**By the Holy Spirit, Guard the Good Deposit! | 2 Timothy**

2PC Crossroads Women’s Study

Summer 2020

**Week 1** 2 Timothy (Overview)

**Week 2** 2 Tim 1:1–18

**Week 3** 2 Tim 2:1–13

**Week 4** 2 Tim 2:14–26

**Week 5** 2 Tim 3:1–17

**Week 6** 2 Tim 4:1–22

**Weekly Focus Questions**

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this passage? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this passage mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this passage’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

One concrete **expression** of trusting the passage’s main truth about God:

One concrete **action step** to grow in trusting the passage’s main truth about God:

1. Prayer: How would I value my sisters praying for me in light of this passage?

**Week 1 | Whole Book of Second Timothy**

After reading the whole book 2 Timothy (preferably in one sitting and perhaps aloud), respond to the following questions.

Focus Questions:

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this book? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this book mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this book’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

One concrete **expression** of trusting the passage’s main truth about God:

One concrete **action step** to grow in trusting the passage’s main truth about God:

1. Prayer: How would I value my sisters praying for me in light of this book?

Additional Questions:

1. What does the letter itself say about **who** wrote it, **to whom** it was written, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written? *Note specific verses.*

**Author**

 **Recipient**

 **Occasion**

**Author’s Aim**

1. What are some of the letter’s recurring themes (repeated ideas)? *Please note specific verses.*
2. What aspect of the letter’s message do you find most countercultural for your current context? Why would some of your contemporaries reject this particular message?

**Week 2 | 2 Timothy 1**

After reading the whole passage (preferably in one sitting and perhaps aloud), respond to the following questions.

Focus Questions:

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this passage? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this passage mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this passage’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

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Additional Questions:

1. What stands out to you regarding how Paul identifies himself, Timothy, and God in the letter’s salutation (vv. 1–2)?

In our cultural context, how do people usually prefer to identify/define themselves?

1. Throughout this letter, Paul repeatedly calls Timothy not to ashamed. Why might Timothy be ashamed of “the testimony about our Lord” or “of [Paul, the Lord’s prisoner]” (v. 8)?

Relatedly, why might “all who are in Asia” have “turned away” from Paul (v. 15)?

1. What stands out to you about Paul’s articulation of the gospel in vv. 9–10?
2. Put the following exhortations into your own words:

*“Share in the suffering for the gospel by the power of God”* (v. 8)

*“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposited entrusted to you”* (v. 14)

**Week 3 | 2 Timothy 2:1–13**

After reading the whole passage (preferably in one sitting and perhaps aloud), respond to the following questions.

Focus Questions:

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this passage? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this passage mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this passage’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

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One concrete **action step** to grow in trusting the passage’s main truth about God:

1. Prayer: How would I value my sisters praying for me in light of this passage?

Additional Questions:

1. Put vv. 1–2 in your own words.
2. What’s the common thread among the three analogies Paul uses in vv. 3–6? And what is one area of your life in which you’d like to make progress along these lines of Paul’s exhortation?

*Common thread among the three analogies:*

 *One area for growth along the lines of this common thread:*

1. What is the logical connection between vv. 1–7 and vv. 8–13? How do these two paragraphs fit together thematically?

**Week 4 | 2 Timothy 2:14–26**

After reading the whole passage (preferably in one sitting and perhaps aloud), respond to the following questions.

Focus Questions:

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this passage? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this passage mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this passage’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

One concrete **expression** of trusting the passage’s main truth about God:

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1. Prayer: How would I value my sisters praying for me in light of this passage?

Additional Questions:

1. What does Paul mean in v. 14 by exhorting Timothy to charge his leaders “not to quarrel about words”? And how does quarrelling about words “ruin the hearers”?
2. What is the logical connection of vv. 20–21 to its surrounding context (that is, to vv. 14–19 and vv. 22–26)?
3. What stands out to you in Paul’s description of the Lord’s servant in vv. 22–26?
4. What’s one concrete way you’d like to make progress in terms of maturing in Christ as “one approved” (v. 15) who is “the Lord’s servant” (v. 24)?
5. What’s the connection between (1) your “sharing in suffering for the gospel” (1:8) and “guarding the good deposit” and (2) your maturing in Christ along these lines?

In terms of your ministry usefulness, what’s at stake if you don’t make progress in holy living along these lines?

**Week 5 | 2 Timothy 3**

After reading the whole passage (preferably in one sitting and perhaps aloud), respond to the following questions.

Focus Questions:

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this passage? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this passage mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this passage’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

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Additional Questions:

1. When are “the last days” about which Paul writes (v. 1)? What’s the specific time in view?
2. What’s the main point Paul is making in vv. 1–9? And why is Paul making this particular point to Timothy in this letter? (That is, why is this point important in its context?)
3. Paul contrasts the ungodliness of non-Christians in “the last days” with Timothy. Rather than living in corruption, Timothy has followed Paul’s doctrine and way of life. What is Paul’s main exhortation to Timothy in this passage?

What challenges might Timothy have faced in putting this exhortation into practice in his life, not least in light of the opposition to the gospel he was facing?

1. Paul affirms that God gives his servants the Scriptures to “equip them for every good work” (v. 17). Put into your own words what it means that the Scriptures make God’s messengers “competent, equipped for every good work.”

Even if we affirm with our lips that the Scriptures equip us in this way, what sorts of alternatives do we Christians sometimes seek to make us feel competent?

1. In what main area of your life would you like to make progress in holy living so that, like Paul (vv. 10–11), you can say to a younger sister in the faith, “Come follow me as I follow Christ”?

**Week 6 | 2 Timothy 4**

After reading the whole passage (preferably in one sitting and perhaps aloud), respond to the following questions.

Focus Questions:

1. Observation: What words or ideas stand out to you in this passage? What strikes you as surprising, encouraging, or difficult?
2. Interpretation: What does this passage mainly communicate about God?
3. Application: If I more fully believed this passage’s main truths about God, what’s one concrete way that trust would come to expression in my life? What is one concrete action step I can take to make progress in trusting this truth about God, relying on Jesus Christ’s grace to help me do so?

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1. Prayer: How would I value my sisters praying for me in light of this passage?

Additional Questions:

1. What are some specific expressions of the reality of vv. 3–4 in your context?
2. In what ways are you growing to love the Lord’s appearing (v. 1), to set your heart to receiving his reward on “that Day” (v. 8), and to encourage others to do so? What have you found helpful in your grow in this regard?
3. What are some helpful ways to talk about the Lord’s reward to the faithful (e.g., v. 8) and repayment to the unfaithful (e.g., v. 14), and what are some unhelpful ways?
4. In the midst of your peculiar trials and temptations, how are you presently experiencing the Lord’s standing by you and strengthening you? And how might you continue to make progress in trusting his promise to rescue you from every evil deed and bring you safely into his heavenly kingdom?
5. What’s stirring in your heart as you reflect on Paul’s gospel partnerships evident in his final greeting? *(For example: Are you mainly thankful for particular men and women with whom you’re presently partnering in the gospel? Is there a pang of grief as it brings to your mind broken partnerships, discouraging or scarce partnerships, or so on?)*
6. What stands out to you in terms of the symmetry of Paul’s salutation (1:1–2) and conclusion (4:22)?