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PART OF THE TEAM

— A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY —
OCTOBER SERIES WITH PASTOR JEREMY

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

OCTOBER 25-31

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Study of 2 Timothy | Part of the Team

2 Timothy 4
“Always Be Ready”

1. What: 2 Timothy 4:1-2

a. P _____ t _____ G _____

2. How: 2 Timothy 4:2, 5

a. R _____

b. R _____

c. E _____

d. T _____

3. Why: 2 Timothy 4:3-4

a. I _____ E _____

b. S _____ P _____

c. F _____ L _____

4. Why Pt. 2: 2 Timothy 4:1, 6-8

a. G _____ W _____ J _____

b. E _____ R _____

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2 | THE FINAL JUDGE

We find ourselves in the last week of our series on 2 Timothy and if you haven't gotten in the game yet, now is the time. We fanned into flame the passion for our faith in Jesus Christ. We have heard the plan from our coach and we have studied the playbook. It's time now to get in the game. One thing we need to know before we get in the game is that we are not living this life for anyone else, but God. In the end He and He alone is the one who is the judge. So, let's remember to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

Paul reminds Timothy that everything he does is under the watchful eye of God. God is the one who will judge the living and the dead. With that in mind, Timothy is encouraged to preach the word! Timothy, and us, need to be ready at all times to speak the truth of the word of God in reprove, rebuke, and exhort. In other words, we need to make sure that we are ready, in every moment, to speak the truth of God whether it is correcting and ungodly behavior or encouraging faithful obedience. All the words, and all the actions we do ought to reflect us being on team Jesus.

In the end we will answer to God, not to the people around us. It won't matter the opinion of those who disagree with us or the celebration of those who encourage us. God is watching us and He desires that we would be in the game for the kingdom of God. This be ready command is more like ready or not here we go. Being ready is not optional, but an expectation because once we have received salvation we ARE in the action for the kingdom of God.

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)" - One Church feat. Arianna Earnshaw

Do you always think about God before you do something? Why or why not? Is it important to?

Do you make a decision based on the perspective of God or the perspective of people? How often do you think of God before you do something?

Lord, in the end, You alone will judge us. It is Your thought and truth that matters. Transform our hearts and minds to desire Your will and not the will of others.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-5 | THE TIME IS COMING

I remember growing up watching movies and cartoons about the future. I remember the Jetsons and their robot maid. I remember Back to the Future and the hoverboards and flying cars. We were led to believe by this time in 2026 that we would be flying instead of driving and that we would have the luxury of robots serving us. Sometimes that future doesn't always happen as we thought and other times it does.

In our passage today Paul tells Timothy to be ready because there will be a time when the world will not want sound teaching. They will just want to hear what their itching ears want to hear. They will want the pastor to preach whatever they want to hear and things that will puff them up. These future people will not listen to the truth, but will wander off to good sounding ideas that are not true. Timothy again is being encouraged to hold tight to the gospel and proclaim it humbly and to boldly hold to the truth in the midst of all of these desires that people want.

I believe that we can agree that this future told by Paul DID happen and is happening. It becomes more clear in a society that wants what they want now. This is especially clear in the faith community in northwest Iowa. There are so many places we could go on Sunday that it becomes easier to go wherever makes us feel good or meets our needs versus staying in a place that may reprove and rebuke us. When our lives and worship on Sunday become more about us, then we fulfill this passage of wanting what our itching ears want to hear and what suits our passions. One thing I commit to as a pastor is that I will always preach the truth no matter how uneasy that might make us feel. The truth of God is much more important than the comfortability of man.

"The King Is Coming" - Gaither Vocal Band

Why is it important to listen to what God says is true, even when it's not what we want to hear?

What are some things in life that could be considered things our itching ears want to hear?

Lord, train our ears to desire Your truth rather than our passions and desires.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8 | THE END IS NEAR

How much do you think about the end of life on this earth? When you think about the end of your life on this earth, how do you feel? I confess that death is not a topic that most of us probably spend much time thinking about. For some of us it brings sad thoughts, for others it brings thoughts of uncertainty, and for others it brings thoughts of hope.

In our passage today Paul is sharing with Timothy that he believes his time on this earth is short. Paul believes that the end is near, but he also believes that as he looks back on his life he can declare that he has run the race well. Paul believes that he has left it all on the field for God and he will continue to do so until his last breath. Paul is also clear that he believes that he will receive the crown of righteousness when he passes from this life to the next, which is the reward for all who believe in Jesus Christ.

When Paul thought about death he didn't get caught up in missing this world. Paul was still clearly focused on his call from God until the very end. As I read this passage today it made me start to wonder if we could proclaim with confidence the same thing that Paul declared? Have we finished the race well? Have we fought the good fight? Do we believe that we will receive the crown of righteousness? The good news is that the crown of righteousness is because of what God has done and nothing about what we have done. We can rest in the hope that salvation is through Jesus Christ alone and all who believe will receive it! Who's ready to keep running this race until the end?

