing Christian Community and Gospel Renewal with Others**
Why was Jesus more angry with religious hypocrites than with non-religious people? Why did He call them “blind”? Why “vipers”?
- **Gifts: Applying My Time and Talent for God’s Glory and the Benefit of Others**
How does self-centeredness keep people from using their gifts to benefit others?
- **Generosity: Honoring God by Sharing My Resources to Benefit Others**
The brokenness of the world leads us to hold onto our own stuff and pursue our own pleasure. How does the way of Jesus encourage us to live more generously toward others?
- **Goodness: Expressing the Gospel at Work through Love and Good Deeds**
How do misdirected loves, corrupted relationships and self-centeredness limit the Gospel?



Further Exploration on this Topic:

God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life: A Year of Devotions in the Proverbs, by Tim and Kathy Keller

From the Publisher: Proverbs is God’s book of wisdom, teaching us the essence and goal of a Christian life. In this 365-day devotional, Timothy Keller offers readers a fresh, inspiring lesson for every day of the year based on different passages within the Book of Proverbs. With his trademark knowledge, Keller unlocks the wisdom within the poetry of Proverbs and guides us toward a new

understanding of what it means to live a moral life. *God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life* is a book that readers will be able to turn to every day, year after year, to cultivate a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0735222096>