

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 March 2013..... 1Timothy 1:1-20..... Follow Sound Doctrine
- 2) 10 March..... 1Timothy 2:1-15..... Please God in Worship
- 3) 17 March..... 1Timothy 3:1-4:16..... Honor God in Your Service
- 4) 24 March..... 1Timothy 5:1-6:2..... Care for Others
- 5) 31 March..... Matthew 28:1-20..... Believe in the Risen Lord
- 6) 07 April..... 1Timothy 6:3-21..... Pursue Spiritual Gifts
- 7) 14 April..... 2Timothy 1:1-18..... Be Loyal
- 8) 21 April..... 2Timothy 2:1-26..... **Be Strong in God's Work**
- 9) 28 April..... 2Timothy 3:1-17..... Be Guided by God's Word
- 10) 05 May..... 2Timothy 4:1-22..... Be Persistent to the End
- 11) 12 May..... Titus 1:1-16..... Look for Qualified Spiritual Leaders
- 12) 19 May..... Titus 2:1-15..... Look for Spiritual Excellence
- 13) 26 May..... Titus 3:1-15..... Look for Good Works

INTRODUCTION

- This chapter is chocked full of pithy statements for us to adjust our behavior so we may have the most impact for the Gospel

Passage	Comments
2Timothy 2:1-2	<p>Training other Faithful Disciples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. How do we be strong in the grace that is in Christ, & what are the results of being strong in God's grace? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Every time we are willingly obedient to God's commands and principles in Scripture we are living by faith and being strong in God's grace ♦ Then God does His work to transform us to be more like Christ, and also transform the lives of others as they witness our testimony • v2. Training Faithful Disciples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Church growth would be exponential as predicted by the Kingdom of Heaven being compared to a mustard seed or leaven (Matthew 13:31-33), which would mushroom into something much larger ♦ Hence the need to provide thorough training just to keep up with the growth potential ♦ All sound doctrine to be passed on is to be centered on the fact of Jesus being the promised Messiah, descended from David, and raised from the dead - Therefore, if Jesus is true, so is the rest of the Bible
2:3-7	<p>Enduring Hardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Paul provides 3 analogies for Tim's considerations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A good Soldier remains focused to the task 2. A winning athlete is disciplined & obedient 3. A hard working farmer is rewarded first • v7. "...for the Lord will give you understanding in everything" – How does this work for us? Consider... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 1Corinthians 2:14 <i>But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised</i> ♦ James 1:5 <i>But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him</i> ♦ James 3:17 <i>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.</i>
2:8-13	<p>The Core of Christian Teaching is a Risen Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is based on factual historical evidence. Our faith is not blind • The greatest motivation we have to follow Christ, even in death, is His resurrection. Since He is alive we too will live forever with Him and reign with Him • And He will remain true & faithful to us no matter what

Passage	Comments
2:14-19	<p>Standing Firm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv14,16. Do not get tangled in useless arguments which cause more harm than good <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Know when to contend for the truth (Jude 3), and to contend with the wicked (Prov 28:4), but avoid time and energy-wasting endeavors (1Tim 1:4; Titus 3:9) ♦ Remember, contending with fools is a no win situation – when you wrestle with a pig you both get muddy and the pig likes it.....Prov 26:4,5; 29:9 • v15. Be diligent to accurately handle the word of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This effort takes a lot of time and effort ♦ It must be a life-long habit more important than eating or chasing wealth..... Psalms 119:103
2:20-26	<p>Position Yourself to be Blessed and Fruitful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv21-23. We must be a "vessel of honor, sanctified, useful, and prepared for every good work" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is done by willfully avoiding sin and maintaining a "pure heart" through obedient living in thoughts, words, and actions (but this doesn't mean it's easy) • The 5 key ingredients to win the hardest unbeliever is 1) gentleness, 2) kindness, 3) preparedness, 4) not argumentative, and 5) patience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In the end, God does the winning and saving – we are just the tools in His hands

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- If we are the tools God wants to use to save the lost, are we sharp or dull tools? Are we useable or broken? Are we bold or cowards?
- To change from a poor tool to a powerful tool for the Lord we must delve more into God's word, into prayer, and into fellowship with fellow believers to sharpen our skills and abilities

NEXT WEEK: 2 Timothy 3. Paul lays out for Timothy, and us, how to be effective in the difficult times of the last days by using God's word to transform unbelievers into believers, and believers into disciples

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Church work is getting me down, so I think I will focus on Jesus for a while" 2Timothy 2:8