

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

2 Timothy – A Church Faithful to the Gospel

Sermon Series

01 August 2021	2 Timothy 1:1-5	Thanksgiving for Timothy's Faith
08 August 2021	2 Timothy 1:6-14	A Call to Endure in Service
15 August 2021	2 Timothy 1:15-18	Positive and Negative Examples
22 August 2021	2 Timothy 2:1-7	A Second Call to Endure in Service (I)
29 August 2021	2 Timothy 2:8-13	A Second Call to Endure in Service (II)

2 TIMOTHY

FOLLOWING JESUS INVOLVES RISK & TENSION

THIS IS NOT A SIGN OF JESUS' ABSENCE

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

4:6-22 CONCLUSION

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

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT IN ROME

HOUSE OF A LATER ROMAN IMPERATOR IN ACTS 28 (2 TIM 1:16-17)

TIMOTHY: THE TRIALS NOT GOING WELL, I DON'T HAVE LONG, COME SOON. — Paul

MEANWHILE, IN EPHESSUS...

LEAD TIMOTHY, 1:1-2:13 ACCEPT YOUR CALLING...

1:5 I THINK GOD FOR YOU & LOIS & EUNICE.

1:6-10 DON'T BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OR MY CHAINS. COME SEE ME, PLEASE!

PHYGELIUS & HERMOGENES (4:18) GUESSES WHO'S IN CHAINS? (4:18) PAUL: FORGET HIM!

← NEGATIVE STIGMA

BIG RISK!

2:1-13 JESUS' GRACE IS A SOURCE OF POWER (2:1) TO BECOME LIKE...

JESUS: INTO WORK (2:15)

FARMER

PAUL

SOLDIER

ATHLETE

IF WE DIED 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.

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

THE RESURRECTION HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE! (2:18)

OR

1 FOLLOWING GREEK PHILOSOPHY'S REJECTION OF BODILY RESURRECTION

2 DISTORTING PAUL'S THEOLOGY OF RESURRECTION BEGINNING NOW

BOTTOM LINE: THEY'VE ABANDONED THE HOPE OF RESURRECTION & NEW CREATION.

APPOINT FAITHFUL PEOPLE WHO WILL TEACH OTHERS. (2:2)

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. (3:15-17)

SCRIPTURE'S NATURE

SCRIPTURE'S PURPOSE

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

"THE SCRIPTURES ARE ABLE TO GIVE YOU FAITH THAT LEADS TO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN THE MESSIAH JESUS. ALL SCRIPTURE IS DIVINELY BREATHED..."

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

WATCH OUT FOR ALEXANDER → (HE'S DANGEROUS)

BRING MY SCROLLS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

BRING MY HEAVY COAT (IT'S GETTING COLD)

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

BRING MY SCROLLS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

WATCH OUT FOR ALEXANDER → (HE'S DANGEROUS)

BRING MY HEAVY COAT (IT'S GETTING COLD)

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

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

created by the Bible Project

01 August 2021

2 Timothy 1:1-5

Thanksgiving for Timothy's Faith

What forms the basis of your friendships in church?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 1:1-2.

(a) Second Timothy is a letter written by Paul to Timothy. What is the history of Paul's relationship to Timothy? How does Paul view Timothy? (See also Acts 16:1-3; Rom 16:21; Phil 2:19-24, or if you're using an electronic Bible, search for "Timothy".)

(b) Where is Timothy serving? (cf. 1 Tim 1:3)

(c) What does Paul mean by "the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus"? (v.1)

2. Read 2 Tim 1:3-5.

(a) What are the three main ideas that Paul expresses in this section?

(b) Why is it important that Paul says he is serving God with a clear conscience?

(c) What does Paul assert about Timothy's faith in v.5? (Consider also Acts 16:1-3 and its implications.)

3. Second Timothy 1:1-5 serves as an introduction to the rest of the letter. What has Paul established in this introduction?

APPLICATION

4. Consider Paul's relationship with Timothy:

(a) What are the key elements of Paul's relationship with Timothy?

(b) What does that teach us about how Paul disciplined others?

(c) Each of us are in Christian discipleship relationships, whether peer discipling or in formal discipleship relationships. How do our discipling relationships compare with the relationship between Paul and Timothy?

