

## 01.04.26: How do we get out of this mess?

### Pt 2: Discipleship

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**Title:** How do we get out of this mess? Part 2

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17

**Main Idea:** God has provided godly people and God-breathed words to guide us in hard times.

#### Intro:

- Pastoral Epistles background – two troubled churches
  - Titus in Crete – new church
  - Timothy in Ephesus – troubles in an established church
- 1 Tim to 2 Tim – Paul at the end of his ministry and life
- Troubled waters
  - False doctrines being spread from within – 1 Tim 1:3
    - Myths 1 Tim 1:4, 2 Tim 4:4
    - Genealogies 1 Tim 1:4
    - Empty speculations
    - Fruitless discussions 1 Tim 1:6
    - <sup>3</sup>They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth. 1 Tim 4:3
    - Declaring the resurrection had already occurred 2 Tim 2:18
  - False teachers
    - X2 elders have already been removed 2 Tim 2:17
    - Want to be teachers of the law but don't understand what they are saying or what they are insisting on 1 Tim 1:7
    - Characterized by Irreverent and empty speech – 2 Tim 2
    - Deceived and deceivers 2 Tim 3:13
    - “worm” their way into households to deceive 2 Tim 3:6
  - These false teachers had found a willing audience – a group of young women and widows had been led astray and were leading the church astray
    - Gullible
    - Given over to passions
    - Always learning and never coming to knowledge of truth
  - Culture brewing within that undermines truth and the gospel

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- 2 Tim 3:1-5 - <sup>1</sup>But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. <sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people.
- 2 Tim 4:3-4 - <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- Into all of this, Paul sends his young protégé to the ministry to set things in order
- As Paul later writes to Timothy, he reminds Timothy of two critically important helps that God has given him in the midst of all the turmoil
  - An example
  - A book

[Read 2 Tim 3:10-17]

Last week, we considered the importance of God's Word for God's people.

- The personality – sacred and God-breathed,
- Purpose – wisdom for salvation ,
- Process – teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,
- and product of God's Word – complete and equipped

This week we will deal with the example of godly men and women.

This picture for us of godly man pouring into a godly man.

One has walked with and watched the other handle all sorts of life's circumstances and is now called to steward this experience – the biblical word for what is being written here is *discipleship*. While the word itself is not used here in this text, the concept is on full display for us!

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#### Acts 13-14

- Paul and Barnabas in Pisidia Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra
- Pattern of preaching then having Jews stir up crowds to come against them; in Pisidian Antioch it included a group of prominent women; they fled Iconium, and in Lystra was stoned and dragged out of the city as dead.
- Paul's concept of ministry was one based on building the church through disciple making.
- What had Paul done for Timothy to prepare him for spiritual success in his present circumstances?
- What Paul did provides us a practical model in many ways of what it looks like to intentionally invest in the lives of others – not just theoretically but practically .
- In many ways discipleship is about helping others make that move – from theory to practice. Paul's letters often modeled this in structure.

The discipleship that Paul modeled for us is Discipleship that accomplishes these five objectives in the lives of the disciple.

1. Imparts godly truth to disciples
2. Exemplifies godly character for disciples
3. Equips disciples for inevitable opposition
4. Encourages faithful endurance of disciples
5. Expects appropriate stewardship from disciples

#### **1. Imparts godly truth to disciples**

- Knowledge is required – inescapable learning component to growing in our relationship with God. Jesus was constantly talking to his disciples, engaging them in conversation, asking them questions, helping them to see the truth and where they have beliefs that are in error
- but not sufficient – takes more than head knowledge; many know but fail at the point of obedience; knowledge can puff up and stoke our egos. Paul in 1 Cor 4 warns against arrogance and then in 8:1 “We know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” And then in 13:2 “If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all

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mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.”

- Then in 2 Cor 3 – the letter kills but the Spirit gives life

**2. Exemplifies godly character for disciples**

- Paul reminded Timothy that he had been with Paul and knew/followed Paul’s teaching.
- LN- to make an extensive effort to learn the details and truth about something—‘to trace, to investigate carefully, to diligently check out’. This is the same word that Luke used in Luke 1 to describe how he has carefully investigated things and now presents his findings.
- As timothy diligently checked out Paul, what did he discover? What he discovered was not theoretical but practical in every way; a man who exemplified walking with Jesus
- Conduct – a man whose walk matched his talk; he had correct conduct driven by correct doctrine
- Purpose – a life expended for a purpose; Paul was committed to Jesus and thus to the gospel and the church. Acts 9:15-16 “<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, “Go, for this man is my chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. <sup>16</sup>I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” Paul never lost sight of his purpose and calling - in 1 Cor 9:26 - So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air.
- Faith – (pistis) – complete trust and reliance; the life-blood of the righteous (Romans 1:7; 9:30; Phil 3:9)
- Patience – not being irritated; a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation (LN)
- Love – agape – 1 Cor 13 among others
- Endurance / perseverance / steadfastness – if patience is not being irritated, endurance is not being discouraged. Paul could speak to this because Paul had lived this! He does not go into details here, but he does not need to because Timothy was familiar with all that Paul had endured and he was still in the fight!

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**3. Equips disciples for inevitable opposition**

- Preparation must include what to do when confronted by opposition, and not just passive coldness but active hostility
- I must admit that I have not suffered in this way – I have not been beaten nor imprisoned. The closest I have come to this was in spring of 2020 when we as a staff resolved that we were not missing a Sunday morning worship service and had discussions about what we would do if authorities showed up and if they further arrested us.
- So I am dependent on others for this – Nick Ripken has learned from the persecuted church the importance of the word, heart songs, and ?

**4. Encourages faithful endurance of disciples**

- We have already seen endurance as a distinct characteristic exemplified by Paul and commended to Timothy (v 10)
- In vs 14 - The term “continue” (*menō*) is the same term translated “hold to” or “remain” in John 8:31; 15:5–6. It demands more than merely continuing in orthodoxy. It called for a commitment to live and abide in what Timothy had learned.
- Furthermore Paul encourages Timothy by reminding him of God’s providence in his life – God has prepared and equipped him, he has all that is needed. Timothy had been raised by a god fearing mother and grandmother (Paul mentions Eunice (mother) and Lois (grandmother) by name in 2 Tim 1:5) who had poured the holy Scriptures into him from an early age “from infancy” (v 15).
- Paul had built on this foundation having spent a lot of time with Timothy and invested in him to the point of referring to Timothy as Paul’s son in the faith (Phil 2:22; 1 Tim 1:2, 18; 2 Tim 1:2; 2:1)

**5. Expects a return on the investment**

- Paul’s reminder to Timothy was not only to encourage him but also to exhort him to be a good steward of all that has been invested in him
- Implied responsibility and appropriate stewardship from Timothy