

## Monday, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

“Emerging leaders”, “rising stars”, “future hall of famers”, are phrases we use to describe the next generation of promise. Sadly, all around us are fallen hopefuls. Those who appeared to have all the marks of success, but somewhere along the way...dreams crumbled.

This week let's dig deeply into two great letters which have awakened hope and challenged the “emerging leaders” among us for several generations... 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy. Let's take 1 Timothy chapter 1 today. Notice the close relationship between Paul and Timothy and Paul's “no-nonsense, get to the point” style. Ephesus was a strategic city and church, thus Paul's concern when reports of “false teaching” had come to him. Timothy, though young, probably in his twenties, needed to “step up” and respectfully challenge the heresy and protect the church from division and discord. Naturally, he would have easily found lots of excuses to back-pedal. But the risk of failure is too high.

Note Paul's honesty about his personal story (1 Tim. 1:12-17). For a fuller explanation, consider Galatians 1:11-24. It is essential that we understand NO life, no matter how dysfunctional, is beyond the love of God...right? 1 John 4:9,10 helps us see this truth. No expression of love is greater than God coming to earth to live among us and experience humanity's full rejection, all the way to the cross! “No greater love has any man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) And, no power is greater than Jesus Christ to rescue a person from dark bondage (Col. 1:13,14, 21) and reconcile them into a renewed relationship with Holy God...fully forgiven of their sin! It's the central theme of the Gospel...right? (Ephes. 2:1-9)

Note Paul's challenge to Timothy regarding the importance of “holding on to faith” and the reality that you'll make a “shipwreck” of your faith if you don't! (1 Tim. 1:18-20). There's some strong language there. “*Handed over to Satan*”, what could that mean? Seems Paul knew these two guys, and had prayed for them, taught them God's truth, but they turned away and he evidently stopped fighting on their behalf. Remember 1 Peter 5:8? Now...what's your story friend? Are you standing strong in the reality of Jesus' redeeming work in your life?

## Tuesday, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Across our nation today the “20 somethings” are a generation of young adults facing great challenges. Many have returned to live with parents at home, few are stepping into God honoring marriages, too many are suffocating under the load of heavy debt and too many feel helpless as they look into their uncertain future. Yet God invites them to “set the pace”! Consider 1 Timothy chapter 4.

Yes, many young adults are following “deceiving spirits” into the darkness of despair (1 Tim. 4:1), but others are taking serious personal responsibility for their spiritual development (1 Tim. 4:7,8). What does it mean to pursue “godliness”? May I urge you to look further in this 4<sup>th</sup> chapter to see how Paul directs Timothy? First “*have nothing to do with godless myths.*” That means stand clear of “futile thinking” (Eph. 4:17,18) or “deceptive philosophy” (Col. 2:8). We must learn to think with our minds guided by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-16; Romans 8:5-9).

Second, we root our hope in the truth and identity of the one, true, living God (1 Tim. 4:10). Do you recognize the flow of our present teaching series? “Discover God”, “Discover God is Real / Relational / Reigns and is Relevant”? At each step we're asking you to be sure you know God! Consider John 17:3.

Third, Paul urges Timothy to live a model life, even though a young man (1 Tim. 4:12). Consider this famous verse carefully...“*set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*” Note please, the importance of rooting one's life in God's Word...“*devote yourself!*” Friends, few things in life are more important than a regular, consistent diet of Scripture study. It cleanses your mind and heart; protects you from encroachment of dark kingdom distortion; alerts you to what God is doing in your life and around you, and empowers you. Consider Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; Joshua 1:8.

Fourth, notice Paul's challenge that Timothy “*not neglect his spiritual gift*”. As you consider Romans 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; Ephes. 4:11-16, what do you understand God's gifting of you to be and how are you developing and using it?

Finally, note Paul's challenge to “*watch your life and doctrine closely*”. How important is TRUTH in your life?

## Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10, 2010

The winter Olympics are beginning soon. Watch the intensity of focus as the athletes fly down the ski hills. Danger awaits them if they lose control. Same is true in life, right? So, how focused are you...how alert are you to the dangers around you?

