

ENTRUSTED

2 TIMOTHY

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Last words are renowned for their poignancy.

Their urgency.

Their clarity.

Their carefully chosen subject matter, which stems from when someone knows the end of their life is near.

The letter of 2 Timothy is most likely Paul's last written words and are directed to one of his favourite 'students', so close he considers him a son (1:2, 2:1).

Their context gives the words an added weight, a preciousness, that whilst no doubt relevant to the immediate situation, were clearly written with an eye to the future.

It's a special letter, in which we are privileged to 'look over Paul's shoulder' and see what God had him say to the next generation of Christians. This next generation had been entrusted with the gospel and would continue the work of entrusting it to others, just as we are today.

Many of the lessons are universal and highly relevant to our own situation. Even while we are restricted in our movements and can't interact with people as we might like, this series is a great opportunity to reflect on the preciousness of the gospel and what will be involved in passing it on.

Our hope is that you might be challenged and encouraged to see with a new clarity both the gospel and the role God has entrusted you with in entrusting it to others.

WHAT YOU HEARD FROM ME,
KEEP AS THE PATTERN
OF SOUND TEACHING,
WITH FAITH AND LOVE IN CHRIST JESUS.
GUARD THE GOOD DEPOSIT
THAT WAS **ENTRUSTED** TO YOU –
GUARD IT
WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
WHO LIVES IN US.

2 TIMOTHY 1:13-14

SERMON - 22ND AUGUST
2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18

MY BIG TAKEAWAY

- 4)** What is the pattern of sound teaching (v13) that Paul has entrusted to Timothy?
- 5)** How do the personal examples, both good and bad, reinforce the action Paul is urging Timothy to take? (vv13-18)
- 6)** In all likelihood, we're going to look foolish at some point if we're determined to entrust the gospel to others. When has shame held you back from sharing the good news that Jesus is King? How has this passage encouraged you?

SERMON - 29TH AUGUST

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

MY BIG TAKEAWAY

HOME GROUP - WEEK 2

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

- 1)** Our need for grace (v1) indicates that we are dependent, something normally associated with weakness. What does it mean to be “strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”? How is this to be expressed in Timothy’s interaction with others? (v2)

- 2)** Who is Timothy to entrust the gospel to, and why are they selected? (v2) How is this reflected in both who we pass the gospel on to, and how?

- 3)** In vv3-6, three people serve as examples. What characteristics/ behaviours are demonstrated that we need to emulate in our Christian life? How does that clarify the meaning of being strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus?

- 4)** How is v8 a summary of the gospel? How does it compare with other summaries of the gospel we looked at earlier in the term?
- 5)** What is the contrast between the gospel and the gospel messenger? (v9)
- 6)** Paul's actions are not substitutionary in the way Jesus' death was, but how are his actions in a similar way determined by the benefit they will achieve for others? What are some ways that we can serve others?
- 7)** How is the trustworthy saying (v11-13) both an encouragement and a warning? How is God's enduring faithfulness the best motivation for how we live?

SERMON - 5TH SEPTEMBER
2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

MY BIG TAKEAWAY

HOME GROUP - WEEK 3

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

- 1)** While 2 Timothy is a letter from Paul to Timothy, v14 clarifies that Paul has a wider audience in mind. What requirements are both demonstrated and instructed by Paul? (c.f. 2:24-25)

- 2)** How can we harmonise Paul's demand to "not fight about words" (v14) and yet "correctly teach(ing) the word"? (v15)

- 3)** Paul again explicitly names people who were doing the wrong thing. Why would the teaching of Hymaneus and Philetus have been so destructive? (v17) What matters do Christians debate today that could be equally destructive?

- 4)** Paul again uses an everyday illustration, this time comparing Christians to household objects. (v20-21) How does this clarify the outcome that must accompany right teaching?
- 5)** What will be the evidence that someone has grasped both the Gospel and the lifestyle it should lead to in interactions with others? (v22ff)
- 6)** There have been strongly opposing opinions regarding vaccination and COVID restrictions. Regardless of which side of the debate we are on, what instructions are relevant to how we interact with others? Are there other issues you can think of where Paul's instruction determines our interaction?

