

### **Remembering the Spiritual Disciplines**

Serving is a spiritual discipline. Last week highlighted worship as a spiritual discipline. Worship empowers serving; serving expresses worship. At the moment of salvation, when the Holy Spirit comes to live within you, He brings a spiritual gift to you. What is your spiritual gift (read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)? Are you using your spiritual gift?

### **Big Picture of the Passage**

Paul takes his life and offers it to God. He takes his part of the future of Christianity and before God, places it in the hands of his 'son' Timothy.

1. If you knew your time on this earth was going to end soon, what would you want to do for the people you love? What are you willing to do to invest in the growth (discipleship relationship) of the younger Christians around you?
  
2. Read 2 Timothy 4 in its entirety. These are Paul's final words. What key theme(s) “pop out” in these final words from Paul?

### **Verses 9-10**

Paul is urging Timothy to come quickly. Paul was probably lonely. No one had been there at his trial (4:16) to speak in his defense and Demas had left the faith (4:10). Only Luke (4:11) had returned. Everyone experiences loneliness at some time. Our natural response is to run from it, avoid it or deny it by filling our lives with many distractions.

3. What can you discern about Demas (see Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24)? Why does Paul say Demas deserted him? What does it mean to “love the present world?”
  
4. How can God use our loneliness? Describe how God has impacted your life during lonely periods of your life.
  
5. “Lonely” or “desolate” places can be used to draw closer to God. See Jesus' example in Luke 5:16. Why would Jesus remove himself to a quiet location? Where is your quiet place you go to draw closer to God?

### **Verse 11-12**

6. Luke alone is left with Paul. Do you have a steadfast friend, someone who is always available, someone who is at your side when needed? Describe this relationship. Give an example of how this person was with you during a trying or difficult moment in your life.
7. Paul asks Timothy to bring Mark with him because "he will be helpful to me in my ministry." Read Acts 13:4-5, 13-14; 15:36-41. How does this indicate Paul's grace to Mark at this time? Why is it difficult to extend grace/forgiveness to another?

### **Verses 13-15**

8. Paul warns Timothy about Alexander the coppersmith. What people today strongly oppose the Christian message?

### **Verse 16-18**

9. There are two promises in these verses:  
*"...the Lord stood by me..."* Read Deuteronomy 31:6 and Hebrews 13:5. Share in your group how the Lord has stood by you.

*"...and strengthened me"* Paul expresses in the sufficiency in God's power and strength. Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-9. What is the result of God's strengthening of Paul? What is the result of God's strengthening in your life?

### **Verses 19-22**

10. The names in verses 19-20 denote men, women, Romans, Greeks, nobles and commoners. What comfort would that fact give Paul and Timothy? How does the Good News appeal to such a diverse group of people?

### **Pray**

Pray for the spread of the gospel in your community and in parts of the world where the church is under persecution. Ask the Lord to lead you to being as readily available to God as Paul was. Be willing to be a servant at the disposal of the Lord.