

2 TIMOTHY

A LIFE OF ETERNAL INVESTMENT



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2 Timothy

SURVEY: WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

READ

Surveying a book like 2 Timothy allows you to grasp the big picture, the overall storyline of the book, before getting caught up in the details. This survey then provides an incredibly helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. So begin this crucial first step by taking the next fifteen minutes to read straight through the whole book of 2 Timothy without stopping. Then answer the questions that follow before moving on to the next section.

How would you describe Paul and Timothy's relationship?

What is the feel of this book? (Encouraging, challenging, anxious, broad, specific...)

What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: look for repeated words and ideas)

Now, read the book of 2 Timothy one more time. It's kind of like binge watching your favorite Netflix show! This helps to get you in on the "jokes" or themes of the book, and ultimately helps you to see why this matters in your life.

10 Things You Didn't Know About 2 Timothy

1. SHARPENING THE BLADE

Sunlight gleams off the highly polished blade of the executioner's sword. His bound victim kneels before him with head bowed. Despite being emaciated and exhausted from mistreatment, the condemned man is still fully alert, completely aware of his imminent death. Yet it is not fear that grips him, but concern; concern for a young man hundreds of miles away. Would his protégé, a young pastor whose task it would be to carry on the leadership of one of the largest churches in the empire, prove steadfast? Would he resist the cunning false teachers who were even now leading many in his church astray? Would he work diligently to raise up new leaders even when others betray him? Would he continue to proclaim the gospel even under the threat of an executioner's sword?

2. PUTTING PEN TO PAPER

Paul wrote this letter first and foremost to prepare Timothy to stand strong without his frequent guidance. Paul was deeply troubled by false teaching (2 Timothy 2:23) and apostasy (3:1-9) which endangered the church at Ephesus. Paul urged Timothy to teach sound doctrine, promote good works, and accept one's share of suffering for the sake of the gospel. Sound doctrine is so vital to the health of the church that it is something to be pursued, fought for, and even suffered for.

3. MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Timothy's name means "honoring God" or "precious to God." These two designations proved to be true in the life of this disciple. Despite Timothy's mixed racial background, he eagerly identified himself as a follower of the Messiah (Acts 16:1) Timothy heard about the Savior during Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14:6).

Concerning Timothy, A. Duane Litfin writes*, "Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother (Acts 16:1, 3, & 2 Tim 1:5). No mention is made of his father being a Christian, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both known for their sincere faith (2 Tim 1:5). They had already taught the Old Testament Scriptures to Timothy by the time Paul arrived in his hometown of Lystra during Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14:6; 16:1). Paul took him on as a promising protégé, becoming like a spiritual father to the young man ("my true son in the faith" in 1 Tim 1:2 and "my dear son" in 2 Tim 1:2). Timothy's promise for the ministry was recognized early (1 Tim 1:18; 4:14). He also became Paul's faithful partner, representative, and messenger on multiple occasions (e.g. Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17). Timothy had become so dear to Paul that this last letter includes touching appeals for Timothy to join him in his final days of imprisonment (2 Tim 1:4; 4:9, 21)."

*Litfin, A. Duane. "1 Timothy." In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, edited by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985, pp. 729-30

4. BELLE OF THE BALL

The people of Ephesus were cosmopolitan and well informed about world affairs. Ephesus was recognized as the "first" city of the province of Asia, even though Pergamum, 90 miles north, was its capital. As one of the three leaders of international trade, the other two being Alexandria of Egypt and Antioch of Syria. The city was a haven for philosophers, poets, artists, and orators.

5. WITCHY WOMAN

The worship of Diana (Greek, Artemis) was the dominant religion of this area. The temple of Diana was world famous (Acts 19:23-27), noting among other things from the passage that Demetrius boasted that "all of Asia and the world" worshipped Diane (19:27). Many of the Ephesians also identified with the imperial cult of Augustus (the Roman Emperor) and with various forms of magic (Acts 19:13-19, Ephesians 6:12).

6. A MAN ON FIRE

One event massively shaped Paul's missionary efforts, which was out of his control. In July 64 AD, Rome, the capital of the empire, was caught ablaze and much of the poorer parts of the city destroyed. The Emperor Nero couldn't suppress rumors connecting him to the act, as he then built a huge luxury palace over the ruined homes. In response to the outcry, Nero put out the *Religio illicita* (illegal religion) and waves of anti-Christian persecution spread across the Roman empire. Since Christians would not worship the emperor as God, enemies of Paul had no problem arresting him, now 66 AD.

