



May 19, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

2 Timothy 2:20-3:5

The purpose of this document is to help us take the word beyond our Sunday gathering and to **think through the practical implications of the Scriptures** and then to be intentional about living the word out.

Answers should be thoughtful and thorough to ensure we are truly DIGGING DEEPER.

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Disciples Must Prepare

2 Timothy 2:20-21; Exodus 19:1-11; 2 Chronicles 29:31-30:4; John 2:1-11

Questions Worth Asking

Consecration was not an uncommon practice for the nation of Israel. This ceremonial cleansing was necessary before entering the presence of the Lord. The priests and Levitites had to perform this practice before going into service before the Lord on behalf of the people. The people would also practice the process of purification before coming together for mandatory festivals. Paul, a leader among the Jewish people prior to giving his life to Christ, was very familiar with consecration. Paul is telling Timothy that people must prepare themselves to be available for the Lord's use by cleansing themselves of the grit and the grim build up in their life. God has done and will continue to do his part in the process of us becoming more like Christ. That, however, doesn't absolve us from being active participants in a partnership that the Lord has called us to. There is something that we must do if we are going to be prepared to be of use to our King in the advancement of his kingdom here on earth. We can't afford to be contaminated; we must be clean.

1. What things are you participating in and/or have experienced that have caused dirt and grim to build up in your life?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- In what ways do you see the influence of the world system impacting your life?
- How has the million-dollar marketing schemes of the world shaped your desire to have more, be better, get a promotion, purchase a new(er) gadget, etc.?
- What behaviors do you see in your life that line up more with the world than with the Word?

2. What are some areas in your life that need the scrub brush of sacrifice so you can be prepared to partner with Christ?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How has complacency and/or societal conditioning caused your convictions of Christ to be less prominent in your spheres of influence (i.e. home, work, friendships, etc.)?
- What are some clear indicators you have noticed within yourself that cause you to see the need to cut out certain people, places and/or things?
- What in your attitude demonstrates that your altitude isn't positioned with your heavenly Father? (i.e. short temper, impatient in traffic, flustered at the slightest mishap, etc.)

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you prepare to be useful to the Lord...

1. Commit to cleaning one thing out of your life that is causing you not to be "ready for every good work."
 - a. This could be a way of thinking and/or behaving, a toxic relationship, etc.
 - b. Share your commitment with someone for accountability.
2. **Read and meditate on [Galatians 5](#).**
3. Focus on one of the elements of the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#) - love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) and walk in that this week.

Disciples Must Pursue

2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 10:23-25; Galatians 5:22-26

Questions Worth Asking

Being “ready for every good work” is not simply an intellectual exercise. There are things that we must do to ensure we are in fact in a position to partner with Jesus. Paul tells Timothy that we must flee evil. But this admonition doesn’t have an air of running in fear that we will be found unworthy of the faith. Rather, it is the pursuit of something precious, along with the people that we run with, that defines why we’re on the run. Like King David, our heart’s desire should be to dwell in the presence of the Lord ([Psalm 27:4](#)). We can’t pursue the presence of the Holy and live a life that is spiritually unhealthy. The pursuit of the presence of God with the community of Christ is paramount to the believer being a vessel set apart for special use. We need to be certain what we are running for and who we are running with.

1. What would someone say you were pursuing based on the priorities you have set in your life?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What have been the key factors in the development of your priorities?
- What have you sacrificed to achieve that which you long for?
- How have your pursuits shaped the habits that you hold on to?

2. How is the community, of none or many, that you are connecting with helping or hurting you in your walk with Christ?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How are you being intentional about allowing people to hold you accountable in your profession of faith?
- What has caused you not to isolate and engage in meaningful community even though it gets messy?
- Why do you keep away from community when you are dealing with difficulties?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you make the pursuit of Christ your focus...

1. **Read and meditate on [Galatians 5](#).**
2. Find an accountability partner
 - a. Identify and ask someone to be intentional about fostering an authentic, Christ-centered connection.
 - b. Connect with that person weekly (via phone, in-person, etc.) to discuss your spiritual health with each other.
3. Be committed and intentional about connecting with a community of believers (the church)
 - a. Join a faith-filled family
 - b. Attend regularly (every time you are home)
 - c. Join a community group
 - d. Don’t hide (be real about your walk with Christ)
 - e. Dig Deep

Disciples Must Project & Protect

2 Timothy 2:23-3:5; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Questions Worth Asking

The presence of Christ impacts the way we engage with others. Paul said that our pursuit of Christ should be done in Christ-centered community. He also made it clear of how our engagement should be with those who aren't a part of the body. In this heartfelt letter to his beloved son in the faith, Paul speaks of two camps of unbelievers and how the believer should engage based on their singular focus and pursuit of a loving Lord. For those who are ensnared by the enemy, we are to be lovingly patient in our correcting their ignorance. For the one who is looking to destroy the disciple with heretical doctrine, we are to avoid them like the plague. We are to project our faith in a way that is winsome and loving so that the nonbeliever may see the incomprehensible love of God. But we are also to protect our faith in the way we engage with the false teacher. We can't afford to be passive to lessen the friction felt in our interactions. We have to share the truth in love and guard the truth with tenacity.

1. How has your passionate pursuit for Christ impacted the perception that a non-believer has about the community of believers?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it so difficult to share truth with someone who is a clear opponent to the truth?
- Why is it so easy to be pulled into an argument to prove that someone else's view is steeped in stupidity?
- How has the attempt at coexisting with unbelievers dulled our intentionality on communicating the truth of the Lord's love (in deed and/or word)?

2. How does the community you are connected to help you guard against the difficult times we find ourselves in?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How are you able to spot the wolves in sheep's clothing (false teaching)?
- What are you doing to guard against the manifold misleading doctrinal teachings that are being broadcasted to the masses?
- Why is it so difficult to cut-off people that confess Christ but demonstrate and communicate an unwillingness to live in line with the word of God?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you to project and protect your faith ...

1. Be intentional about conversing with someone who sees the world differently than you.
 - a. Remove sarcasm and cynicism from your communication toolbox altogether.
 - b. Listen for understanding rather than rebuttals. Look to really understand the other persons point of view even if it differs from yours.
 - c. Lovingly share your viewpoints without trying to make the person live it out.
 - d. Keep the line of communication open for future dialogue.
2. Be careful who listen to and don't allow yourself to be spoon-fed.
 - a. Be like the Bereans ([Acts 17:11-15](#)). Vet everything through the word of God.
 - b. Clean out your podcasts playlist. Dig deeper into the teachings of those that you listen to. Don't just like and follow any and every one.
 - c. Read your Bible daily. You can only tell a fake dollar bill if you know what a real one looks like. Know the word and you can't be misled by a false interpretation.