SERMON - 12TH SEPTEMBER
2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

MY BIG TAKEAWAY

HOME GROUP - WEEK 4

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

- 1)** Paul prophecies that hard times in the last days (v1) will be caused by people whose behaviour are typical of our society. Pick three behaviours from vv2-5 and think of an example you can see of this taking place now.

- 2)** In v5, Paul exposes the inconsistency between words and actions. How is this both:
 - a) a warning to us?

 - b) a way of assessing and determining how we respond to teachers?

- 3)** To ensure that we don't read vv6-7 as sexist stereotyping, we need to read them in light of other verses in which Paul praises women co-workers (e.g. Rom 16:1-2, Phil 4:2-3). What threat is identified that we are all prone to fall prey to? (v6-7)

- 4)** Jannes and Jambres (v8) are the names traditionally given to the magicians who opposed Moses by mimicking God's power (Exodus 7:8-13). How do they illustrate the threat and flaw of false teachers in Paul's day and our own?
- 5)** The certainty of the final failure of the false teachers (v9) would seem to make warning against them unnecessary. Why does Paul put a strong warning alongside a guaranteed outcome?
- 6)** We live in a time in which we have access to more teaching than ever before. What is the practical advice that helps us to discern which teachers we should avoid? Are there examples that have directly tempted you or where this instruction has been instrumental?

SERMON - 19TH SEPTEMBER
2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

MY BIG TAKEAWAY

HOME GROUP - WEEK 5

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

- 1)** Paul here supplies the other half of the contrast between faulty and faithfully entrusting the gospel. How is the list in v10-11 the opposite of that displayed in 3:2-5? Go back to the 3 behaviours you explored in Q1 last week and identify what is necessary to entrust the gospel.

- 2)** Suffering inevitably accompanies receiving the true gospel - it was certainly Paul's experience (v11). How can Paul say that God has "rescued me from them all" when he is writing this while imprisoned?

- 3)** Paul insists that suffering will come to all who attempt to live godly lives (v12). How much is this your experience? What does that reveal?

- 4)** In v14-15, Paul returns to Timothy's knowledge of those who first passed the gospel on to him and the scriptures they taught him. (Primarily, if not exclusively, what we call the Old Testament.) Why does Paul so tightly connect the message and the messenger? Who has exemplified this in your experience?
- 5)** The outcome of knowing Scripture is "being equipped for every good work." (v17) Share some examples of how the four roles the scriptures play (v16) have been necessary in your spiritual growth?

SERMON - 26TH SEPTEMBER
2 TIMOTHY 4:1-22

MY BIG TAKEAWAY

HOME GROUP - WEEK 6

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-22

- 1)** What truths about Jesus does Paul point to as the motivation for Timothy's ministry? (v1) How do these relate to our previous series "Gripped"?

- 2)** Verses 2 and 5 are taken by some as instructions just for people who give sermons at church. In what sense is it better to take these instructions as applying to us all?

- 3)** People these days often take pride in how rational they are. What is Paul's evaluation of what really motivates many? (v3-4) Why is it so important for Timothy, and us, to know this?

- 4)** Paul again refers to his own practice as the example of how to behave. What characterises genuine ministry and what is the reward? (vv6-8)

- 5)** Relationships have been a key theme throughout the book of 2 Timothy. In vv9-22 Paul refers to a number of co-workers and opponents making it clear that ministry can lead to both deep joy and pain. What affect does the deep emotions referred to evoke in you?
- 6)** While Paul longs for and appreciates support in ministry, what is his even more certain confidence in? (v17-18)
- 7)** We have been entrusted with the gospel and the role of entrusting it to others. As we conclude this series, think back and share a summary of what has encouraged and/or challenged you in this regard.