7. BON VOYAGE

This is the last letter Paul ever wrote. It is one of only three of Pastoral Epistles, sent to people, not communities of faith. This letter is from prison, 67 AD, and written about 5 years after the first letter. Though similar to 1 Timothy and Titus, it has a far more personal flavor. Paul is recalling his tears, his final charge, and hoping to see his old friend one more time. Bishop Handley Moule once said that he found it difficult to read 2 Timothy, "without finding something like a mist gathering in the eyes." (*The Second Epistle to Timothy: The Devotional Commentary*, p .16)

8. BY THE NUMBERS

Chapters: 4

Verses: 83

Words: 1,703

Timothy's name is found more often in the salutations of Paul's letter than any other. It is found in: 2 Corinthians, 2 Thessalonians, Philippians, 1 Timothy, Colossians, 2 Timothy. In fact, Timothy shows up 24 times in New Testament.

9. THE BATON IS PASSED

The burden of Paul's heart was to inspire and challenge his young disciple, Timothy, to keep witnessing for Christ. It was no easy task to tell Timothy that afflictions were part of the price to pay for being faithful to his calling in Christ, especially since the young believer was already experiencing deep trials and shedding tears in travail. But Paul had the answers, learned by experience at the feet of His Master (Jesus), whom he first had met thirty-four years ago. The apostle knew that the foundations of the gospel were impregnable, and that if Timothy could be reassured about this, he would not falter, even if he could not see Timothy one last time.

10. ANCIENT, YET MODERN

The words from Paul to his key disciple are still as sharp and as powerful today as close to two thousand years ago. Timothy, a young new leader, is wrestling with fear, doubt and failure, as people disagree with him and the world mocks him. The cultural pressure is pushing Timothy on all sides to trap or destroy the community of faith through money, sex, work, and beliefs whether social, political, or religious. Paul is exhorting Timothy to believe that even in the midst of all this, the gospel is true, the method is discipling, and God's Word is powerful. This is a message that could be sent to each of us as we wrestle with laboring for Christ today.

Let's do one more flyover this week and either read or listen to 2 Timothy all the way through one more time, possibly even in a different translation.

2 Timothy 1:1-7

LESSON 1



PRAY Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE *2 Timothy 1:7*
“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

OBSERVE This is where the primary digging into the passage happens. The rest of the study is piecing together what we dug up, so don't skim through this time. Keep combing through the passage to find verbs, repeated words, etc.

On the side column on the next page, list at least one observation per verse (ex: Paul is an apostle, this is written from Paul).

What are some key themes or key phrases you noticed?

study

COLOR CODE REPEATED WORDS
UNDERLINE ALL VERBS
TITLE EACH PARAGRAPH
DEFINE KEY WORDS

CIRCLE TRANSITION WORDS
MAKE OBSERVATIONS
ASK WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY
LOOK AT DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

1 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Guard the Deposit Entrusted to You.

3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

INTERPRETATION

How we interpret the Scriptures is a big deal! God desires all of us to become approved workmen, “accurately handling the word of truth” (2:15). To that end, we need to learn to interpret the Scriptures personally, not just by looking at your Bible’s notes, commentaries, or by using Google. These resources can be helpful sometimes, but they will only give you quick answers. This practice will stunt your growth in understanding the Bible, and you will only ever know what other people think the Bible says, outsourcing our understanding of the Bible and of God.

Never fully studying the Scriptures personally is like dating a person that you have looked up online, found out what their interests are, yet have never spent any personal time with. You may know real facts about whether they like to jog or hike, but you have never been on a run with them - you lack personal experiences together. God wants us to know Him personally through his Word. Let’s take the time to build a relationship with Him and His Word, not just look up the facts.

APOSTLE NOUN

APOS•TLE ə - 'Pä - Sə

The word apostle means “one who is sent out.” In the New Testament, there are two primary usages of the word apostle. The first is in specifically referring to the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. The second is in generically referring to other individuals who are sent out to be messengers/ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

This specific type of apostle is not present in the church today. The qualifications of this type of apostle were: (1) to have been a witness of the resurrected Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1), (2) to have been explicitly chosen by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:15), and (3) to have the ability to perform signs and wonders (Acts 2:43; 2 Corinthians 12:12). The responsibility of the twelve apostles, laying the foundation of the church, would also argue for their uniqueness. Two thousand years later, we are not still working on the foundation.

