



***ULTIMATE FIGHTER***

***2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY  
STUDY GUIDE***

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# OVERVIEW

## *AUTHOR AND TITLE*

The first two verses of 2 Timothy clearly present the author as Paul and the recipient as Timothy. In the last 200 years a significant shift has occurred in biblical scholarship so that many today deny that Paul actually wrote 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, or Titus. Critics point to ways in which these three letters (the “Pastoral Epistles”)<sup>1</sup> differ from Paul’s other letters in style, vocabulary, theology, church order, and the way in which Paul is portrayed. However, the differences in theology and church order, for example, are typically overstated based on a particular reading of Paul’s earlier letters, and based on the effect of reading these three letters as a unit rather than individually (as the rest of Paul’s letters are read). For example, some claim that the Pastoral Epistles picture a much more structured church with an emphasis on church officers (especially elders and deacons) rather than the dynamic, Spirit-directed church in Paul’s other letters. This overstates the evidence of both groups of letters in opposite directions. Elders are mentioned as early as Paul’s first missionary journey (Acts 14:21–23), and Philippians is addressed to the “overseers and deacons” of the church in Philippi (Phil. 1:1). Furthermore, difference in style and vocabulary is not unusual for a creative mind, especially considering that these letters differ from the other letters in purpose, subject matter, and audience, these being the only ones written to coworkers.

Additionally, it is problematic to argue that these works were written under a false name since the early church clearly excluded from the apostolic canon any works they thought to be pseudonymous. While critics point to the common practice of pseudonymous writing in the ancient world, they usually fail to point out that this practice, though common in the culture, was not common in personal letters, and was categorically rejected by the early church (cf. 2 Thess. 2:2; 3:17; also Muratorian Canon 64–67; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 6.12.3). Tertullian (c. A.D. 160–225) wrote that when it was discovered that a church elder had composed a pseudonymous work, The Acts of Paul (which included a purported Pauline letter, 3 Corinthians), the offending elder “was removed from his office” (On Baptism 17). Accepting as Scripture letters that lie about their origin is also a significant ethical problem. Thus, there is a good basis for affirming the straightforward claim of these letters as authentically written by Paul.<sup>2</sup>

Timothy is first mentioned in Acts 16:1 – 2, where he is placed at Lystra during Paul’s second missionary journey and is described as “the son of Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek” and as “well

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<sup>1</sup> The term “Pastoral Epistles” is a clear description of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus. They were addressed to individuals who were leading church to give them clear objectives in leading and to answer specific issues they were facing. This not only has applications for the leaders in our church, but also for those of us who lead within our church and within our homes.

<sup>2</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2320 & 2335

spoken of by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium.” 2 Timothy 1:5 gives Timothy’s mother’s name as Eunice as his grandmother’s as Lois, and indicates that both had a “sincere faith.” Acts 16:3 indicates that Paul “wanted this man to go with him,” and, because of Jews who knew of his mixed family background, had him circumcised. From that point on he became Paul’s assistant and continued as such to Paul’s last imprisonment, which is when he wrote Second Timothy.<sup>3</sup>

Three things stand out about Timothy: (a) In regard to his background, Timothy had a strong religious heritage in his own family, biblical training from his youth and a strong commendation already as a young man from the church, both his own congregation at Lystra and the neighboring congregation at Iconium (2 Timothy 1:5, 6; 3:14 – 17; Acts 16:1 – 3). (b) In regard to his service, Timothy was a faithful and consistent coworker with and assistant to Paul. He regarded Timothy as one of his most trustworthy and dedicated associates and one to whom he could assign difficult tasks (e.g. at Thessalonica, at Ephesus, and especially at Corinth (Philippians 2:19 – 24; 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 6; 1 Timothy 1:18, 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:2). (c) In regard to his personality and temperament, Timothy’s apparent timidity and need for encouragement are striking. Paul tells him, “God has not given us a spirit of timidity” (1:7), “do not be ashamed” (1:8), “be strong” (2:1), “suffer hardship” (2:3), “let no one look down on your youthfulness” (1 Timothy 4:12), “do not neglect the spiritual gift” (1 Timothy 4:14), “pay close attention to yourself and your teaching” (1 Timothy 4:16), “guard what has been entrusted to you” (1 Timothy 6:20). Timothy’s timidity (and thus his need for encouragement) may have stemmed from a realistic appraisal of a difficult situation, from a natural propensity, or from both.<sup>4</sup>

