



Gospel Ministry

Summary and Goal

Paul gave Timothy a passionate plea for doctrinal soundness and continued faithfulness. In this intensely packed passage, Paul gave nine imperatives in five verses.

Main Passages

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Session Outline

1. The Charge (2 Tim. 4:1-2)
2. Trouble on the Way (2 Tim. 4:3-4)
3. Some Helps (2 Tim. 4:5)

Theological Theme

The sufficiency of the Scriptures is the primary theological theme in this passage. If we believe that the Word of God is indeed sufficient for life and godliness, then the primary work for the pastor will be to feed the sheep with it (Acts 6). Furthermore, the church will be regulated by the Scriptures and the Scriptures will take center stage in all her gatherings.

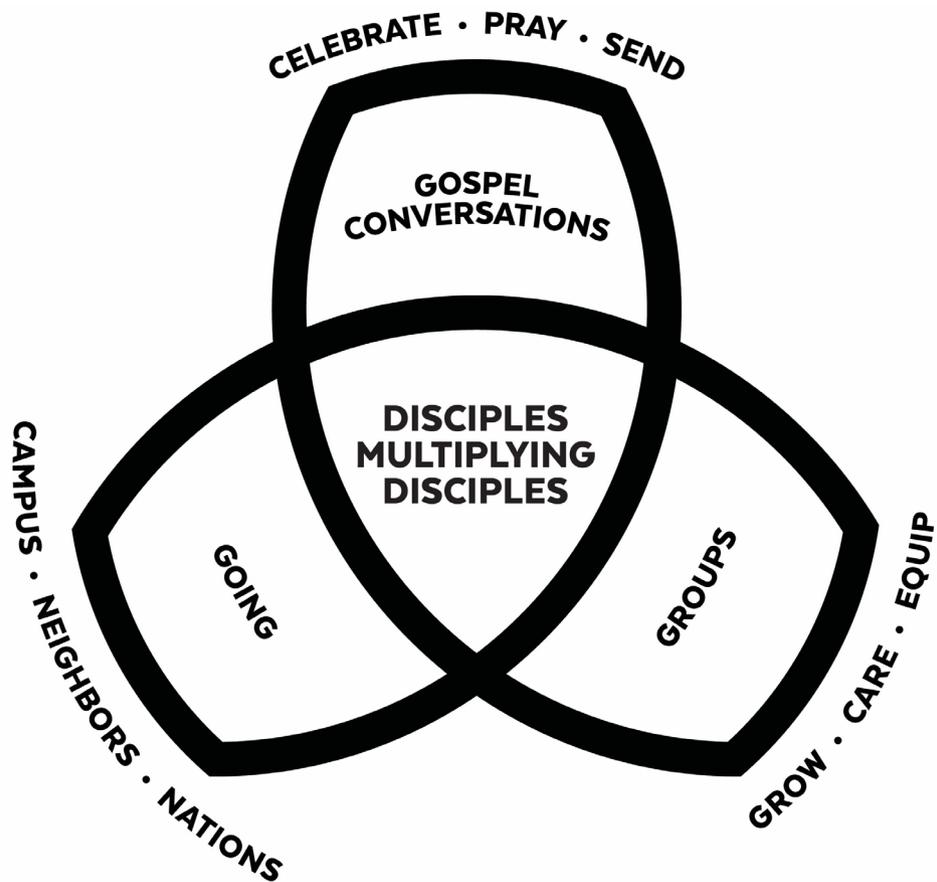
Christ Connection

The Scriptures are sufficient precisely because they contain the full counsel of God, which culminates in the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Missional Application

Since the Scriptures are indeed sufficient, then missions endeavors must be regulated by them. Furthermore, the primary work of the missionary and disciple ought to be to share God's Word with the lost.

Disciples Multiplying Disciples



DxD This Week

Plan for Next Week

Every series needs a party! Parties are not just for group members, but a great time to invite others who are not yet connected. This is the week to plan your next group party and invite unconnected friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Give time to the party representative of your group to share about the date, time, etc.

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Session Plan

Gospel Ministry

For the Leader

If meeting by Zoom: Gather all the Bibles in your home. Show each one and explain why it is important to you (worth keeping). Ask members to show their favorite Bible and share why it is their favorite.