5. Timothy's faith was nurtured by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. How has our faith been nurtured in the past?

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

- Paul's ministry (and our ministry) is in accordance with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus – this serves as a guideline for us.
- The basis of Paul and Timothy's relationship is their common faith, grounded in the gospel, which is a source of encouragement for both.
- Our discipling relationships would do well to reflect Paul and Timothy's relationship – Paul knows Timothy intimately, prays for Timothy fervently and regularly, gives thanks for Timothy's faith, and makes it a point to instruct and encourage Timothy as he serves.

08 August 2021

2 Timothy 1:6-14

A Call to Endure in Service

Share about a time you were reluctant to be identified as a Christian because of how others might perceive you. What would encourage you to identify yourself as Christian in that circumstance?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 1:6-7.

(a) What instruction is Paul giving Timothy in this section? (v.6)

(b) What is the “gift of God” referenced by Paul likely to be? (cf. 1 Tim 4:13-14; Eph 4:7-13)

(c) Paul gives two reasons for his instruction – what are these? (Consider “for this reason” in v.6 and “for” in v.7 – these are markers for us to identify reasons.)

2. Read 2 Tim 1:8-12.

(a) Paul tells Timothy to not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of Paul (v.8a). Why would these be cause for Timothy to be ashamed?

(b) What instruction is Paul giving Timothy in this section? (v.8b)

(c) What does Paul say in vv.9-12 that would be an antidote to any temptation to be ashamed of the gospel? How do they counteract this temptation?

3. Read 2 Tim 1:13-14.

(a) What is Paul describing as both “the pattern of sound teaching” and “the good deposit”? (1:13, 2:2)

(b) What must come with the pattern of sound teaching? Why is it important?

(c) How should Timothy be guarding this good deposit?

4. How does Paul encourage Timothy in his ministry?

5. How are we, like Timothy, also tempted to be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of those suffering for the sake of the gospel?

APPLICATION

6. In what way(s) has Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Tim 1:8-13 (i.e. to endure and continue in his ministry in the face of suffering) challenged you today?

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

- God has given us His Spirit, which is a Spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. This, together with our faith, means that we should actively exercise our God-given gifts in service of God's kingdom.
- Circumstances and the world's perception of us may discourage us and tempt us to be ashamed of our faith and our ministry, but the gospel is in fact a badge of honour instead of being a mark of shame, and our God is able to protect us and keep our lives and ministry safe in Him.
- The gospel is the heart of our lives and work – it motivates us, it is our guide, and it is our service.

15 August 2021

2 Timothy 1:15-18

Positive and Negative Examples

Have you experienced situations where someone who you care about has pretended not to know you in public? How would you feel if this happened to you?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 1:3-14.

(a) In what ways has God equipped Timothy to be a servant of Jesus Christ? (vv.5-7)

(b) Why is the gospel worth suffering for, instead of being a source of shame? (vv.9-12)

(c) How are we to be faithful and responsible before God as he has been and is faithful to us? (vv.13-14)

2. Read 2 Tim 1:15-18.

(a) How does Paul contrast Phygelus and Hermogenes with Onesiphorus?

(b) What did Onesiphorus and his household do for Paul in Rome? What does this say about how they viewed association with Paul?

(c) How does Paul react to Onesiphorus' loyalty?

(d) In what ways do you see Onesiphorus living out the gospel through the description offered here?

3. What is Paul saying in 2 Tim 1:3-14? How do the examples of Phygelus, Hermogenes, and Onesiphorus (with his household) support Paul's point?

4. Consider: a friend who is open about his/her Christian faith gets "cancelled" (specifically publicly boycotted because he/she has said/done things that today's society does not approve of) – what challenges would you face in being an Onesiphorus to this friend? Would you make this effort?

APPLICATION

5. Do you have someone in your life like Onesiphorus? What difference would such a friend make to you as you struggle to live out and proclaim the gospel?

6. Is there a fellow Christian, or perhaps a Christian group/organisation, that you may have been distancing yourself from (or wish to distance yourself from) due to how society perceives him/her/it?

