

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

Week 1: The Beginning of Faith

Introduction: 2nd Timothy

Author, Date, Recipient

Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy during his second imprisonment in Rome, shortly before his death. This imprisonment was after the one recorded in Acts 28. He probably wrote it in A.D. 64–65, though some would place it as late as 67.

Setting

A.D. 64–67

Paul probably wrote 2 Timothy during a second imprisonment in Rome following a fourth missionary journey that is not recorded in Acts. Expecting that death would come soon, Paul wrote this “farewell” letter to Timothy, who was at Ephesus, urging him to stand firm and asking him to come for one final visit.

Theme

Paul gives Timothy a bold, clear call to continue in the gospel despite suffering.

Purpose

Several people have abandoned Paul while he has been in prison, and several others are away on assignments (1:15; 4:9–12). In such a time, Paul’s memories of Timothy’s sincerity and devotion are especially touching (1:3–5). Paul thinks he will die soon (4:6–8), so he writes this final message to Timothy. Paul urges Timothy to stand firm and asks him to come for one final visit before Paul is executed. Though Paul’s death is near, he does not know just when it will come. Paul also asks Timothy to bring his books and parchments, so that he can keep studying and writing until the end.

Second Timothy is very personal. It is a final letter to a close friend and coworker. Paul encourages Timothy to continue in faithfulness and offers his own life as an example for Timothy to follow. What he calls on Timothy to do, he himself has done already.

The Big Picture: In order to live faithfully in the world, you first need faith in Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Discussion:

Open:

- What is the greatest difference you think Cornerstone has had on the community?

Discuss:

Read 2nd Timothy 1:1-7. 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**
You were called by God. How does God's intention to love and lead you help you experience grace today?

- **Growth: Learning from and Applying the Word of God to My Everyday Life**
The final verse of this section (v. 7) says that God has given a Spirit of power, love and self-discipline. How do each of those characteristics strengthen your life?

- **Gather: Experiencing Christian Community and Gospel Renewal with Others**
Timothy's family was a big part of his faith community. Paul was another big contributor to helping Timothy's faith grow.

Who in your life has influenced your faith for the good?

Have there been people who have hurt your faith?

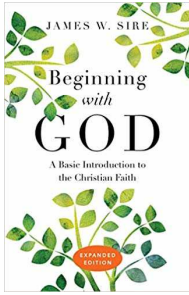
What has this taught you about experiencing Jesus with others?

- **Gifts: Applying My Time and Talent for God's Glory and the Benefit of Others**
Paul tells Timothy to "fan into flames the gift of God". (v. 6). What gifts do you think God is wanting to come alive in your faith journey?

- **Generosity: Honoring God by Sharing My Resources to Benefit Others**

- **Goodness: Expressing the Gospel at Work through Love and Good Deeds**
Paul writes in verse 2 that he is served God with a clear conscience. How does a clear conscience before God and people help you express goodness in action to others?

Further Exploration on this Topic:



Beginning with God: A Basic Introduction to the Christian Faith by James W. Sire

From the Publisher: Christianity begins with God and ends with God. It is a story for all to know and understand. In this personal and easy-to-read book, James Sire offers a basic introduction to the foundational truths held by Christians at all times and in all places. The chapters are organized around a simple scheme: creation, fall, redemption, new life in Christ, and glorification. In this expanded edition, Sire added a chapter on the person of Jesus. With study questions for personal or group use, this is the ideal first book for seekers and believers who want to understand the central teachings of the Bible.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Beginning-God-Basic-Introduction-Christian/dp/0830845054>