

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Lesson 7

2 Timothy 4:1-8

*I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7*

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he has warned Timothy of the continuing challenges from the opposition of the world, temptations of the heart, and the unseen wiles of the devil. Paul's warning applies to us as well. Every Christian is called to keep on learning God's Word and living according to God's Word. We are all charged to be guided by the Scriptures. We are all charged to grow in faith and to persevere in striving for godliness—even in the face of trials and suffering.

1. Read all of 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8 **Preach the Word! Proclaim God's truth!**
 - a. Last week we studied 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Summarize in a single sentence the main point of that section of Scripture.
 - b. **For personal reflection:** Many of us have failed to realize the importance of the Scriptures in providing guidance and timeless truth. Perhaps this study has awakened in you a new understanding of the glorious origin and purpose of the Bible. How does this elevate your view of the Bible's usefulness for your life? How will this awareness affect your life going forward?
 - c. In light of this description of God's Word, what emphatic charge does Paul issue to Timothy?

- d. In 2 Timothy 4:1, Paul introduces his urgent charge to Timothy with the language of a solemn vow. What eternal and changeless elements give weight and authority to Paul's charge?

- e. In 2 Timothy 4:1, Paul refers to Christ's future return and the arrival of Christ's Kingdom in a full and final way. How would this reminder be an encouragement and motivation for Timothy? How should this serve as an encouragement and motivation for us?

2. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

God's people must defend God's truth.

- a. Paul's charge to Timothy is to take up the mission that the apostle must leave behind—Timothy is to affirm and support the spread of the gospel. Examine 2 Timothy 4:2. What are the specific elements of Timothy's ministry? What is to be Timothy's attitude in accomplishing his task?

- b. God has placed each of us in a network of relationships, responsibilities, and obligations. Within that life context, we are also called to affirm and exemplify the gospel of Christ. How do each of the particular elements in 2 Timothy 4:2 apply to our lives—to your life?

- c. Paul warns of an obstacle that we face from the culture—a failing of mankind that brings a distortion of the truth of God’s Word. What is that obstacle? (2 Timothy 4:3-4) Do you see evidence of that problem in America today? Explain.
- d. Paul exhorts Timothy (and us) to meet these challenges with what four responses? (2 Timothy 4:5)
3. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ***Our hope is in the glory of the coming Kingdom.***
- a. Paul anticipates his imminent death with joyful anticipation. What is the basis for his contentment and joy *as he looks back* over his life?
- b. What is the basis for Paul’s joy *as he looks forward* to the future Kingdom?
- c. ***For personal reflection:*** Paul’s joy at the end of life is an inspiration and encouragement to us. Has this study served to motivate you to make changes in your goals for living? If so, please share with your group, if you feel comfortable doing so.

My Prayer:

*Father, I want to come to the end of life
with the sense of satisfaction that I see in Paul.
I pray for wisdom; teach me to follow You more closely.*