Consider Paul's advice to young Timothy with regard to the captivating lure of money (1 Timothy 6:6-10). That could be the front page of today's newspaper couldn't it? Have you learned to treat money with profound respect...as a direct provision to you from God? Deuteronomy 8 is an excellent study in proper perspective on the ‘danger of the dollar’. As I'm sure you know, one of the great disasters in America is our ever mounting national debt. It's a “train wreck waiting to happen”. Debt must be paid...many people are living far beyond their ability to pay their obligations, disaster awaits them. Remember what Jesus said? “*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” (Matt. 6:21) “*No one can serve two masters...you cannot serve both God and money.*” (Matt. 6:24). Want to know what is most important in your life? Look at two things...your day-timer and your check book. Where do you spend your time, how do you spend your money? Can you write a statement about what the evidence says about your priorities? As evidenced by the use of my time and money, the most important things in my life are....

Paul's second letter to Timothy is evidently his last written communication to anyone. His death followed. Consider the power of 2 Timothy chapter 1. I have five questions for us today: What if a good friend was writing you? How would they comment about your family legacy?

What is the power of verse 7 in your life?

What kind of life has God called you to live according to verse 9?

How do you describe your certainty about what you know to be truth as Paul did in vs. 12?

In whom are you trusting?

Thursday, FEBRUARY 11, 2010

When is the last time you read something that seemed to penetrate deeply into you? Try 2 Timothy 2 today...put on your parachute and jump!

Key question #1...What are you entrusting to reliable people, who will keep it going by teaching it to others? (2 Tim. 2:2) We call it "FOLLOWERSHIP" at Calvary. We try very hard to teach you Spiritual truth...are you absorbing, internalizing? Are you passing God's truth on to someone else? Who are you teaching? And are they passing it on too? Now watch this...all it takes is one generation to say NO...and it stops! What about you?

Key question #2...Are you prioritizing 2 Timothy 2:15 as regular DNA of your life? What is your daily method of intake of God's Word, God's Truth into your mind and heart? How are you continually developing your spiritual maturity? As you watch the world around you decay morally, drift downward in a death spiral of confusion...how are you "correctly handling the word of truth"? This is why I write a study outline for every worship service. It's why I write Digging Deeper for you. It's why we have Wednesday Summit classes, and ABFs on Sunday, and Small Group Bible studies...few things are more dangerous than a person who claims to be a Christian but has very little intake of God's Word!

Key question #3...What are you chasing and what are you running from? Consider 2 Tim. 2:22-24. Remember 1 Peter 5:8 and Hebrews 12:1,2. This shouldn't be a hard question, if you are willing to look honestly and deeply into your life. What captivates your heart? What steps are you taking to stay pure in mind and heart?

Friday, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Farewells are difficult and often very powerful. 2 Timothy 4 is that...Paul's final words before his soon approaching execution.

Begin your reading today in 2 Tim. 3:14. Have you thanked God recently for "those from whom you have learned" God's truth? Do you celebrate the powerful truths of verses 15-17? Do you understand why it is so essential the Scripture is "God breathed", meaning God moved in the minds and hearts of those men who then wrote what they received from God (2 Peter 1:20,21)? That's why we can claim the Scripture is "inerrant" (without error in the original writings) and "infallible" (unable to fail and fully truthful) and "inspired" (authors given the words via inspiration from God) and "revelation" (God has revealed His truth to the authors who wrote it for us). Thus Jesus said "I have given them (the disciples) Your word...Sanctify them by the truth, Your word is truth." (John 17:14,17), and each of the 150 verses of Psalm 119 speak of the power, authority, truth, etc., of God's Word. I hope you value it as much as God does! That's why it's a priority at Calvary Church and has been for 89 years.

Now Paul's final commissioning to Timothy, 2 Tim. 4:1-5. Notice please Who will one day stand as judge for all mankind! Link it with Revelation 20:11-15. Here's my question... are the words of Paul to Timothy exclusive to him or can you see they might apply to you also? "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when mankind will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead to suit their own desires they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." Does that sound like today: too many of today's teachers, professors, politicians, even pastors? Is this God's call to "live on mission with God" for all Christians?

Finally..."keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist (call people to Jesus), discharge all the duties of your ministry." What of that is OUTSIDE God's invitation to you as part of your life mission? It's impact living, right?



Pastor Doug Anderson

FEBRUARY 8 - 12, 2010

*Discovering God is Relevant*



**journey**  
Living on Mission with God

A Disciplemaking Tool  
**DIGGING**  
**DEEPER**



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