

“WORD: Rightly Handling the Truth of God” (2 Timothy 2:1-7)
For the week of January 22, 2017

Remembering the Spiritual Disciplines

Reading God's Word is a spiritual discipline. Every believer should be reading God's Word daily. Sadly, studies have revealed that 23% of all Christians never read the Word of God. Jesus often asked questions about people's understanding of the Scriptures, sometimes saying “*Have you not read...?*” (Matthew 19:4; Mark 12:10). What to do? Well, at RiverLakes we are starting a “**Two-Year Bible Reading Plan.**” Go to riverlakeschurch.org to access the reading plan. Do you read God's Word daily? How does reading God's Word lead to spiritual maturity? Write down your thoughts and discuss in your group.

Big Picture of the Passage

1. Paul had spent much time discipling/mentoring Timothy and now Paul's death was looming. How does Paul's charge to Timothy in verse 2 highlight discipleship? What if Paul had NOT disciplined/mentored Timothy? Overall, what is the impact when discipleship does NOT occur? Finally, many of you have disciplined your children. Describe this process in your group.

Verses 1-2

2. This is a loving command encouraging Timothy to stay strong spiritually. Think back to a time when you struggled in your walk with the Lord. What helped you through your tough time?
3. Our only effective spiritual strength is in the Lord. What does Ephesians 6:10 and Jude 20-21 say about this?
4. What does the word “entrust” mean/imply? For example, if someone entrusts something to you, is it typically superficial or substantial? Why would Paul use that language when talking about the Gospel?
5. What characteristics is Timothy to look for in those he entrusts the Gospel to? What might we be looking for in today's world as we entrust the Gospel to others?

6. This is a picture of what some have called "spiritual multiplication." How so? How was the Gospel entrusted to you? How have you entrusted it to others?

9. Ok, so why is Paul saying this to Timothy? What is the point with these illustrations?

Verses 3-7

7. What do these three illustrations (soldier, athlete, and farmer) have in common?

10. Finally, go back to verse 5. In Paul's time, Olympic athletes were required to swear an oath to Zeus. If they didn't, they were disqualified. Likewise, failure to abide by the rules of competition was required and if not, they were fined or disqualified. Many people define "grace" as the absence of rules. Other disagree and say the Word of God is a rule book, a guide for life. The Bible certainly has principles requiring discernment to apply, but it also contains specific rules (i.e. 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:19) that need to be obeyed without question. What say you on this subject? Discuss in your group.

8. Why are the soldier, athlete and farmer willing to sacrifice/suffer?

Pray

- For "strength by the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
- For encouragement to entrust the Gospel to others.
- For endurance in your walk with the Lord.
- For love to God and love to others to be evident in your life.