Introduction/Ice Breaker

- ? How important would you say the Bible is to faithfully following Jesus? What role should the Bible play in the church?
- ? What are some other things that people might view as important in following Jesus?

Paul's aim in this passage was to grab Timothy's attention. The stakes were too high for Timothy miss what Paul had to say. His work was too critical. It was absolutely necessary for Timothy to stay the course and fulfill his ministry. Keep in mind that Paul was writing to a pastor of a local church, Timothy. It isn't sound Bible interpretation and application to simply say that everyone is commanded by God to "Preach the Word". For one, Paul was commanding Timothy to preach the Word in the context of the local church. Only qualified pastors should do this. Not everyone. Paul made that very clear in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

1. The Charge (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

Several themes are constant throughout this letter. One is suffering. Paul had suffered and was in jail at the writing of this letter. Timothy had suffered as well and could expect more. The second theme is endurance. Paul wanted Timothy to continue to faithfully carry out the ministry that had been entrusted to him. He had work to do and Paul used this letter to help him stay the course.

- ? What motivation did Paul give in verse 1 for faithfully preaching the Word? How should this motivate us to pursue faithfulness to Him?
- ? How does it change your perspective of your life when you think about the promise of Jesus' return?
- ? Application: Even if you are not a pastor or teacher, what role does every member of the church have in making sure that the whole church is holding to the truth of the Bible?

2. Trouble on the Way (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Paul turned from explaining to Timothy his role as an elder, to paint a discouraging picture. He said that a time was coming when people would reject that which they most needed. Paul wrote in the future tense, but his other letters betray the fact that this was already happening. It is still happening, of course. Paul anticipated that this sort of attitude toward Christianity would only increase.

- ❓ How did Paul describe the people that he warned Timothy about in verses 3-4?
- ❓ What can we learn from Paul's negative description to understand how Christians should live?
- ❓ Application Question: Which of the two descriptions above fits your life more accurately? How does your life give evidence of this?

3. Some Helps (2 Timothy 4:5)

In verse 5, Paul gave Timothy a list of instructions that would help him stay faithful to the task of preaching the Word. These weren't new commands that should be taken as independent of the charge in verse two. Rather, they are sub points to the main point of preaching the Word.

- ❓ What commands did Paul give Timothy in verse 5? What jumps out at you? What do you find encouraging or challenging about the list?
- ❓ How is self control connected to following Jesus faithfully?
- ❓ Application: We are not all preachers, but we are all believers empowered to proclaim the truth of the gospel to the lost and searching. If you've never written out your personal testimony and your understanding of the gospel, do that this week. Consider sharing what you write with your group next week.

Conclusion

- ❓ Do you desire to obey God's Word for man's approval or because of your responsibility before God?? How does a person's life show their motivation for obedience?
- ❓ Consider how you can have a Gospel conversation with your neighbor, friend, or co-worker this week. Review the Gospel Conversation exercise and focus study Brentwood Baptist is offering (<https://brentwood.church/groups/group/?id=10591>).



Expanded Session Content

Gospel Ministry

Introduction/Ice Breaker

Thomas Manton said, “We must look upon Jesus as a father carrying all his children on his back, or lapped up in his garment, through a deep river, through which they must need pass; and, as it were, saying to them, ‘Fear not, I will set you safely on land!’ Look upon Christ wading with all his children through the floods of death and Hell, and saying: Fear not, worm Jacob; fear not, poor souls, I will get you safely across!”¹ It is a wonderfully comforting thought for a Christian to picture him or herself safely caught up with their Redeemer.

For the Leader

If meeting by Zoom: Gather all the Bibles in your home. Show each one and explain why it is important to you (worth keeping). Ask members to show their favorite Bible and share why it is their favorite.

- ❓ How important would you say the Bible is to faithfully following Jesus? What role should the Bible play in the church?
- ❓ What are some other things that people might view as important in following Jesus?

God has given us an amazing gift in order to sustain our souls and bolster our faith: His Word. The Scriptures contain all that we need for life and godliness. They teach us the truth about ourselves and about God. They help us to draw near to God and give us comfort and rest. When we read, study, and meditate upon the Scriptures with repentance, faith, and humility then we are like the poor soul clinging to a great Redeemer wading us through the floods of death and hell.