What words or phrases in 1:1-7 describe Paul’s relationship with Timothy? How close were they?

Who have been key figures in your spiritual life? How were they impactful?

What is the significance of the “laying on of my hands”? (1 Timothy 4:13-15 & Acts 13:1-4, 11, Ephesians 4:11-16, & 1 Peter 4:11)

What are spiritual gifts?

For what purpose are they given?

What specific gifts did Timothy receive (4:1-5)?

Does everyone have a spiritual gift? Why is this question significant?

APPLICATION

What is fanning into flame?



When you hear that God has given you “a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (1:7), how do you feel?

Do you think Timothy felt pressure about taking over as a leader? When or where do you feel pressure in your life? How do you respond to this pressure?

If you believed this more, how would your life change? Why?

“The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I aim to be that man.” D.L. Moody

What is one step you can take this week to “fan into flame” your gifts, or live out of the new spirit God has given you?

SPECIFIC

MEASUREABLE

ATTAINABLE

REALISTIC

TIMELY

Every week we want to apply the Scripture to our lives just like in James 1:22. In study, we need to be S.M.A.R.T. about applying God’s Word to our lives. If we simply just do the study without obeying it or taking a small step, then we really miss the whole point.

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 1:8-18

LESSON 2



PRAY Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE *2 Timothy 1:8-9*
“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus

List at least 1 observation per verse (Ex: Paul is an apostle, this is written from Paul)

OBSERVE **What are some key themes or key phrases you noticed?**

1 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. 13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

15 You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, 17 but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— 18 may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

INTERPRETATION

Last week, we tried to make an observation for each verse in the passage. This week, we will begin to write our own interpretive questions. Try to come up with at least eight questions as you read and observe the passage, and write them in margins of the passage, or in the space below.

Use these examples to guide you:

Who is...

...Paul talking about?

...accomplishing the action?

...benefiting from it?

What is the...

...meaning of this word?

...significance of this phrase?

...implication of this statement?

Why did Paul...

...choose this word?

...include this phrase, statement, or command?

...connect these ideas?

...not say_____?

How...

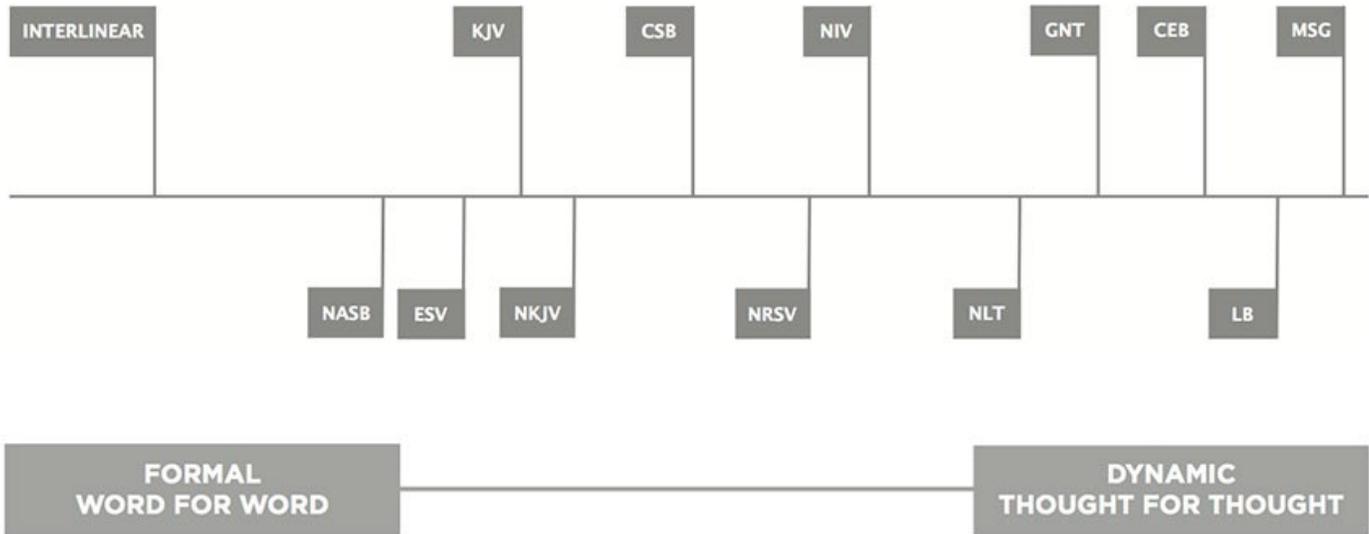
...was this action accomplished?

