

## Small Group Questions | March 3, 2019

Anyone leading the group this week may find additional Small Group Leader Resources at <http://www.wcchapel.org/resources-for-small-group-leaders/>

### *The Great Explorers — Paul Part 3*

#### **2 Timothy 4:1–8**

*Context: 2 Timothy 4:1–22*

*Other Passages Referenced: Gen 1 and 12; Ezek 17; John 1 & 17; Rom 10; 1 Cor 1:21; 2 Tim 1; Rev 4:10*

**Sermon Recap:** Paul was a gospel explorer who showed us how to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith to the end. As Paul was completing the course of his life and ministry, he wanted to make sure his disciple Timothy would continue in his path to finish his race and keep the faith. Paul was confident that all those who finish the race and keep the faith can look forward to a reward from the Lord Jesus.

#### **Introductory Comments to Group Leaders:**

**Nature of the Chapel Forums** – Please remind your group members of the upcoming Nature of the Chapel forums on March 10, 17, and 24, from 3:30–5:00. Dinner, by reservation, is optional from 5:00–6:00. Also, thank you to all of you who volunteered to serve as table facilitators at the forums.

**Save the Date for VBS Service Opportunity** – Please give your group a heads up about decorating hallways for the 2019 Vacation Bible School in July. Groups are encouraged to grab some pizza and salad (or it ever lunch is provided) at 12:30 on Sunday, July 21, followed by a time of fun service putting up decorations all over the building for the hundreds of children who will enjoy them throughout the week.

## Small Group Questions

### **Background Helps**

- **Context of 2 Timothy** – Paul's second letter to Timothy is not like Paul's letters addressed to churches such as Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians. 1 & 2 Timothy, along with Titus, are personal letters from Paul to Timothy and Titus respectively. Paul is coaching and encouraging them in their pastoral responsibilities as leaders of churches. That's why those three letters are known as "pastoral letters" or "pastoral epistles." Specifically, Timothy is trying to confront false teachers in the Church at Ephesus, where Paul had already invested time. You can see Paul's awareness that false teachers in the church were a danger in his personal farewell to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:28–33. 2 Tim 1:8 gives evidence that Paul wrote 2 Timothy while a prisoner.
- **Timothy** – We meet Timothy the first time in Acts 16:1: Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek." Timothy was from Lystra, the city where the inhabitants had previously tried to worship Paul and Barnabas as Greek gods (Acts 14:8–24) but later stoned Paul there. On this return trip to the area, Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him on his mission work. However, since Timothy's father was a Greek, Paul had Timothy circumcised to avoid conflict with Jewish people who might object to Timothy being the son of a Gentile. In 1 Tim 1:2, Paul refers to Timothy as his "true child in the faith." 1 Tim 1:3 reveals that Paul persuaded Timothy to remain in Ephesus to confront false teaching in the church there rather than to travel on with Paul.
- **"Preach the word"** – The Greek word for "preach" in 2 Tim 4:2 does not likely have a Sunday sermon in mind. Rather, it refers to the proclamation of a herald bringing news of victory from the battlefield. "The word" there

is the same term—*logos*—used for Jesus in John 1: “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.”

- **Drink Offering** – In addition to animal sacrifices, the law also called for grain and drink offerings to be made. The drink offering was usually a specified quantity of wine poured out on the altar or sacrifice to the Lord. The drink offering was a complement to the main sacrifice but not the sacrifice for sin itself.
- **Reprove** – bring to light, expose, convict
- **Rebuke** – censure, speak seriously, correct
- **Exhort** – urge, implore, appeal to

**Hook:** *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

*Can you point to one or two individuals who have left their imprint on you as a follower of Jesus?*

*When was the last time you wrote a personal letter and to whom?*

**Look:**

### **READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8 – Paul, near the end of his ministry and life**

1. Make a list of the imperatives/commands in 1 Tim 4:2 and 5 that Paul exhorted Timothy to do.
2. What role does Paul’s anticipation of Jesus appearing in judgment play in Paul’s charge to Timothy?
3. What behaviors does Paul list in 2 Tim 4:3–4 to describe those who will not endure sound teaching?
4. Think of verses 5–8 in the context of Paul being imprisoned once again for his faith, and this time he is thinking he could be martyred. Beyond physical death, what was Paul anticipating?

### **Illustrations:**

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of [www.wcchapel.org](http://www.wcchapel.org)

**Took:** *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. Do you see anything in the list of commands from verses 1, 2, and 5 that are unique to Timothy’s calling and would not be expected of every follower of Jesus?
2. Which of the verbs listed in verses 2 and 5 do you find the most challenging to do?
3. Which of the behaviors in verses 3 and 4 are most concerning to you as you run the race and keep the faith?
4. Are you involved in a “Paul-Timothy” type of relationship with anyone now? If not, who might be a Paul to you? Who might be a Timothy (or Timothea) you could come alongside as a more experienced Paul (or Pauline)?
5. Do you have a name of a not-yet-Christian you’re praying for regularly to become a disciple of Jesus? Perhaps others in the group would join in praying together for one another’s friends who don’t yet follow Jesus.

**Great Verse to Memorize** – 2 Tim 2:1–2 – “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

**Prayer:** Please spend time praying for one another.