That’s why it is so critical that pastors preach the Word to the church when they gather together each week. They don’t need man’s opinions, myths and legends, or inspirational speeches. They need the pure milk of the Word by which they may be nourished and through which they may be guided more surely to their Savior. That’s why Paul told Timothy in our passage today, “Preach the Word!”

Session Summary

Paul's aim in this passage was to grab Timothy's attention. The stakes were too high for Timothy miss what Paul had to say. His work was too critical. It was absolutely necessary for Timothy to stay the course and fulfill his ministry. Keep in mind that Paul was writing to a pastor of a local church, Timothy. It isn't sound Bible interpretation and application to simply say that everyone is commanded by God to "Preach the Word". For one, Paul was commanding Timothy to preach the Word in the context of the local church. Only qualified pastors should do this. Not everyone. Paul made that very clear in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

1. The Charge (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

Throughout 2 Timothy up until the first 2 verses of chapter 4, Paul told Timothy the same thing over and over. Yet, this wasn't redundant or excess. Rather, Paul simply emphasized his primary message to Timothy by communicating in different ways and from different angles. Several themes are constant throughout this letter. One is suffering. Paul had suffered and was in jail at the writing of this letter. Timothy had suffered as well and could expect more. The second theme is endurance. Paul wanted Timothy to continue to faithfully carry out the ministry that had been entrusted to him. He had work to do and Paul used this letter to help him stay the course.



What motivation did Paul give in verse 1 for faithfully preaching the Word? How should this motivate us to pursue faithfulness to Him?

In verse 1 Paul delivered a 1-2 punch. First, he told Timothy, "I charge you." This wasn't a small thing. All evidence that we have suggests that Paul and Timothy were very close and loved each other in the Lord. They were co-laborers, but their relationship was probably more akin to a father-son relationship than a best friend type of relationship. Paul repeatedly called Timothy his son in the faith. Paul was older than Timothy and had served as a spiritual father to him. Paul was giving Timothy as stern a fatherly warning as he could. We could translate it as "I solemnly warn you".

Paul then reminded Timothy that his work was to be fulfilled under the gaze of God. Paul held authority in Timothy's life, but at the end of the day Timothy wasn't laboring for Paul's approval. Timothy didn't obey the word of Paul. Paul wasn't Timothy's Lord and Savior. Christians don't live to please men since they are servants of Christ. Timothy was to labor under the gaze and authority of the Triune God with a view that Christ would one day return. Paul wanted Timothy to realize that two great changes were coming.

First, Timothy would die and he would pass before the judgment seat of God. What would matter at that moment? This is a good practice for us. Five seconds into eternity, what will we care about? What will matter? What will we regret? Second, Jesus would return and God's Kingdom would be established finally and fully.

Both of these great changes meant two things for Timothy. The first is he would one day joyfully enter into God's presence where he would rest and worship for eternity. The second is that his opportunity to serve the Lord by sharing the Word with others would eventually end.

 How does it change your perspective of your life when you think about the promise of Jesus' return? How does it impact how you see your neighbors, friends and co-workers?

Paul told Timothy that he must "Preach the Word." All of the commands that Paul had given Timothy up until this point culminated in these three words. This was the essence of what Timothy was called to do. In fact, as one who has been saved by Jesus, you have the power to preach the Word too! You likely won't do this from a stage on a Sunday morning, but you can do so daily by your actions and words.

Paul alluded to this sacred charge repeatedly in chapters 1-3. Finally, he addressed Timothy directly so that there would be no confusion. Whenever Paul said "rekindle the gift of God that is in you" (1:6), "hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you have heard from me" (1:13), "what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men" (2:2), and the like, he was telling Timothy indirectly to preach the Word. In 4:2, he stated this directly.

Paul strongly charged Timothy to be ready to fearlessly proclaim the gospel from the Scriptures to all people by exposing their sin, ordering them both to turn from sin and to obey God's commands. Timothy was to do this with patience and great effort.

 Application: Even if you are not a pastor or teacher, what responsibility do you have to properly share the truth of the Bible?