## **DATE**

The letter pictures Paul in prison in Rome, awaiting death. Most likely, then, this letter was written during Paul’s second Roman imprisonment (later than the imprisonment recorded in Acts 28). Therefore this letter would have been written after 1 Timothy and Titus. Eusebius (*Church History* 2.25; 3.1) claims that Paul was martyred sometime during Nero’s reign. Nero had begun intense persecution of Christians in A.D. 64. Since Paul wrote 2 Timothy shortly before his death, it was probably written in A.D. 64 – 65, though some would place it as late as A.D.67.<sup>5</sup>

## **MAIN THEME**

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<sup>3</sup> *The Pastoral Epistles*, George W. Knight, p. 6

<sup>4</sup> *The Pastoral Epistles*, George W. Knight, p. 8

<sup>5</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2335

Second Timothy is a bold, clear call for perseverance in the gospel in spite of suffering. Paul calls on his young coworker to continue the fight of faith, even as Paul approaches the end of his own life. <sup>6</sup>

## **KEY THEMES**

### **Stay loyal to Christ.**

Loyalty is a lost art in our culture. Athletes change teams every year. Americans have 3 – 5 careers in their lifetime<sup>7</sup> and will change jobs as many times as 10 by the time they are 40.<sup>8</sup> We are not a loyal culture and we bring that to church and our relationship with God. Pastors aren't much different. Some studies say that the average youth pastor lasts 13 months and the average pastor stays at his church for 18 months.

The implications of all of this are that when we start following Jesus, being loyal is not always on our radar. Many times people seem to be trying out Jesus like they would try a new hobby. In 2 Timothy Paul implores Timothy to be loyal to Christ, to not turn away, to not get discouraged, to continue on the path of following Jesus.

### **Fulfill your calling.**

Paul had spent years with Timothy. He was Timothy's "spiritual father" in a way. He had raised him up, saw potential in him, gave him opportunities and mentored him. This is one of the things that make this letter<sup>9</sup> so beautiful to read as we think about this relationship and how much time and effort Paul has invested in Timothy to help him become the man and leader that he is.

Paul was passing the mantle of ministry to his son in the faith and urged him to persevere in strength and faithfulness (2:1). He also understood that, despite Timothy's soundness in doctrine and personal godliness, he was prone to waver. He therefore reminded that "God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline" and lovingly commanded him "not [to] be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord," to "retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus," to "guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you," to "be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who has does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth," to "flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith,

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<sup>6</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2335

<sup>7</sup> [http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How\\_often\\_does\\_the\\_average\\_worker\\_change\\_careers\\_in\\_his\\_lifetime](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_often_does_the_average_worker_change_careers_in_his_lifetime)

<sup>8</sup> <http://careerplanning.about.com/b/2006/07/28/how-often-do-people-change-careers.htm>

<sup>9</sup> Imagine this for a moment. If you knew that death was imminent, who would you contact? What would you say? As we read this book, we must keep in mind that Paul thought these words were crucial for Timothy to get, he wanted him to know these things before he (Paul) died.

love and peace,” and to avoid being caught up in “foolish and ignorant speculations” (2:7 – 8, 13 – 14; 4:15, 22 – 23).<sup>10</sup>

In its wider purpose, the epistle is a call for every follower of Jesus to seek strength and pursue faithfulness in following Jesus and being on mission with him. God has given you a specific calling on your life; you are to fulfill that calling, just as Timothy was.

