

Endure
A Study of 2 Timothy
Week 06: The Last Days – Authority of Scripture

Scripture

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Review (Where We Are)

Here's where we are in history...

- Second letter to the pastor, Timothy (Timothy ministering in Ephesus 4 years)
- Final writing from a Roman prison and before his death (martyred in AD67)
2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV) “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
- The Roman Emperor, Nero, blamed Christians for the great fire in Rome (burned half of Rome in AD64) and they came under great persecution
- Purpose was to encourage Timothy to **endure** trials and hardships

Advice So Far...

- **Fan the flame of your spiritual gifts given to you by God**
2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- **Guard the truth**
2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV) Follow the pattern of the words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
- **Endure hardship** (good soldier, athlete, farmer)
2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV) You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace [*favor; kindness*] that is in Christ Jesus...
“Paul is calling for Timothy to overcome his apparent drift toward weakness and renew his commitment to his ministry.” - John MacArthur
- **Don't quarrel over words** (familiar reminder found in 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 4:7; 6:4)
2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV) ...charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.
2 Timothy 2:16 (ESV) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness...
2 Timothy 2:23 (ESV) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies...

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

Each generation will pass on what is important *to them* to the next generation.

“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.” – Greek Proverb

Paul wanted Timothy to realize the seriousness of continuing in the truth.

Paul knew the end was near for him, so he wanted to make sure the “next generation” would be faithful to the truth.

“As he lies in his cell, a prisoner of the Lord, Paul is still preoccupied with the future of the gospel. His mind dwells now on the evil of the times. Timothy is so weak, and the opposition so strong.” - John Stott

Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul's Warnings to Timothy...

▪ **Warning 1: There will be times of difficulty in the *last days***

2 Timothy 3:1 (ESV) But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

What are the *last days*?

“...a term which includes the entire period between the first century and Christ's return.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

▪ **Warning 2: The character and behavior of people will be in decline**

2 Timothy 3:2 (ESV) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4** treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

▪ **Warning 3: Those who desire to live godly will be persecuted**

2 Timothy 3:10 (ESV) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, **11** my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. **12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

Application (What They Need to Do)

What do we do in the face of difficult times and people?

- Continue in what you've learned and believed
2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it...
- Be acquainted with the Scriptures
2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV) ...and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Realize the function of the Scriptures
 - ✓ The Bible came to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
Verbal Plenary Inspiration – all words inspired by God; written by man
 - God used the writer's personality
 - Man used their own language/grammar; wrote within the historical context

Words that help us understand how the Bible was written and understood...

- *Revelation* – what God has spoken about Himself
- *Inspiration* – the recording of the truth God has given about Himself
- *Illumination* – how the truth about God is made evident to the Christian
- *Preservation* – the truth about God being kept for all generations in the form of His written Word
- ✓ The Bible was written by God through people
2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God...
What does it mean that all scripture is breathed out by God?
The product (written word) is breathed and inspired (not the person)
- Realize the benefit of the Scriptures
2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...
 - Teaching (what is right)
 - Reproof (what is wrong)
 - Correction (how to get things right)
 - Training in righteousness (how to keep things right)

Result: maturity and ready to serve

2 Timothy 3:17 (ESV) ...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.