2. Trouble on the Way (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Paul turned from explaining to Timothy his role as an elder, to paint a discouraging picture. He said that a time was coming when people would reject that which they most needed. Paul wrote in the future tense, but his other letters betray the fact that this was already happening. It is still

happening, of course. Paul anticipated that this sort of attitude toward Christianity would only increase.

- ❓ How did Paul describe the people that he warned Timothy about in verses 3-4?

Paul said, they “have an itch to hear what they want to hear.” He explained specifically what he meant when he said:

- They will multiply teachers for themselves.
- They will turn away from hearing the truth.
- They will turn aside to myths.

This is a fearful thing to consider. In verses 3-4, Paul described what it looks like to have a veneer of Christianity and religion but to be a dead person walking. One who consistently lives in this way proves him or herself to be a child of the devil, not a child of God.

This is a difficult situation and Paul recognized that it warranted a warning for Timothy. Why? It presented a predicament for the preacher. It would be easier if these people were outright opposed to Timothy and the message of the gospel. It would be less dangerous if they simply rejected Christ and the message of the cross outright, but they didn't. Today, some might say things like, “That preacher talks about hell and sin too much. All he does is makes me feel bad. I want to enjoy today. I'm taking my family somewhere else.” Or, “Do we have to talk about the blood of Christ so much? That's so off-putting. No one is ever going to join our church if we keep this up.”

- ❓ What can we learn from Paul's negative description to understand how Christians should live?

We can look at Paul's description of these people and turn it inside out in order to discern what a faithful church member looks like. This will give us another way to measure ourselves. It's one thing to say, “well, I'm not turning away from the truth or chasing after myths.” Let's look at the inversions of Paul's description:

I. Rejoices in and is satisfied by sound teaching.

1. Does not look for new teachers, church, or group when encountering hard biblical teaching.
2. Receives Scriptural truth even when it hurts.
3. Contented with what is written in the Scriptures and unwilling to waste time going beyond is written.

- ❓ Application: Which of the two descriptions above fits your life more accurately? How does your life give evidence of this?

Myths

The word myth is used five times in the NT—four times in the Pastoral Epistles and one in 2Pt 1:16. In each instance, once refers to something contrary to sound teaching, something that is false.

3. Some Helps (2 Timothy 4:5)

In verse 5, Paul gave Timothy a list of instructions that would help him stay faithful to the task of preaching the Word. These weren't new commands that should be taken as independent of the charge in verse two. Rather, they are sub points to the main point of preaching the Word.

-  What commands did Paul give Timothy in verse 5? What jumps out at you? What do you find encouraging or challenging about the list?
-  How is self-control connected to following Jesus faithfully?

Let's rephrase these commands to get a better handle on them:

- Keep yourself in submission to God's Word.
- Don't give up.
- Preach the gospel to the lost.
- Preach the Word to the church in Ephesus.

The first two commands that Paul gave had to do with Timothy's inner state. Timothy had to be self-controlled so that he could effectively minister through diligent preparation and careful management of resources such as his time. Further, he had to be self-controlled so that he would not act on sinful desires and disqualify himself from ministry. This was an inward battle that Timothy would need to keep fighting.

Similarly, Paul commanded Timothy to endure hardship. Again, we see the theme of suffering and endurance. Timothy needed to lean upon the Lord for the strength and ability to continue to plod in the ministry in the midst of difficulty and suffering.

The first two commands paved the way for the second two. It would be impossible for Timothy to preach the gospel to the lost and the Word to the church if he were unprepared, disqualified, or had quit.

-  Application: We are not all preachers, but we are all believers empowered to proclaim the truth of the gospel to the lost and searching. If you've never written out your personal testimony and your understanding of the Gospel, do that this week. Consider sharing what you write with your group next week.

Conclusion

“Preach the Word” is the essence of Paul’s second letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. All of his counsel and commands before and after the verse emanated from that command like spokes on a bicycle wheel. The church in Ephesus was so precious to God and His Word is so powerful and effective to accomplish His purposes in His people that Timothy was to give his life over to the preaching of it, even in the midst of suffering.

