

“WORD: Rightly Handling the Truth of God” (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

For the week of February 26, 2017

Remembering the Spiritual Disciplines

Worship is a spiritual discipline. Worship is both an end and a means. The worship of God is an end in itself because to worship is to focus on and respond to God. It is a means to godliness. Worship is a daily discipline. True worship, as a once-a-week event, does not exist. How can you expect worship on the Lord's Day if it is kept shut throughout the week?

- Why is it important to worship both corporately and privately?

- Read John 4:23-24. What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?

Big Picture of the Passage

In this passage Paul encourages Timothy as well as countering the negative characteristics described in verses 2-9. Paul then moves to Timothy's life and what influences have shaped him. By doing this, Paul refers to what the Scriptures are and what role they play in a person's life.

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. As you reflect on this passage, what seems to have made the difference in Timothy's life? Have any of the influences you saw in this passage been active in your life? Discuss in your group.

2. Pastor and author Chuck Swindoll said the following about this passage: “What you believe about the Bible influences everything you believe and affects every decision you make.” Is this statement true? Give examples of decisions you made which were a result of what you believe about the Bible.

Verses 10-11

1. Paul looked back and gave Timothy nine memories of where they had been together in ministry. He spoke of traits he exhibited to Timothy. He referred to: my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings.
 - a. Who in your life has influenced and mentored you (i.e. parent, sibling, friend, co-

worker) such as Paul has done with Timothy? Which of the above-mentioned characteristics did they exhibit to you? Have you invested time with others in a similar relationship? Discuss in your group.

Verses 12-13

2. Suffering is an expected element in Christian living. Read John 15:18-21; 16:33. How is an unbelieving world in which we live in today hostile to the gospel and believers?

Verses 14-15

3. How does Scripture lead you to the knowledge of the truth (read 2 Timothy 2:24-25)? Unlike false teaching, it also has the power to bring a reader to faith (read James 1:18).

Verses 16-17

4. The purpose of Scripture is fourfold. Let's look at each one:

Teaching – This is a critical element in growth toward spiritual maturity because God's Word gives you the tools for life.

- How does the Sunday sermon provide teaching to you? How does involvement in a community group provide teaching to you? Finally, how do you teach others (i.e. family, friends) regarding the Bible?

Reproof - This convinces us to behave differently by rebuking us, which reveals areas of our life that we may prefer to ignore.

- How does the Holy Spirit use God's Word to reveal sin in a person's life?

Correction - This builds on reproof. It means to restore. If reproof reveals our sinfulness or foolishness, correction shows us how to straighten out what we're doing.

- Read Psalm 23. How does this psalm from David provide restoration? Describe how God has restored you in the past.

Training – Training shows the correct way to behave before mistakes are made.

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10; 4:24, and Colossians 3:10. What do these passages say about training us to align our behavior so that it matches our new righteous identity?

Pray

- Pray that many will make a concrete commitment to our Lord at our Easter Service at the Park at River Walk on April 16.
- Praise God for giving us the Word of God which teaches us, provides reproof and correction, and trains us for righteous living.
- Pray that each of us will take at least one step to being more like Christ in this next week.