### **Finish well.**

Second Timothy is a very moving human document. We are to imagine the apostle, “Paul the aged”, languishing in some dark, dank dungeon in Rome, from which there is to be no escape but death. His own apostolic labors are over. “I have finished the race” he says. But now he must make provision for the faith after he has gone and especially for its transmission to future generations. So he sends Timothy this most solemn charge. He is to preserve what he has received, at whatever cost, and to hand it on to faithful men who in turn will be able to teach others also (2:2).<sup>11</sup>

Finishing well is closely linked with what we talked about earlier: loyalty. How many people can get to the end of their lives and say, “I have accomplished what I set out to do, I did not waver, I finished. It was hard and I thought of quitting, but I didn’t?” Few people can say that about anything. Yet, here we have Paul, writing from a jail cell who says that and calls Timothy to that life as well. You can imagine him writing, with tears in his eyes as he sees what he has given his life to, the gospel, hoping that Timothy will get this vision as he says, “Imagine finishing well.”

Finishing well, as we will see in this series, can be incredibly lonely because few accomplish it. Finishing well requires us to share God’s view of the world. Many of us, even as followers of Jesus, do not see the world the way God sees it. We see the world the way our culture does. Yet, for Paul and for those who finish and stay loyal, there is a view that few see. It is when we stand before God and He says, “Well done, my good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21). Our goal must be to finish well, because it will determine for us what finishing well means. Finishing well in God’s view is not always finishing well in the world’s view. That is what Paul tries to get across to Timothy in this letter.

### **Persevere through suffering and hardship by embracing it.**

Suffering is not something we, as Americans, are used to. Most of us have everything we need. We may not have everything we want, but we have what we need. We have access to medical care, a roof over our head and food to eat. Yet, suffering is part of life. Many people have made the elimination of suffering their goal in life, but we would be naïve to think that that is even possible. Scripture calls us to have a correct view of suffering. There is something within suffering that we need to be aware of: it is not wasted; it is not haphazard; it is not something that God accidentally let slip through. In this short letter, suffering is one of the topics that Paul brings up. It is a common topic in many of his letters because of the life he has lived. Paul tells Timothy

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<sup>10</sup> *2 Timothy*, John MacArthur, p. X

<sup>11</sup> *The Message of 2 Timothy*, John R.W. Stott, p. 13

not to fear suffering. Not only that, but he is not to fear anything (1:7 – 8). The reason? He has nothing to fear. God has given us everything we need to get through whatever we face.

Paul doesn't write from the perspective of a man who doesn't know what he is talking about. In fact, he writes from a place of firsthand knowledge when it comes to suffering. "Share in suffering as a good soldier<sup>12</sup> of Christ Jesus... Remember Jesus Christ... as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal" (2:3, 8, 9).

### **Be on guard for false teachers.**

When Timothy received this letter from Paul, he was living in the city of Ephesus, a port city, it which was also the center of worship for Artemis. The church that Paul had planted there was dealing with false teachings outside of the church and possibly false teachings inside the church as people joined and wanted to couple the beliefs of their culture with their belief in God. This church had fallen still further into corrupt theology and ungodly behavior. Church leaders, including Timothy to some extent, were even weaker and less effective than when 1 Timothy<sup>13</sup> was written.<sup>14</sup>

The false teachers are characterized by an interest in myths (4:4), a tendency toward controversy, argumentation, and speculation (2:14, 16, 23), deception (3:6 – 17), immorality (2:16, 19; 3:1 – 17), and a desire to get material gain by means of their teaching (3:2, 4). They were also teaching against the apostle Paul's teaching by forbidding marriage and eating meat, and by teaching that the resurrection and second coming of Jesus had already happened (2:18; 4:15).<sup>15</sup>

This is one of the reasons that 2 Timothy is such a relevant book for us to study. The world around us says that it is impossible to know what is true, and that any truth is just as good as every truth. And so, many times what we believe as Christians is not what the Bible teaches. In this letter, Paul lays out for Timothy how to know what he believes is correct, but also how to protect against false teachings.

### ***PURPOSE, OCCASION, AND BACKGROUND***

Paul wrote this letter while in Prison in Rome. He mentions that several have abandoned him in this difficult time, and several others are away on duties (1:15; 4:9 – 12). In such a time Paul's recollection of the sincerity and devotion

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<sup>12</sup> That description should give us a clear idea of what following Jesus may be like. The life of a soldier is not easy, it is not a life without pain, even death.

