

Sermon study 2 Timothy 3:1-13 "Ordinary Boldness"

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses

Read 1 John 2:15-17. And then read and discuss the following article:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/seeker-sensitive-church.html>

Our problem today is that we want the world to like us. But the world hates real Christianity and it will only get worse.

CPT:

2 Timothy 3:12

Main Idea:

We live in difficult times, surrounded by selfish people and empty religion. You will be persecuted for godliness.

I. Difficult Times (2 Timothy 3:1)

A. Paul sets the context of Timothy's ministry. We live in difficult times.

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:20 ; 4:7 and 1 John 2:18. Based on these verses, when did the last days begin?
2. How should we expect to live out our faith in these times?

II. Selfish People (2 Timothy 3:2-4)

A. The reason for these difficult times is due to the selfishness of people. The surrounding culture loves the wrong things. We are called to worship God, love people and use things but instead we worship self, love things and use people.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15. Who did we used to live for? How did that life differ from the one you have now?
2. Read Romans 1:18-32. Specifically how does this reflect the world as we know it today. Share specific and personal experience of this passage.
3. Read Isaiah 5:20.
 - a) Now read this excerpt from:http://www.prochoice.org/get_involved/pro_choice_proud.html

Abortion Providers Are Heroes

The abortion provider community is made up of medical professionals who are both highly skilled and uniquely dedicated to protecting the lives and health of women. Abortion providers in the U.S. and Canada treat patients with respect and provide women with the highest quality of care.

But abortion providers are much more than highly trained medical professionals: they are also heroes.

Abortion providers are on the front lines of the critical struggle to ensure that abortion is safe and accessible. They regularly defend women's lives and health against aggressive abortion opponents seeking to deprive women access to safe abortion care. Putting their lives on the line, abortion providers are the ones who make choice a reality for women.

In the face of past assassinations and ongoing violence and threats, abortion providers continue to display steadfast bravery and unwavering dedication to preserving women's lives and health.

With Choice Comes Autonomy and Dignity For Women

The ability to access safe and legal abortion has been critical for many women as they seek to define and live their lives with dignity. Honoring women means honoring their choices, including the choice of whether and when to have children.

Women are capable of making intelligent and conscientious decisions about their own lives and families. Women deserve the autonomy and dignity to act in accordance with their personal convictions, and to decide what is best for their own lives and families. Women should be trusted and respected to exercise the choices about their bodies and lives that are best for them, and not be forced by the government into personal reproductive decisions that are against their will.

4. Now please read this article and discuss:

a) <http://www.lifesitenews.com/pro-choice-reporter-covering-gosnell-trial-changes-mind-on-abortion.html>

b) Abortion is the height of selfishness

(1) Read this message board until you cannot stomach it

(a) <http://forum.baby-gaga.com/about2367454.html>

i) If you have had an abortion here is an article to help you know that the cross is sufficient: <http://carm.org/are-you-christian-woman-who-has-had-abortion>

III. Empty Religion (2 Timothy 3:5-9)

A. This time of difficulty and the selfish people are ultimately part of a false religious system. It is an empty religion that looks godly but is not.

1. Paul tells Timothy that the false religions prey on weak women who are led astray...

a) Read Ephesians 4:11-14. Based on these verses why might they have been led astray?

IV. Godliness = Persecution (2 Timothy 3:10-13)

A. You WILL be persecuted for godliness.

1. Read John 3:16-21 and 15:18-21. What did the world hate?
2. Read Matthew 27:27-31. How did we show it?
3. Read Matthew 5:11-12 and James 1:2-4. Why is persecution worth it?
4. Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8 and 6:3-8. Why is godliness worth it?

V. Ordinary Boldness

A. How do we reconcile 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 with persecution? We often think we will be persecuted when we get crazy for Jesus...but that is not what the passage says. It says we will be persecuted for godliness. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1. This is a list of ordinary every day relationships. This is the alter of true spirituality; the alter of true godliness.

YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED FOR GODLINESS NOT BOLDNESS.

You will be persecuted for being a godly wife.

You will be persecuted for being a loving and understanding husband,

You will be persecuted for listening to your parents.

You will be persecuted for encouraging your kids.

You will be persecuted for doing all your work as to the Lord not as eye pleasers.

Application:

We are called to an Ordinary Boldness in our everyday life.

Discuss tangible and specific ways to apply this message tonight. Be creative in getting the whole group to discuss how they must be specifically act this out in their specific situation. Have action steps and pray for one another.