"The King Is Coming" - Red Rocks Worship

What is one way you can keep following Jesus and serving Him as you grow up?

How would you describe your faith race right now? What are some ways you are fighting the good fight?

Lord, may we be able to declare with Paul that we are fighting the good fight and running the race until the end. Give us strength to follow You and Your will all the days of our lives.

[illegible]

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

2 TIMOTHY 4:9-15 | THE HARDSHIPS OF MINISTRY

For the next three days we are going to read the conclusion of the letter which will include lots of names and requests. Can I tell you something about ministry? I have come to find that not everyone will always like you when you are in ministry. There will be people we disagree with and choose to run away rather than to stay. There will be people who will hurt you and keep pushing until you leave. Of course then there are others who will always be there no matter what.

In our passage today Paul has experienced all different types of people in ministry. Paul has had someone who went the way of the world instead of holding true to the faith. He had people like Alexander who did him great harm. Thankfully he also has Luke who is still with him, Tychicus who he sent to Ephesus for ministry, and Timothy and Mark who are on their way to visit him. Paul has experienced a wide variety of relational outcomes as it comes to living a life for God.

When we choose to follow Jesus we will find that the people around us may act like those around Paul. There will be some who want to argue and “hurt” us with their words or actions. There will be others who choose the world over God and that will break our hearts. Then there will be those who stay with us no matter what and those who come back to encourage us. In my life I have experienced each of these relationships, how about you?

SONG:

“Brothers and Sisters Family in Faith One in Christ”

KID'S QUESTION:

Who is someone who encourages you to follow Jesus, and how can you be that kind of friend to someone else?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

**Who are some people who are always there for you in your faith?
Who are some people who have gone the way of the world and
“hurt” you?**

PRAYER:

Lord, I pray that You will surround us with those who are consistent and beneficial in faith. Father, may we always have a brother or sister that we can reach out to in our faith.

[illegible]

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

2 TIMOTHY 4:16-18 | GOD AND GOD ALONE

In our passage today Paul starts out by talking about a time that he was on trial before Caesar. At this certain trial he was alone and no one came to his aid. In this passage we can see some language and response that reminds us of Jesus. The disciples deserted Jesus when things got hard and he was arrested, and on the cross Jesus asks God to forgive them for they know not what they do. Paul had his friends desert him as well and ask that it not be held against them.

Paul goes on to say that God was with him through it all. God was the one who strengthened him and the one who gave him the ability to speak the full message of the gospel. Finally, it was God who rescued him from death and God will bring him safely to his eternal home one day. Yes, Paul does desire for other people to encourage and support him, but he also knows that the only support and strength he needs comes from God alone.

Sometimes we can feel like we are all alone. We may feel this way especially when it comes to standing up for our faith. If we ever feel like we are the only ones standing up, remember that God is always with us. He will be there to give us strength and grant us the ability to speak the entirety of the gospel for others to hear. May we not get angry at others who abandon us, but may we keep our eyes fixed on God and God alone.

SONG:

"God And God Alone" - Stephen Akin Gospel Medley

KID'S QUESTION:

What can you do when you feel alone or when it's hard to stand up for what you believe about Jesus?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

When have you felt abandoned by a Christian friend? When have you experienced the presence of God being with you?

PRA YER:

Lord, may our lives, our hearts, and our minds be fixed on You and You alone.

[illegible]

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

2 TIMOTHY 4:19-22 | GOODBYE!

As we come to the end of our time in 2 Timothy, I pray that we are encouraged to be active in our faith. In the beginning we talked about being passionate for Jesus Christ and having this faith fanned into flame in how we speak and act. In our passion for the gospel may we find ourselves fully invested in the plan of our coach to go and share the good news of the gospel everywhere we go. When I say everywhere, I mean everywhere. No place you find yourself in is off limits for the gospel.

As we wholeheartedly surrender to the plan of God, my heart's desire is that we would study the playbook and memorize the truth that is in there. I hope we crave the word of God more than anything else in this world and that as we grow in our knowledge of God we would be prepared at all times to be active in the game of faith. There's no time to wait! None of us know the amount of time we have left on this earth.

Let's do our best to encourage fellow Christians throughout the week at our jobs, schools and homes. May we also do our best to gather together as often as possible in worship, fellowship and prayer. Make sure to join us next week in the book of 1 Timothy as we learn about the truth and nothing but the truth.

SONG:

“Living Hope” - Abigail Ginsterblum

KID'S QUESTION:

Talk about what it means to be an active member of Team Jesus.

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

How have you grown this month as an active member of Team Jesus?

PRAYER:

Lord, may we continue to encourage one another as the day of the Lord approaches.

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