<sup>13</sup> First Timothy was written by Paul to Timothy and addresses many of the same themes that Second Timothy addresses. What sets them apart is that First Timothy has more of a corporate application and lays out to Timothy how to lead the church and organize it based on false teachings and suffering, while Second Timothy is more personal about how to handle these issues.

<sup>14</sup> *2 Timothy*, John MacArthur, p. X

<sup>15</sup> *The Pastoral Epistles*, George W. Knight, p. 11

of Timothy is especially poignant (1:3 – 5). Paul anticipates death soon (4:6 – 8). Therefore he writes a final exhortation to Timothy to urge him to stand firm and to ask him to come for one final visit before Paul is executed.

Though death is imminent, the timing is uncertain, so Paul also asks Timothy to bring his books and parchments with him. Presumably Paul intends to keep studying and writing until the end.

Second Timothy is very personal, as would be expected in a final letter to a close friend and coworker. Paul exhorts Timothy to continue in faithfulness and points to his own life as an example for Timothy to follow. What he calls on Timothy to do, he himself has already done.<sup>16</sup>

This is one of the things that make 2 Timothy a unique book of the Bible. Not only is it a personal letter; it is Paul's last will and testament. When reading 2 Timothy, we must keep this in mind. In the first century, when 2 Timothy was written, paper was at a premium. So was time for Paul. We have to believe that his words to Timothy were of utmost importance; they were not words he thought of haphazardly. Instead, Paul is saying, "Timothy, as I prepare to die and meet Jesus, here are the things I want you to know. If I could boil down what I have taught you and want you to continue doing, here they are."

## **LITERARY FEATURES**

The genre of 2 Timothy is at least similar to the farewell discourse, and many would classify it as such. There are famous farewell discourses in the Bible – e.g. by Moses (the book of Deuteronomy), Joshua (Joshua 23 – 24), David (1 Chronicles 28 – 29), and Jesus (the Upper Room Discourse, John 14 – 16). Conventional motifs include the speaker's announcement of his imminent departure, words of comfort and instruction for the benefit of those who will survive the speaker, and appeals to the addressees to remember what the speaker has taught. If 2 Timothy, Paul's last letter, is read with these features in mind, the book will fall neatly into place. Paul's charges to Timothy in this letter are not limited to a specific situation (as 1 Timothy was) but are what Paul most wants Timothy to heed for the rest of his life and ministry – the last word from a spiritual father. The reader is led to share Paul's reflective mood as he looks back over past experiences.<sup>17</sup>

## **THE SETTING OF 2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY**

C. A.D. 64 – 67

Paul likely wrote 2 Timothy during a second imprisonment in Rome following a fourth missionary journey which is not recorded in the book of Acts. This was not the first time that Paul had been in prison. In his first incarceration in Rome, he was under house arrest. Within those confines, he apparently was

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<sup>16</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2335

<sup>17</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2336

free to have visitors and to preach and teach (Acts 28:30 – 31). But by the time of this letter, some five or six years later, he was in chains (1:16), languishing in a Roman prison and treated as a criminal (2:9) – with little light to read or write by, no sanitation, and no prospect of relief except by death.<sup>18</sup> Expecting that death would come soon, Paul write this “farewell”<sup>19</sup> letter to Timothy (4:6), who was at Ephesus, urging him to stand firm and asking him to come for one final visit.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *2 Timothy*, John MacArthur, p. X

<sup>19</sup> Imagine this for a moment. If you knew that death was imminent, whom would you contact? What would you say? As we read this book, we must keep in mind that Paul thought these words were crucial for Timothy to-understand. He wanted him to know these things before he (Paul) died.