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

- The work of the gospel may be seen as shameful by society, but it should not be seen as shameful by fellow Christians.
- The support and care of fellow Christians means a lot to those suffering for the sake of the gospel.
- Staying faithful to the gospel includes staying faithful to fellow believers who are working for the gospel, no matter how society views them.

22 August 2021

2 Timothy 2:1-7

A Second Call to Endure in Service (I)

If you are about to hand over your responsibilities to someone else (whether in a school club, at work, or in church etc.), what would be the most important things you would say to your successor?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 2:1.

(a) Why does Timothy need to be strong? (cf. 2 Tim 1:7, 15-18)

(b) What does it mean to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus? (Consider 2 Tim 1:8-18.)

2. Read 2 Tim 2:2.

(a) Why does Paul tell Timothy to entrust Paul's public teaching ("the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses") to "reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others"?

(b) What counts as being "qualified to teach others"? Who is to be taught and what is to be taught?

3. Read 2 Tim 2:3-6. Paul uses the image of the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer to teach about what it means to serve Christ. How does each image help you to understand what is needed, and particularly in suffering for Christ?

	What is needed	Relevance to suffering for Christ
Soldier		
Athlete		
Farmer		

4. Read 2 Tim 2:7. What important biblical balance is set out here?

5. How would you summarise Paul's instructions to Timothy in 2 Tim 2:1-7?

APPLICATION

6. Can you be counted as one of those who are reliable and who will also be qualified to teach others? What prevents you from beginning to do that today, or beginning to work towards it?

7. Consider the images of the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer.
 - (a) Can you think of things which may be innocent, yet which distract you as a soldier of Christ?

 - (b) What are the rules of this race that we need to keep? Why are these the rules?

 - (c) In what ways do you find the Christian life to be hard work? Do you think it should be like this?

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

- Teaching others about the gospel is a role that all of us are meant to take up as part of our service to Christ – it is not about one person to everyone else, but about the many to everyone.
- Spreading the gospel (teaching the gospel) brings about hardship and suffering in many forms, but we must stay focused (undistracted), recognise that suffering is expected and part of the job description, as well as work hard without seeking glory.
- While we work hard at following Christ, it is out of our new identity as disciples of Christ, and it is with the strength (and understanding) that comes with the grace of Christ.

29 August 2021

2 Timothy 2:8-13

A Second Call to Endure in Service (II)

What is the key motivation in your life? How does that affect your life and your decisions?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 2 Tim 2:8-10.

(a) How does Paul describe Jesus here (v.8)? What is important about these descriptions?

(b) What contrast does Paul raise between himself and the word of God (v.9)? Why is this surprising?

(c) What is the purpose behind everything that Paul is going through (v.10)?

2. Read 2 Tim 2:11-13. These 3 verses are two pairs of parallel conditional statements (if this happens, then that happens). This means that the second statement of each pair elaborates on the first in some way.

(a) How is the Christian life depicted in vv.11-12a? What will it require of us?

(b) What will be the result of denying Christ and breaking faith with him? (vv.12b-13)

(c) What does Paul mean when he says that God cannot disown/deny himself (v.13)? Why is this given as a reason for vv.12b-13a?

3. What does 2 Tim 2:8-13 add to what Paul is saying in 2 Tim 2:1-7?

4. In what ways is it difficult today to persevere in faithfulness in living out our identity as children of God and disciples of Christ?

5. Is Paul's message still relevant for us today? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

6. A repeated message in 2 Timothy so far is that we are to join in suffering for the gospel, asked to endure hardship as part of serving God – and Paul says that the suffering is entirely worth it because of what God has done and will do. What is our attitude towards serving God, and why do we serve Him?

7. Paul reminds Timothy of the truth of the gospel and of God – this is at the heart of discipling each other. Do we do this for others around us? What would it look like in our small groups? How can we support each other in doing this?

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

- The gospel, which has Jesus at its core, is the motivation for Christian living – it informs our choices and our actions
- Though living out the gospel brings daily difficulty, our individual difficulties are nothing compared to the eternal glory for the many who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour (accepted the gospel)
- God's Word works through our difficulties – crucifixion did not stop the gospel but was a key point for it; Paul's chains did not stop the gospel but brought the gospel to Rome.
- Being identified with Christ, no matter how hard it may be, is the only way to salvation; rejecting Christ is the way to eternal judgement.