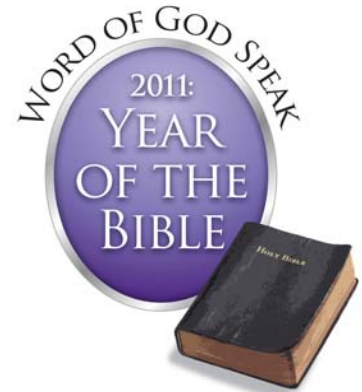


Week 43: 2 Thessalonians 1-3; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-2
Study Guide for the week of October 24-30, 2011



Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19. What do you understand that these verses are teaching? Do you agree that these verses do not teach that being wealthy is sinful? According to these verses, what is the destructive and tempting trap of money? Do you agree that, compared to the rest of the world, all of us are rich. How is your relationship with your wealth? Are you content with your wealth? Why is it significant that verse 6 leads into this teaching? How have you seen yourself or others falling into the temptation and trap of wanting to get rich that has led to ruin and destruction? Is your “love for money” becoming destructive in your life or to your faith? If so, how? What do you do to keep your “love for money” from crossing over the line into “foolish and harmful desires” that can “plunge you into ruin and destruction?” What do verses 17-19 teach and how can this teaching help someone to avoid the trap of “loving money?” With all that these verses teach in mind, what is the spiritual value of offering a sacrificial portion of your income to support the work of the Lord?

Discussion starters *If you are leading a small group, you may not have time for all of these questions. Pick the ones that will work best for your group.*

1. Ice Breaker Question: Outside of your family, what is a significant relationship you have with someone of a different generation from you? What is a blessing you receive from that relationship?
2. Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2:9-12 What picture do these verses paint for those who do not believe in Jesus? What are your thoughts about hell? Does this motivate you to reach those who are perishing (1 Corinthians 1:18)?
4. 1 Timothy 2:3-6 Now compare what you just read and discussed in question #3 to this passage. What does this passage say about God? List some people you find it difficult to think are included in all the people that God wants to be saved. Now look at those people from the perspective of a father or mother loving a wayward child. How does that help you to understand what this passage is teaching? Does this motivate you to reach those who are perishing?
5. 1 Timothy 4:12 Do you have an experience with a Christ follower who, although young in age, set for you a great example in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity? What did you learn from that person?
6. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 Outside of your family, what is a significant relationship you have with someone of a different generation from you? Do you think that it is important to have relationships with people of different generations? Why? How could our church be a place where significant intergenerational relationships are fostered?
7. 1 Timothy 5:8 How are you doing in following this verse?
8. 2 Timothy 1:1 Using a study Bible or commentary, read about Paul's situation when he was writing this letter to Timothy. Paul was in prison with little chance of being released and he thought that he would soon die. What in verse 1 reflects the situation Paul is in? As you read through 2nd Timothy, keep in mind what is Paul's situation. It will help you understand the poignancy of what Paul is writing.
9. 2 Timothy 2:9b Given the context of what Paul is writing and experiencing, what does it mean that “God's word is not chained.”? How do you see this truth applying to your own life and to the life and mission of our church?

10. 2 Timothy 2:11-13 What are the promises and the threats in these verses? (See Matthew 10:33) This could have been a verse from an early hymn. Pay attention to the parallels in this poetry. Here is the pattern - A-B-A-B C-D-C-? What is the meaning of the last parallel? If we are faithless, to what will Jesus remain faithful? Our judgment? Our salvation? What do you think about all this?
11. 2 Timothy 2:14-26 What do these verses teach us about how we should go about settling our disagreements within the Church?

Bible verse to memorize: 1 Timothy 6:12

Caring Time

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is best to end your time together praying for each other. One possibility this week is to have your prayers flow out of your discussion of questions 3 and 4 above. Have everyone answer this:

Who is a person that you would like us to pray for that he/she would come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ?

Then go into a time of prayer. Begin by having each person name the person they gave as their answer to the question. Then in open and conversational prayer, pray for the people listed to come to faith in Jesus.

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that being in a small group is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time.