...will this situation occur?

List Eight Interpretive Questions:

Pause: Before you jump to Google the answer, try to look at other translations. The chart below is to help with this. Maybe try one translation close to yours, and one on the other end of chart. The text in this study is in English Standard Version (ESV).

BIBLE TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



Bible translations shown in the top half of the chart are original translations directly from ancient languages to English. Versions shown below the line began with the English text of another Bible translation.

1)

2)

How does this passage relate to the previous passage? In other words, how does verse 8 connect to verse 7?

Why might a dying Paul be especially concerned about this?

How do verses 15-18 relate to verses 8-14?

What truths about the gospel do you learn from this section? Simply list them below.

MAKING BIG IDEAS PERSONAL

Check which statement you relate with most:

- I am confident I have a personal relationship with God solely on the basis of Christ saving me and calling me through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- I feel like I am not good enough and still have a lot to fix in my life or clean up before God will love me.
- I try so hard to make things work out. I am exhausted because it feels like have to prove myself to everyone.

Many of us won't be arrested and put on trial for our faith in Christ, but we are told that we will suffer in this world (John 16:33, 2 Tim 3:12, Luke 14:27). **In what ways might we suffer in our context on campus, at work, or at home? What luxuries might we have to give up? What inconveniences may our faith cause us? How might our faith impact relationships?**

APPLICATION

Often in Bible study we talk about the Bible in ideal terms such as, "this would be the best way to live," or "if someone was struggling, this would be helpful." We hide behind a mask of pretense as if as individuals, we are not struggling. Instead of using "I," we often say, "we, some people, or Christians." *Let's take off the mask, be okay that we are not perfect, and start using making it personal by using, "I."*

What specifically can you do this week to help you more remember to pray more frequently for persecuted believers around the world?

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with an application?

Eternal Investment

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What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

LESSON 3



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 2:2

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

OBSERVE

A primary theme is also known as the big idea, the central truth, or the command that the passage focuses on, such as “suffering for the gospel” or “God’s grace and mercy” in 1:8-18. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases as exemplified above. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

study

COLOR CODE REPEATED WORDS
UNDERLINE ALL VERBS
TITLE EACH PARAGRAPH
DEFINE KEY WORDS

CIRCLE TRANSITION WORDS
MAKE OBSERVATIONS
ASK WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY
LOOK AT DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

2 1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation Skill: Look Up Key Words

As you answer the questions below, continue using your first two interpretive skills (using the context and cross references), and add this third one — look up key words. While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek (the original language the New Testament is written in) is far better, and surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply go to www.biblestudytools.com, and as an example, type in “2 Timothy” in the box to the left of the “search” button, then click “search.” All of 2 Timothy will appear on the screen. Be sure that “English Standard Version” is your selected Bible translation in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Strong’s Numbers” so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these highlighted words will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, it’s possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!

Answer two of your interpretive questions

1)

2)

Why does Paul include verse 1 before verse 2? In other words, why is it significant that we know and apply verse 1 before we move on to verses 2-3? (see also 2 Corinthians 3:5-6)

Using the process described in the directions above, look up the word “entrust” in verse 2. Of the definitions listed, which one best fits here?

What principles for “spiritual multiplication” (often called “discipleship”) can you derive from 2 Timothy 2:1-6?

How many spiritual generations is Paul thinking about? Write them out below:

“The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.”

–E.M. Bounds, *Power through Prayer*

	WHAT IS REQUIRED OF THEM?	WHAT DOES THEIR FAITHFULNESS EARN?
SOLDIER V4		
ATHLETE V5		
FARMER V6		

“The decision is 5 percent, following up the decision is 95 percent. Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have.” –Billy Graham

APPLICATION

What would it look like practically in your own life to “entrust” to others what you have learned about God and His Word?

