



Vision – Week 4

2 Timothy 2 Small Group Sermon Questions

Gathering

1. Name something that you are good at.
2. Name something that you think someone else in the group is good at.
3. If you had to put yourself on a scale where 1 was a person who liked to serve and be behind the scenes and 10 was someone who like to be up front leading visibly, where would you fall and why?

Looking at the Text

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of 2 Timothy while he was in prison waiting to be executed. It is a letter to Timothy his protégé and mentee. Paul had invested in Timothy because Timothy was younger than Paul. He was also much quieter and less confident in leading than Paul was. Yet God had called Timothy to lead the church in Ephesus. Timothy did not feel up to the task since there were a lot of challenging personalities in that community. Paul had written 1 Timothy to encourage the young pastor to be faithful. He writes 2 Timothy to give his last instructions because he knows he is going to die. There is an urgency to this letter. Timothy must carry on because Paul won't be around. Therefore, Paul lays out the person Timothy needs to be if he is to be used by God.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19

1. Paul wants Timothy to warn people about false teachers. He says they quarrel about words. How does Paul describe the effect of the false teachers? Look in vs 14, 16, 17 and 18.
2. What does this tell us about spotting false teaching?
3. What does he say about authentic teaching in vs 15 and 19?

Read 2 Timothy 2:20-21

1. Paul uses a word picture -- there are some containers that you use and throw away (wood and clay) and some you save for special occasions (gold and silver). If we want to be one of the vessels God uses what do we need to do?
2. If we cleanse ourselves, what does vs 21 say we become?
3. Paul is not talking about cleansing ourselves from sin -- only Jesus can cleanse us from sin. He is talking about removing distracting or destructive things from our lives after becoming forgiven followers of Jesus.

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26

1. What does Paul want Timothy to run away from and what does he want him to pursue in vs 22?
2. What do you think the "evil desires of youth" are?
3. Do you think anything he says in vs 23-24 has anything to do with the "desires of youth?"
4. Why do you think it is so important to kind and not quarrelsome? How are we supposed to act if someone disagrees with us (vs 25-26)? Do you think people act this way today?

Application

Paul knows that he is facing death and that Timothy will be left behind as one of the leaders of the church. In these verses he has reminded Timothy of the man he must be if God is use him fully.

1. Paul wants Timothy to know the word of God and able to apply it well to the situations he faces. He is not to fall into the trap of useless arguments that just bring division or worse, ungodly behavior. How do you feel about your knowledge of the Bible? It takes a lifetime to understand all of scripture, but what are you doing now to grow in your understanding?
2. Timothy must cleanse himself from the things that distract him from God's plans. As a Christian we have already been cleansed of the penalty of our sins and distractions. Here he is telling us how to prepare our hearts to be used by God. What are the most distracting things for you? Is there anything that uses up your time and energy but has no real value?
3. Timothy is not to be quarrelsome but to be kind and not resentful. How are you at handling conflict? Do you avoid it? Do you make it worse? Do you make it all about you instead of praying for the other person? How can trusting God help us in dealing with people who oppose us?