<sup>20</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2337

# ***OUTLINE & SERMON SCHEDULE***

## ***OUTLINE***

- I. Opening (1:1 – 2)
- II. Exhortation to endurance for the gospel (1:3 – 2:13)
  - A. Thanksgiving for Timothy’s sincere faith
  - B. A call to bold endurance in ministry, part 1 (1:6 – 14)
  - C. Examples, positive and negative (1:15 – 18)
  - D. A call to bold endurance in ministry, part 2 (2:1 – 13)
- III. Dealing with false teachers (2:14 – 3:9)
  - A. Timothy in contrast to the false teachers (2:14 – 26)
  - B. Description of the false teachers (3:1 – 9)
- IV. Exhortation to Timothy to contrast to false teachers (3:10 – 4:8)
  - A. Call to hold fast to Scripture and Paul’s example (3:10 – 17)
  - B. The ultimate charge (4:1 – 8)
- V. Conclusion (4:9 – 22)<sup>21</sup>

## ***SERMON SCHEDULE***

- August 21: Fight for Courage (2 Timothy 1:1 – 18)  
August 28: Fight with Focus (2 Timothy 2:1 – 13)  
September 4: Fight for Righteousness (2 Timothy 2:14 – 26)  
September 11: Fight Your Flesh (2 Timothy 3:1 – 9)  
September 18: Fight with the Sword (2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:5)  
September 25: Fight to the End (2 Timothy 4:6 – 22)

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<sup>21</sup> *The ESV Study Bible* p. 2336

# ***SMALL GROUPS***

## ***WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?***

Small groups are small gatherings of people (Christian and not-yet) that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter and occasional tears. Small groups are an essential part of the mission of Revolution Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the trust of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each small group is unique. Our small groups meet on a semester schedule, meaning they meet for 12 weeks and then take a break for 4 weeks. Each small group meets at a different time. Most of our small groups meet in a home, over a meal. Each small group involves food, conversation, prayer, discussing the sermon from Saturday night and figuring out how to apply the Bible to our lives.

## ***WHY SHOULD I JOIN A SMALL GROUP?***

We are created in the image of God and we are told in Genesis 1 that God is a God of community and relationships. The Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is a perfect example of what community and relationship looks like. We are to model ourselves after God as followers of His.

We are also created with a deep longing for community, a deep longing for relationships. Small groups are a great way to fill this need in our lives. Also, it is impossible to fully engage in Revolution Church without being a small group. Small groups are where relationships are formed, accountability takes place, and care happens. Each of our small group leaders see themselves as the pastor to their small group, as each small group member walks with each other through the highs and lows of life.

## ***HOW DO I GET CONNECTED TO A SMALL GROUP?***

The easiest way is on Saturday. Check the box on your connection card or sign up at the Next Steps table. You can also sign up on our website: <http://www.tucsonrevolution.com/get-connected/small-groups/>.

# BOOKS TO CHECK OUT

## TECHNICAL COMMENTARIES<sup>22</sup>

- George Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles*
- Philip Towner, *NICNT: The Letters of Timothy and Titus*

## NON-TECHNICAL COMMENTARIES<sup>23</sup>

- Walter Liefeld, *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus*
- John MacArthur, *2 Timothy*

## OTHER RESOURCES<sup>24</sup>

- Mark Driscoll, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe*<sup>25</sup>
- Joshua Harris, *Dug Down Deep: Unearthing What I Believe and Why it Matters*
- Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*
- Andreas Kostenberger, *Entrusted with the Gospel: Paul's Theology in the Pastoral Epistles*
- John Piper, *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Technical commentaries focus more on language, the original context, and what the text says.

<sup>23</sup> Non-technical commentaries relegate the grammatical, textual and historical problems to the footnotes. The main point of non-technical commentaries is to take the text and directly apply it to our world.

<sup>24</sup> These are books that focus more on the main themes of 2 Timothy. Each week in the sermon notes, there will be specific book recommendations to go with specific sermons and topics.

<sup>25</sup> One of the main themes of 2 Timothy has to do with sound doctrine and right belief. This is a great book on some common questions and barriers to belief in God.

<sup>26</sup> Suffering is a major theme in 2 Timothy, as well as the rest of the New Testament. This book gives a great theology of suffering, some reasons for it and how we should respond as followers of Jesus.

- John Piper, *The Hidden Smile of God*<sup>27</sup>
- N.T. Wright, *Paul*<sup>28</sup>
- *The ESV Study Bible*<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> In this book, John Piper examines at the lives of John Bunyan, William Cowper, and David Brainerd and looks at how they suffered in their lives, and how they responded. He gives us real life examples of how we can survive and thrive in the midst of suffering, even how to suffer well for the gospel.