Timothy is getting the baton passed to him. His fear and insecurity are obstacles Paul wants to help him overcome, so Timothy can be a disciplemaker who makes disciplemakers. **What do you think might be obstacles that get in your way from doing generational ministry?**

How can your vocation (student, businessperson, parent, etc.) be used as a platform for spiritual multiplication?

How can you live this out this week?

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 2:8-13

LESSON 4



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 2:10

“Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

OBSERVE

2 8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

INTERPRET

Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

This week we will learn principles of interpretation. Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word.

This has two practical applications:

1. Check your conclusions. Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you find your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages. Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution: remember that God revealed Scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of Scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the New Testament era, we must believe in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

Why is Paul willing to endure such severe hardship (2:8-10)?

risen from the dead

the offspring of David

Describe the illustrations used by Paul in verses 4-6

The 4-line poetic “saying” Paul quotes in verses 11-13 is challenging to interpret! To gain a clearer understanding of it, fill in the chart below:

MEANING

PURPOSE

DIED/LIVE
ROMANS
6:1 - 10

ENDURE/
REIGN
4:7 - 8, REV
2:26 - 28

DENY/
DENY
MTT 26:33 -
35, LK 12:8 -
9, 1 TIM 5:8

FAITHLESS/
FAITHFUL

Why does Paul include this saying? In other words, how does it relate to his discussion of suffering and endurance in this section?

“Whether it is us relating to God or God relating to us, the foundation of the relationship is always the grace of God as experienced in the obedience and death of Jesus.”

– Bill Tell

“Grace never eliminates effort – it eliminates earning.”

–Bill Tell

How do these quotes help to encourage you when you fail or when you suffer? Are there parts of these quotes or this passage that is harder for you to believe?

APPLICATION

Have fear, embarrassment, or busyness ever kept you from sharing the Gospel? Explain.

What practical steps can you take this week to overcome your fear and begin faithfully sharing the Gospel?

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 2:14-26

LESSON 5



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

OBSERVE

2 14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. 19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." 20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

INTERPRET

Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

What does it mean to rightly handle the word of truth? (see 2 Timothy 2:18, 23-25, 3:15-17)

Give a specific example of what this would look like in your own life:

Why is it so important in life to be someone who “rightly handles the word of truth”?

“The truth is that we have more control over our actions than over our feelings. Make your feelings submit to your choices, not the other way around. Feelings often follow in the wake of firm decision. Established patterns keep us from crashing during spiritually low periods.”

–Jean Fleming, *Feeding Your Soul*

Why does Paul so strongly condemn the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus? Why is their teaching about the resurrection so dangerous? (see 1 Corinthians 15:12-19; also, look back at background history for more context)

What’s the difference between “irreverent babble” or “foolish, ignorant controversies” (verses 16 & 23), and speech of the Lord’s servant/workman (verses 15 & 24-26)?

Is Paul talking about the form, content, or context of our speech, or multiple of these?

What are the results of using our words well? What are the consequences of using our words destructively?

Does this make it okay to just avoid conflict? Why or why not?

What is the meaning of the figurative language in verses 20-21? Describe the characteristics of honorable and dishonorable vessels.

“If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is not part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

– C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

APPLICATION

What desires are we settling for? How does this hold us back from being useful to the Master? (Cling to Promise of 1 John 1:9)

“The most powerful force in the universe. It can transcend repression, addiction, and every other internal or external power that seeks to oppress the freedom of the human heart. . . Grace is our only hope for dealing with addiction, the only power that can truly vanquish its destructiveness.” –Gerald May, *Addiction and Grace*

What step do you want to take in “rightly handling the word of truth” this week?

How can you pursue this “along with those who call on the Lord”? Why do you think our tendency is to try and do this alone? (Genesis 3:9-10 & John 3:20)

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 3:1-9

LESSON 6



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 2:24-25

“And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth”

OBSERVE

study

COLOR CODE REPEATED WORDS
UNDERLINE ALL VERBS
TITLE EACH PARAGRAPH
DEFINE KEY WORDS

CIRCLE TRANSITION WORDS
MAKE OBSERVATIONS
ASK WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY
LOOK AT DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

3 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

INTERPRET

Answer two of your own interpretive questions:

“If Jesus is not Lord of all,
He’s not Lord at all!”
– A.W. Tozer

When are the “last days” Paul describes? Look at the following passages to help you answer this question: Isaiah 2:2; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:2; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 5:3. Note: Not all of these references to the “last days” refer to the same time period. Look at the range of meaning in these cross-references and determine what you think Paul is referring to here.

Who are the dangerous men in this passage? Are they the same opponents mentioned in chapter 2? Are the opponents believers or unbelievers?

What does it mean, “having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power”? Why is this dangerous?

The women who are vulnerable to being captivated by these wicked men are described in verses 6-7. **From this description, what makes a person, male or female, susceptible to false teachers?**

Who are Jannes and Jambres, and why Paul choose to mention them in this passage?

Check out Acts 19, specifically verse 19. Jannes and Jambres, one or both, are also mentioned by Pliny (23-79 AD), by Apuleius (circa 130 AD), both of whom speak of Moses and Jannes as famous magicians of antiquity. The Pythagorean philosopher Numenius (2nd century AD) speaks of Jannes and Jambres as Egyptian hieroglyphs, or sacred scribes. (Exodus 7:8-13 & 22)

APPLICATION

Can you think of any modern examples of false/weak spiritual teaching that might pose a danger to the church? How can you guard yourself against such teaching?

“Most middle class Americans tend to worship their work, work at their play, and play at their worship. As a result, their meanings and values are distorted. Their relationships disintegrate faster than they can keep them in repair. Their lifestyles resemble a cast of characters in search of a plot.” –Gordon Dahl, *Work, Play, and Worship in a Leisure-Oriented Society*

Can you see this? How do you personally go against the tide?

What can you do to help those who are influenced by false teaching in a way that is kind, yet also faithful to God’s Word?

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

LESSON 7



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”

OBSERVE

study

COLOR CODE REPEATED WORDS
UNDERLINE ALL VERBS
TITLE EACH PARAGRAPH
DEFINE KEY WORDS

CIRCLE TRANSITION WORDS
MAKE OBSERVATIONS
ASK WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY
LOOK AT DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

3 10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

INTERPRET

Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

How does this passage relate to the previous one? Trace Paul's flow of thought through chapter 3.

What did the persecution Paul mentions in verse 12 look like for first century Christians? (2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Hebrews 10:32-34)

What method of ministry is Paul reminding Timothy is the most effective to reach the world, transformative in people's lives, and can defend against the tide of false teaching? (Cross reference Mark 3:14, Acts 4:12)

**"One living sermon is worth one hundred explanations"
–Robert E Coleman, *Master Plan of Evangelism***

Look at Paul's discussion of Scripture in verses 15-17:

a. Define "breathed out by God." (see also 2 Peter 1:20-21)

b. What are some of the practical implications of the doctrine of inspiration?

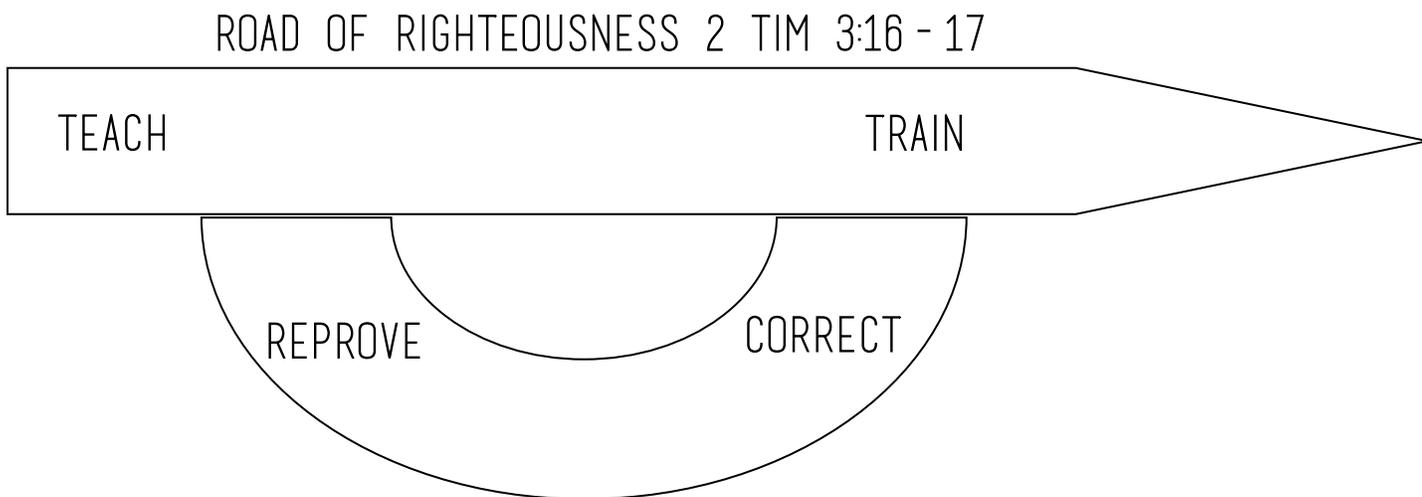
c. What does Paul have in mind when he says “all Scripture”? Does this include his own writings? (see 2 Peter 3:15-16)

d. Describe what it looks like practically for a person to be, “complete, equipped for every good work.”

“His design and direction for your life is not as much ‘Go there and do this’ as it is ‘Come near to Me and become like Jesus.’” –Jean Fleming, *Feeding Your Soul*

APPLICATION

How does God’s word teach, reprove, correct, and train for righteousness in your life?



Can this happen only in large groups? How does God get in messy and more difficult parts of our lives? (2 Timothy 2:22)

Does Paul's promise in verse 12 apply to your own life? If so, what might this persecution look like for you?

Do you have someone you are following like Paul? Do you have a Timothy?

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

LESSON 8



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 4:2

“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

OBSERVE

4 1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

INTERPRET

List out what Paul is doing. Make another list for what Paul is charging Timothy to.

Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

Why does Paul refer to the future judgment and eternal kingdom in verse 1? How do those concepts relate to the commands he is about to give to Timothy?

Define each of the following terms from verse 2:

- Preach
- Reprove
- Rebuke
- Exhort

What is the “crown of righteousness” in verse 8? (1 Peter 5:4; James 1:12)

Will all Christians “keep the faith”? What are the consequences of falling short of verse 7? (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-15; 9:24-27; 2 Tim 2:5-6)

APPLICATION

Why is it such a temptation to tell people what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear? (Hebrews 4:12)

Why might this be a special problem for Timothy?(2 Tim 1:7)

How will you resist this temptation?

“A ship in the harbor is safe,
but that is not what ships
are built for.”
–William Shedd, missionary
to Iran, 1915

How does the world try to shape our values so that they are aligned with our own desires instead of with God’s Word?

How can you proactively align your values with Scripture?

“At first glance, it might seem like all the pioneering has been done.
But the marathon is still on and the baton has been passed on to us.”
—Patti Burgin

What does Paul’s charge at start of Chapter 4 to Timothy, and this quote above, stir up inside you?

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy 4:9-22

LESSON 9



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 4:18

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

OBSERVE

4 9 Do your best to come to me soon. 10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 12 Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. 16 At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. 21 Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.

22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

INTERPRET

Answer two of your own interpretive questions:

How does this passage fit into the book of 2 Timothy? In other words, why did Paul include these last 14 verses?

“The church is looking for better methods. God is looking for better men.”
-EM Bounds

Play Bible version of “Where’s Waldo?”, and try and figure out who some of the people in the passage are. Where and/or when did they meet Paul?

Mark (the Gospel author) was kicked off the team by Paul on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-41). What does verse 11 (20 years later) reveal? Why does that matter?

Describe Paul’s emotional state at the end of the book.

Here at the end of the book, Paul reiterates God's deliverance (verse 17; 2 Tim 3:11). However, from 4:6, we know that Paul realized that his death was imminent. **Is this a contradiction? Why or why not?**

What dangers does God promise to deliver Christians from? Look up these cross references to start your list (John 5:24; 10:27-29; Rom 5:9; 7:21-25; 8:29-30, 38-39; Phil 3:20-21). Add any others you can think of from Scripture.

APPLICATION

Have you ever felt abandoned by friends or family? How can understanding Paul's experience help you respond well to those feelings?

How would you encourage somebody who feels threatened by various dangers (job loss, persecution, family tension, health challenges)? What does the book of 2 Timothy offer in the way of encouragement in the midst of fear?

Why are friends and community so important?

Do you need a community?

Are social media friends enough?

How will that impact current and future relationships?

“Although a number of things are important, high on the list is this type of fellowship: the encouragement and accountability of another person of like mind. The demands of family and job and other legitimate responsibilities may distract us from the ministry to which God has called us unless we are encouraged and spurred on by other believers who share our vision.”

—Jerry Bridges, True Community

Eternal Investment

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

PRAY

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

2 Timothy

SYNTHESIS: PUT IT BACK TOGETHER



PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sin you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking His Spirit to guide your study.

Review your memory verses for each of the previous lessons:

1:7 • 2:10 • 3:16 • 1:8 • 2:15 • 4:2 • 2:2 • 2: 24-25 • 4:18

MEMORIZE

Scripture Memory isn't studying an answer just for a test, or recalling it once at Bible study and never remembering it again. The real challenge and beauty comes in the review, and allowing these words pattern our hearts, minds, and souls after God's Word.

Before we get to the synthesis, one word of encouragement: please realize how much you have grown as a student of God's Word through your study of 2 Timothy! Each week, you've learned how to better observe, interpret, and apply the stories of Scripture. Those same three steps will serve you well as you continue to study God's story throughout the Bible. Continue to practice and refine these skills, not just in college, but for the rest of your life so that you become, "a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Now that you have studied the book of 2 Timothy in detail, answer the following questions:

What challenges faced young Timothy as he prepared to lead the church in Ephesus?

What solutions did Paul present to handle Timothy's challenges? How would you feel as Timothy receiving this letter now after studying it?

During the past nine lessons, we have observed, interpreted, and applied the entire book of 2 Timothy. That is no small task! Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as synthesis. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of 2 Timothy that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

OUTLINE THE BOOK

The first step of this synthesis is to create your own outline of the book. Review the work you completed each week, especially the summary titles you created for each passage in the "My Summary Titles" section. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start.

- 1) *Greeting (1:1-2)*
- 2) *Thankfulness for Timothy (1:3-7)*
- 3) *Exhortation to Ministry (1:8-18)*
 - a. *Be courageous (8-12)*
 - b. *Be faithful (13-18)*

2 TIMOTHY OUTLINE

RECORD WHAT YOU LEARNED

The second step of this synthesis is to record what you learned or were reminded of. This is more personal than your outline. Create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time, or have been reminded of from your study of 2 Timothy.

As an example of a theological truth, you might write:

I was taught that all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus.

An example of a life lesson would be:

This book reminded me that the church's goal is to present every man complete in Christ through a process that comes with great cost & struggle.

List at least ten theological truths and ten life lessons on this page that you learned from your study of 2 Timothy, and record the verses where each is addressed.

<i>Theological Truths</i>	<i>Life Lessons</i>

APPLICATIONS TO PRACTICE

The final step of this synthesis is to prayerfully choose two applications to practice. These can be applications that you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, or you can create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

1. Both applications should touch on **areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth**. Do not choose “be kind to others” if this is already something you do very well.
2. Both should **be specific** with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. “Study the Word more” is not sufficiently detailed. Instead, develop a specific plan such “I will read through Romans this next month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal. Steve will hold me accountable weekly.”

Application #1

Principle from 2 Timothy:

Verses where it’s discussed:

Plan of Action: I will ...

Application #2

Principle from 2 Timothy:

Verses where it’s discussed:

Plan of Action: I will ...

ETERNAL INVESTMENT

That is the end of synthesis. Some of the themes of this book and the semester have been about eternal investments. There are two eternal things we learned about in first study:

1. God's Word
2. Souls of Men and Women

Paul invested in Timothy (2:2 & 3:10)

Timothy in God's Word (3:16-17)

Paul cautioned Timothy to avoid certain investments (2:16 & 3:9)

Timothy was supposed to invest in his gifts (1:6-7)

There are many more, but all semester we ended every study looking at these two questions:

What would investing in the next generation of believers look like for me this week?

What would investing in those who do not yet know Christ look like this week?

How have these investments gone? Sometimes we won't see the fruit (1 Corinthians 3:6-7) but we trust God is the one we labor for and our labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Investing in the next generation of believers...

Investing in those who do not yet know Christ...

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this semester, ask Him to help you apply the principles you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.