

SERMON SERIES: Expectations: Be Prepared

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Key Line

God expects us to pursue what will prepare us for His power.

Introduction

Have you ever felt unprepared for something really important? (Ex: A test, an interview, a job or having children?)

How prepared are you to carry out the work God has for you to accomplish here on earth?

Seek the Word

(Review: Paul is writing a letter from prison to Timothy, a young man now leading the church in Ephesus. Paul is waiting to die and wants to leave Timothy his advice and encouragement.)

- Read 2 Timothy 2:15-16. What does Paul warn us against? (*Godless chatter. God isn't a part of the conversation.*)
 - Where does this type of talk lead? (*If we indulge in it, it will make us more and more ungodly*)

- Read 2 Timothy 2:19-21. What does God know? (*He knows who are His. Scott reminded us that God knows our hearts. He knows those who say one thing but believe another.*)
 - From what do Christians need to turn? (*From wickedness*)
 - To what things does Paul compare people? (*Household items of gold, silver, wood and clay*) Which are used for special purposes? (*Gold and silver*)
 - How do we prepare ourselves for “noble or Godly purposes?” (*We are to cleanse ourselves from dishonorable/disgraceful purposes.*)

- Read 2 Timothy 2:22-23. From what are we to flee? (*The evil desires of youth. The action of “fleeing” is a continuous action. Ongoing.*)
 - What are we to pursue? (*Righteousness, faith, love and peace, and those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. This is also a continuous action.*)
 - What should we have nothing to do with? (*Foolish and stupid arguments.*)

- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Scott taught us that we are living in the “last days” Paul mentioned. It is the time between Jesus’s first and his second coming. What adjective does Paul use to describe these times? (*Terrible*)
 - What are some of the 19 attributes Paul lists to describe people during these days?
 - What kind of godliness will people have? (*Only a form of godliness. Denying its power.*)

- Does Paul teach we should have relationship with those who claim to follow Christ but deny his power? *(No. We are to have nothing to do with them.)*
- Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. In what does Paul encourage Timothy to continue? *(What he has learned in the Scriptures and relationship with his faithful teachers.)*
 - What is all Scripture? *(It is God-breathed.)*
 - For what purpose? *(It is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.)*

Talk About It

Scott talked about 3 things we can do to help us be equipped to pursue what will prepare us for God's power.

1. Get into God's Word Daily. Is this something that is easy for you or difficult? If you find it difficult, can you brainstorm with others to help you develop this habit?
2. Grow with others. How can others keep you accountable? Are the people you're surrounding yourself with helping or hurting your walk with God?
3. Humble yourself before God. Are there areas in your life you struggle to submit to God? Maybe your job, your children or your future?

Is there anything you need to "flee" in order to pursue the life has planned for you?