- ❓ Do you desire to obey God’s Word for man’s approval or because of your responsibility before God?? How does a person’s life show their motivation for obedience?
- ❓ Consider how you can have a Gospel conversation with your neighbor, friend, or co-worker this week. Review the Gospel Conversation exercise and focus study Brentwood Baptist is offering (<https://brentwood.church/groups/group/?id=10591>).

Prayer of Response

Pray earnestly for your leaders/teachers who have been placed as under-shepherds over the congregation. Pray that they would preach the Word readily and fearlessly, even when it isn’t popular. Pray that your fellow members of BBC would desire the Word and reject that which is outside of God’s will for the church. Pray for your lost and searching friends, neighbors, and co-workers by name this week.

Additional Resources

- *Pastoral Epistles* by William D. Mounce
- *The Message of 2 Timothy* by John Stott
- *Dangerous Calling* by Paul David Tripp

For Next Week

Session Title

- Gospel Good-Bye

Main Passages

- 2 Timothy 4:9-19

Session Outline

1. The Lord Will Repay
2. The Lord Stood
3. The Lord Will Rescue

Memorize

² Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching.

- 2 Timothy 4:2

Daily Readings

- Monday - 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- Tuesday - 1 Timothy 4:16
- Wednesday - Psalm 119:105
- Thursday - Hebrews 4:12
- Friday - Titus 1:9
- Saturday - 1 Timothy 6:20

Historical Context of 2 Timothy

Purpose

In 1 Timothy Paul directed Timothy to actively oppose false teaching. He also gave instruction on the type of behavior that should characterize those in the church. The letter to Titus shows a similar purpose, albeit briefer in scope. As Paul addressed the character of church members, he presented it in light of the work of Christ. The message in 2 Timothy, Paul's final letter, is quite different. It is much more personal, a letter from one friend to another. Paul was preparing Timothy to carry on the work of ministry after he was gone.

Author

As stated in the opening of each letter, these letters were written by Paul (1Tm 1:1; 2Tm 1:1; Ti 1:1). However, many scholars today assume that Paul did not write them. This opinion is based on the differences from his other letters in vocabulary and style, alleged differences in theology, and uncertainties about where these letters fit chronologically in the life of the apostle. But the differences in style and vocabulary are not troublesome when one considers that authors often use different vocabulary when addressing different groups and situations. Rather than addressing churches in these letters, Paul was writing to coworkers who were in unique ministry settings. Hence we would expect different vocabulary. Also, the traditional view of the historical situation in which Paul wrote these letters is reasonable and defensible. Therefore, in spite of significant opposition by some scholars, there is a solid basis for accepting the Pastoral Epistles as Pauline.

Setting

Paul most likely wrote these letters after the time covered in the book of Acts. Acts closes with Paul in prison. Traditionally it has been believed that Paul was released from this imprisonment, then continued his work around the Mediterranean, perhaps even reaching Spain (Rm 15:22-29). During this time, he visited Crete and other places. First Timothy and Titus were written during this period of further mission work. Timothy had been left in Ephesus to handle some problems with false teaching there (1Tm 1:3-4). Titus had been left in Crete after the initial work to set up the church there (Ti 1:5). Eventually Paul was imprisoned again, and this led to his execution. During this final imprisonment, Paul wrote 2 Timothy to request another visit from Timothy and to give final exhortations as he anticipated his martyrdom.

Special Features

First Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus have been referred to as the "Pastoral Epistles" since the eighteenth century. It is reasonable to consider these letters together since they have striking similarities in style, vocabulary, and setting. These letters stand apart from the other Pauline letters because they were the only ones written to Paul's gospel coworkers. The Pastoral Epistles deal with church structure issues and, unlike Paul's other letters, were addressed to men serving in pastoral roles rather than to churches. But we must also recognize these are separate letters with their own distinctives. They were not written primarily to describe church structure or pastoral ministry (contrary to popular opinion), but to teach Christian living in response to the gospel.

Extended Commentary

2 Timothy 4:1-5

4:1. The solemnity of Paul's charge to Timothy became apparent as he issued it in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus. Paul was giving Timothy a binding oath to ministry. Besides the magnitude of the trust, sealed by God, Paul provided motivation for Timothy, and all Christians, to follow through.