<sup>28</sup> This is a biography on the life of Paul (the author of 2 Timothy).

<sup>29</sup> If you do not have a good study Bible, I highly recommend you pick one up. The translation we use at Revolution is the ESV and they have the best study Bible on the market. For more information, check out <http://www.esvstudybible.org/>.

# DEVOTIONALS

## DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS

As followers of Jesus, we need to spend time with Him. There are a variety of ways to do this: being part of a weekly worship service, participating in a small group, reading the Bible each day and spending time in prayer. As followers of Jesus, we are to do all of these. Many today because of time constraints or poor time management only do a few of these. This leads to frustration in our spiritual journey, to questions and ultimately it raises the possibility of us “giving up on Jesus.” To combat that, we encourage you to create time in your schedule for these things.

While we go through 2 Timothy on Saturday nights and in our small groups, I want to encourage you to do what we call “10 + 10”, that is, to commit to spending 10 minutes day reading 2 Timothy, answering the questions in a journal and spend 10 minutes praying. You can do these questions alone, as a couple or even with your kids.

Here is what you will need:

- The questions that follow this page. Each Saturday night, we will be preaching line by line through 2 Timothy. The following week we want you to spend time in the passage we preached on. There are questions for each day of the week.
- Buy a journal. Use this to answer the questions and write down your answers. Also, create a prayer list of people and situations you are praying for. To the left of the request write down the date you started praying for that and to the right of the request, write down the date when you see God move and answer that request. This will be a great resource to see how God is working your life and world, but also in those times of discouragement for you to look back on and see how faithful God is.
- Schedule the time. Many of us live on strict schedules. Our lives are scheduled from the time we wake up to the time we go to sleep. The reason we don't meet with God regularly is because we don't schedule the time. When are you most alert? When are you the least likely to be disturbed? Schedule it then and protect it.

Many people ask me how to grow closer to God or to see Him move in their lives. Simple answer? “10 + 10”. We can't know God unless we spend time with Him.

# ***FIGHT FOR COURAGE***

***AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> – AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>***  
***2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 1:1-18***

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. – 2 Timothy 1:8

### **Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

1. Take a moment to reflect on church last night. What jumped out to you about 2 Timothy? What are you excited about for this series?
2. What are you going to pray for this week?

### **Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:1 – 2. What do we learn from these verses about the relationship between Paul and Timothy?<sup>30</sup>
2. Why does this relationship matter? How does this affect the letter known as 2 Timothy? What makes this a special letter based on this relationship?

### **Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:3 – 7. How might verse 7 have been an encouragement to Timothy?
2. What is something you fear? How does the reminder that God has given us a spirit of power, love and self-control help you face this fear?

### **Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:8 – 18. What things does Paul tell Timothy not to be ashamed of?
2. Why might he have been ashamed?

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<sup>30</sup> See also Acts 16:1 – 5

### **Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:1 – 18. Based on the list in this passage, list all the benefits that come to us through the gospel.
2. Paul says in verse 12 that courage comes not from knowing facts, but from knowing Jesus. How does building a relationship with Jesus allow us to have courage in the midst of difficulty or pain?

### **Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**

1. Use Friday as a catch up day.

### **Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:1 – 13 in preparation for tonight's service. Also, spend a moment asking God to speak through tonight's message and to move in a powerful way. Come to Revolution expecting God to move in a powerful way.

# **FIGHT WITH FOCUS**

**AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>  
2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 2:1-13**

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. – 2

Timothy 2:3 – 4

## **Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:1 – 13 and reflect on last night's service. Is there any business you need to do with God? Any change in your life because of last night's service?

## **Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:1 – 6. According to verse 2, what does Paul want to see happen to his teaching? Why?<sup>31</sup>
2. Paul uses 3 metaphors in verses 4 – 6: that of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. What do you think he's trying to say? How would these metaphors help Timothy?

## **Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:7 – 13. Why do you think Paul needs to remind Timothy to "Remember Jesus Christ?" (vs. 8)
2. What do verses 11 – 13 say about the Christian's status in Christ?<sup>32</sup>

## **Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

1. What are some examples of "civilian pursuits" (vs. 4) that tend to entangle Christians today? