

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

2 Timothy – A Church Faithful to the Gospel

Sermon Series

05 September 2021	2 Timothy 2:14-19	To Be A Worker Approved By God (I)
12 September 2021	2 Timothy 2:20-26	To Be A Worker Approved by God (II)
19 September 2021	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Description of False Teachers
26 September 2021	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Hold On To The Gospel

2 TIMOTHY

FOLLOWING JESUS INVOLVES RISK & TENSION

THIS IS NOT A SIGN OF JESUS' ABSENCE

IN DARK & DREIFULT MOMENTS, JESUS' LOVE & FAITHFULNESS BECOME TANGIBLE & REAL

4:6-22 CONCLUSION

THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS NEAR - COME BEFORE WINTER.

BRING MY HEAVY COAT (IT'S GETTING COLD)

BRING MY SCROLLS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

WATCH OUT FOR ALEXANDER - (HE'S DANGEROUS)

ALMOST EVERYONE HAS ABANDONED ME, EXCEPT JESUS WHO STANDS WITH ME.

2:14-4:5 ... & DEAL WITH CORRUPT TEACHERS

THE RESURRECTION HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE!

OR
 1 FOLLOWING GREEK PHILOSOPHY'S REJECTION OF BODILY RESURRECTION
 2 DISTORTING PAUL'S THEOLOGY OF RESURRECTION BEGINNING NOW
BOTTOMLINE -
 THEY'VE ABANDONED THE HOPE OF RESURRECTION & NEW CREATION.

APPOINT FAITHFUL PEOPLE WHO WILL TEACH OTHERS.

FOCUS ON THE CORE STORY & MESSAGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

... & USEFUL FOR TEACHING, CHALLENGING, CORRECTING, & TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, SO THAT GOD'S PEOPLE ARE PREPARED FOR DOING GOOD.

SCRIPTURE'S PURPOSE

SCRIPTURE'S NATURE

GOD'S SPIRIT GUIDED THE AUTHORS, SO WHAT THEY WROTE IS WHAT GOD WANTS PEOPLE TO HEAR.

1:1-2:13 ACCEPT YOUR CALLING...

NEGATIVE STIGMA

BIG RISK!

PHYGELLUS & HERMOGENES (4:18)
 GARES' AMBITION IN ROMAN POLARITY
 PAUL FORGET HIM!

DON'T BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OR MY CHAINS. COME SEE ME PLEASE!

I THINK GOD FOR YOU & LOIS & EUNICE.

IF WE DIE WITH HIM, THEN WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM.
 IF WE ENDURE, THEN WE WILL REIGN WITH HIM.
 IF WE DENY HIM, THEN HE WILL DENY US.
 IF WE ARE UNFAITHFUL, HE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL, FOR HE IS UNABLE TO DENY HIS OWN NATURE.

FAITHFULNESS TO JESUS COMES WITH A COST.

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT IN ROME
 1 HOUSE OF A LATER ROMAN IMPRISONMENT IN ACTS 28 (2 TIMOTHY 1:10-15)

TIMOTHY THE TRAILS NOT GOING HELL, I DON'T HAVE LONG, COME SOON. - Paul

MEANWHILE, IN EPHESSUS...

JESUS' GRACE IS A SOURCE OF POWER (2:1) TO BECOME LIKE...

SOLDIER

ATHLETE

FARMER

PAUL

JESUS

COMMITTED TO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES
 WILLING TO SACRIFICE & ENDURE FOR A GREATER GOAL

05 September 2021

2 Timothy 2:14-19

To Be A Worker Approved By God (I)

What are some “Christian” controversies that you know of? Why do you think people discuss these?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 2:14.
 - (a) Paul tells Timothy to keep reminding them of “these things”. What is Paul referring to? (See 2 Tim 2:1-13)

 - (b) What does Paul mean by “quarrel about words”? What kind of quarrels was he referring to? (Look at 1 Tim 6:4-5 for one example.)

2. Read 2 Tim 2:15.
 - (a) What does it mean to be able to “present yourself to God as one approved”? What would this look like in your life?

 - (b) What motivates people to “quarrel about words” or engage in “godless chatter”? Why is this not fitting for a workman approved by God?

3. Read 2 Tim 2:16-19.
 - (a) How will irreverent chatter lead to the spread of ungodliness? (vv.16, 18b)

 - (b) What were Hymenaeus and Philetus teaching, and how have they affected the Christian community of their time? (cf. 1 Tim 1:20, also 2 Tim 2:18)

 - (c) How does God’s Word answer the teachings of Hymenaeus and Philetus? (v.19)

(d) How should we as Christians handle false teaching? (See Titus 3:9.)

4. How would you summarise the core thrust of 2 Tim 2:14-19?

APPLICATION

5. Do we have any “Christian” controversies being discussed within our church? How should we respond to believers whose doctrine in these matters differs from ours?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Our focus as disciples of Christ and workers for the Lord is on the task we are given, that of making disciples.
- Engaging in controversies distracts us from our work and brings people further into godlessness instead of bringing them to know God better
- As workers for the Lord, we must be blameless in our conduct and words – this means always handling God’s Word correctly and skilfully, as well as living out what God’s Word says.
- It is important for us to learn how to handle God’s Word correctly because it serves as the foundation of our teaching and Christian living.

3. Our goal is to be workers approved by God – according to Paul in 2 Tim 2:20-26, what preparations do we need to make to reach this goal?
4. Consider the description of the Lord's servant in vv.24-26. Do you think this describes Christian responses to controversies within the Christian faith as well as controversies with non-believers? What surprises you here?

APPLICATION

5. In our everyday lives, what rhythms or habits have we put in place to intentionally fit ourselves for God's service? (cf. v.22)
6. Share an instance in your life where you have been impacted by someone who can be described by 2 Tim 2:24-26. How has that person changed your life? Have you had a chance to be such a person for someone else?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- As believers, we serve God and no matter what type of material we are, we seek to fit ourselves for this service, which means putting aside what is dishonourable in our lives.
- As believers, we are to flee from sin and seek to become more Christlike in the company of other believers.
- Being a Christian means being a servant of the Lord, which also means behaviour befitting of the Lord's servant – we should not be quarrelsome but kind, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting with gentleness.
- The Lord's servant seeks for others to know God and come to Him – this is what directs our actions.

19 September 2021

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Description of False Teachers

How do you know what is fake news and what isn't?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 3:1-5.

(a) What will happen in the last days that make it terrible?

(b) Compare these people described in vv.2-4 to someone who obeys the two greatest commandments in Matt 22:36-40, and to the blessed in Matt 5:2-11. What are the differences?

(c) What does it mean to have “a form of godliness but denying its power”? (v.5) How is it possible for the people described in vv.2-4 to appear godly? What is the difference between these people and someone who truly is godly?

(d) Why does Paul tell Timothy to “mark this” (ESV: “understand this”) in v.1? What does it have to do with the further instruction in v.5 to “have nothing to do with them” (ESV: “avoid such people”)

2. Read 2 Tim 3:6-9.

(a) How does Paul describe this second set of people in v.6? How are they related to the first set of people?

(b) Who are targeted by these people and why? (vv.6-7)

(c) What does it mean for us to be “always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth”? How should we gain true knowledge? (cf. 1 Tim 5:4; Titus 3:14)

(d) Jannes and Jambres are named in Jewish extrabiblical sources as the Egyptian magicians with Pharaoh in Exod. 7:11 (full account in Exod. 7-12). Were they successful in opposing Moses? How does this help you to understand what Paul means in v.9?

3. What major instruction is Paul giving to Timothy in this section? In what ways would this apply to us today?

APPLICATION

4. Many of us are very good at hiding the true state of our spiritual lives from others, and even from ourselves. How should our relationships with fellow Christians change so that we will not be able to pretend godliness and so that we will be able to gain true knowledge?
5. No one likes to admit that they have been fooled, or that they are wrong. Yet we are to identify false teachers and avoid them. How will you approach your fellow Christians to “gently instruct” (2 Tim 2:25) if you think that they might have been taken in by false teachings? How would you like your fellow Christians to approach you if they think you have been taken in?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- We are in the last days and ungodliness is all around us, even within the church – this is not a call for suspicion and infighting, but a call for carefulness and discernment.
- In such an ungodly environment, it is hard for us to stand firm (Eph 6:10-18). This is why we need the help of the Holy Spirit, and why we need fellow Christians around us to speak the truth in love into our lives, pointing us towards God.
- False teachers and false teachings are attractive and capture those who are weak easily – but these will eventually show themselves to be folly against the truth of God’s Word.
- Though we ourselves may not be weak and captured by false teachings, our part is not to quarrel about these (2 Tim 2:14, 16, 23) but to point others to God’s truth gently (2 Tim 2:25), allowing God’s Word to expose their folly in God’s time.

26 September 2021
2 Timothy 3:10-17
Hold On To The Gospel

What is something you learned early in life that you continue to live out to this day?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 3:10-13.

(a) What has Timothy observed in Paul's life (vv.10-11)? Why is this important?

(b) Why was Paul persecuted in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra (cf. Acts 13:14, 50; 14:5; 14:19)?

(c) What does Paul say about the lives of those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus versus evil men and imposters (vv.12-13; cf. Rom 1:21-25)? Who is undergoing true harm?

2. Read 2 Tim 3:14-17.

(a) What instruction does Paul give to Timothy here? (v.14)

(b) What reasons does Paul give for this instruction (vv.14-15)? Do you think that these are convincing reasons?

(c) How does Paul describe Scripture in v.16? What is the Scripture he references (cf. 2 Peter 3:16)?

(d) What does Scripture do, and for what purpose (vv.16-17)? How have you seen them being used in these ways in your life?

(e) Why does Paul talk about Scripture in vv.16-17? What does it have to do with his message in 2 Tim 2:14-3:17 and what he continues to say in 2 Tim 4:1-5?

3. Consider the whole of 2 Tim 3:10-17. How has Paul's life demonstrated to Timothy what his instructions look like when lived out?

APPLICATION

4. Paul's life set an example for Timothy to follow (vv.10-11). What example of gospel living are we setting for others (not necessarily younger than us) in our lives?

5. What is one thing from 2 Tim 3:10-17 that has challenged you in either being a disciple of Christ or in your discipling of others to follow Christ?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Our lives demonstrate the gospel that we preach and that we say we trust in.
- Though suffering is par for the course for the Christian who seeks to live a godly life in Christ, no lasting harm will come to this person. On the other hand, those who seek evil and are imposters will bring upon themselves lasting harm.
- We should continue living out the gospel while expecting suffering, following the examples of those who came before us, with Scripture guiding us and equipping us.