First, God through Christ Jesus will judge the living and the dead. There ought to exist in all of us a healthy fear of the future. God's judgment reaches into the hearts of all people—Christians and unbelievers alike. No one escapes his penetrating gaze. All will tremble in his presence; the inevitability of confronting the Holy One with a review of one's life should cause serious and careful living in the present moment. All Christians have received a charge to remain faithful in serving him, and we are bound to this by the covenant of Christ's blood.

The second motivation derives from his appearing and his kingdom. His coming again has yet to occur; it is the event to which Christians look with anticipation. He can come at any moment, and we must be ready. Jesus provided plenty of warnings in his parables about lazy servants unprepared for the master's return (Matt. 24:45), or virgins ill-equipped for the bridal party (Matt. 25:1-13). Though outposts of his kingdom are established whenever God's will is carried out by the power of his Spirit, the fullness of his kingdom remains in the future. Just as salvation has come in part to each believer, still we await the fullness of our salvation when Christ appears. Paul intended these coming realizations, though partially experienced now, as encouragement for faithful service.

4:2. Paul's charge to Timothy was: Preach the Word. Through the course of his two letters to Timothy, Paul had referred often to God's revelation, his Word. Timothy understood that the Word was the same as Paul's teachings (2 Tim. 2:2), "sound doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 1:13), the "glorious gospel" (1 Tim. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:11), the "true faith" (1 Tim. 2:7; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:5), and the "Scriptures" (1 Tim. 4:13). All pastors are bound by their duties as ministers of the gospel, to herald, or proclaim, the words of God. Whether on Sunday mornings or throughout the week, as they teach and instruct, their duty is to pass on what God has revealed.

Personal opinions and theories provide interesting discussions, but conviction about the essential truths of God remain necessary. The mandate for the church and its leadership remains: Preach the Word.

The subject of ministry is God's Word. The duty of ministry is preparedness and accessibility: in season and out of season. The pastor, the Christian, is to view ministry as full-time, all the time, because faith involves all of life. There is no moment of the day that Christ cannot redeem if his people are prepared to seize the opportunities as they come. Those who remain ready and alert in their faith participate willingly in proclaiming the gospel, whether it is convenient or not.

The manner of ministry is to correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. God's Word is extremely practical for every encounter and situation in life.

To correct means to convince or reprove. The pastor works to guide a person along the proper path of obedience and faith. To rebuke means to chide or censure, even blame. The pastor seeks to put a stop to wrong behavior or belief. To encourage means to exhort, give courage, or come alongside. The pastor walks with his people, living the example of faith and urging others to follow.

All these duties are to be carried out with kindness. Our battle is not against the weak, the errant, the sinful, but against Satan, who enslaves people to do his will. We are commissioned to offer peace in the name of Christ, and we must extend it in love and care as we proclaim the truth. It is the Word that confronts and convicts, not our spirits. We are to tell the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), allowing God's Word and Spirit to work in people's minds and hearts.

4:3-4. Despite patience, kindness, and truth, the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Timothy's duty to continue preaching God's Word finds its imperative in the spiritual decadence that surrounded him. People will not care to hear the truth.

All truth, whether spiritual or scientific, resides in the nature of God. As such, truth commands either change or sacrifice; it removes excuses and opinions, allowing only for obedience or defiance. Confrontation with truth can produce a great deal of discomfort, especially for those unwilling to submit to its authority. This is why people have always tended to gather "yes" men about themselves, those who say what we like to hear.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD'S instruction. They say to the seers, 'See no more visions!' and to the prophets, 'Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!'" (Isa. 30:9-11).

Nothing has changed. People still like to hear only pleasant things, teachings that correspond to their own desires. This allows them to continue in the lifestyles and practices with which they are comfortable. The human heart works hard to fortify itself against truth, creating rationalizations and systems of thought to justify selfishness. Unfortunately, there are teachers and leaders who give people what they want to hear, tickling their itching ears with curiosities that allow them to remain untouched by God's transforming power. They turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths—things devised by man.

God’s truth, in addition to pointing out error and sin, leads to reality, grace, and freedom. Truth becomes a burden only when we try to reach the beauty of its perfection without the enabling strength of our Creator. Truth, as delivered by God through his ministers and people, becomes the power for living in the fullness for which God created us. But human beings fear exposure, and so we pretend we can hide from the truth. In reality, we only deceive ourselves and lead others astray.

4:5. Once again, Paul called Timothy to live in contrast to the prevailing practice of the time. Christians must not take their cues for living or thinking from the attitudes of society—religious or otherwise. Instead, God’s Word must be central to the life of every believer; it must dictate all yearnings and actions, thoughts and dreams.

Despite the prevalent distaste for truth and the unsettling atmosphere of multiple doctrines and philosophies, Paul declared, But [Timothy], keep your head in all situations. Do not panic. Keep your head “screwed on straight,” as the common expression has it. Muddled and noncritical thinking leads many people to wander off after false teachers. Timothy, and all Christians, must think correctly, holding firm to the unshakable truth of God’s Word and the apostolic teachings.

Paul reminded Timothy again to endure hardship. Suffering and hardship are a recurring theme in this letter. Paul continued to emphasize the need for endurance as a sign of faithfulness.

Timothy’s commission revolved around doing the work of an evangelist. Godly living, holiness, perseverance, and adherence to truth were never intended as private practices to ensure personal well-being. All these form the platform from which the gospel can be delivered. Timothy was to discharge all the duties of... ministry, to preach and spread the knowledge of God among those who had not heard. Paul, in his final days, turned over to Timothy the mission to the Gentiles and care of the churches.²

References

1. Spurgeon, C. H., and Thomas Manton. *Flowers from a Puritan’s Garden: Illustrations and Meditations*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2017.
2. Larson, Knute, and Max E. Anders. *I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2000.

Author Bio

Knute Larson (I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon)

Knute Larson coaches pastors and churches, majoring on leadership, pulpit, making changes, and daily grace — drawing on 43 years as a pastor and eight as a pastoral coach.

Max Anders (I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon)

Dr. Max Anders is the author of over 25 books, including the bestselling *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, and is the creator and general editor of the 32-volume *Holman Bible Commentary* series. He has taught on the college and seminary level and is a veteran pastor. Max provides resources and discipleship strategies at www.maxanders.com to help people grow spiritually.

Charles Spurgeon (Flowers from a Puritan's Garden)

A prolific author and pastor, Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) remains a respected and influential source of inspiration and study. His classic collection of devotions for morning and evening remain a beloved treasure of wisdom and teaching for Christians.

Thomas Manton (Flowers from a Puritan's Garden)

Thomas Manton (1620-1677) played a prominent role in the Savoy Conference and the drafting of the Westminster Confession. He was pastor of a noted Puritan congregation in London but was later ejected from the official church for nonconformity, though he continued to preach wherever and whenever he had opportunity. Archbishop Ussher called him “one of the great preachers in England.” His sermons formed the basis of his published commentaries.

William Mounce (Pastoral Epistles)

Dr. William D. Mounce (Ph.D. University of Aberdeen, Scotland, 1982) lives as a writer in Washougal, Washington. He is the President of BiblicalTraining.org, a non-profit organization offering world-class educational resources for discipleship in the local church. He runs BillMounce.com, a site committed to helping people learn biblical Greek. And He author a series of blogs on this site.

John Stott (The Message of 2 Timothy)

John R. W. Stott is known worldwide as a preacher, evangelist and communicator of Scripture. For many years he served as rector of All Souls Church in London, where he carried out an effective urban pastoral ministry. A leader among evangelicals in Britain, the United States and around the world, Stott was a principal framer of the landmark *Lausanne Covenant* (1974). His many books, including *Why I Am a Christian* and *The Cross of Christ*, have sold millions of copies around the world and in dozens of languages. Whether in the West or in the Two-Thirds World, a hallmark of Stott's ministry has been expository preaching that addresses the hearts and minds of contemporary men and women. Stott was honored by *Time* magazine in 2005 as one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World.”

Paul David Tripp (Dangerous Calling)

Dr. Paul David Tripp is a pastor, event speaker, and a best-selling and award-winning author. With more than 30 books and video series on Christian living, Paul's driving passion is to connect the transforming power of Jesus Christ to everyday life. He and his wife of 45+ years, Luella, live in Philadelphia; they have four grown children. For more information, visit PaulTripp.com or follow Paul on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.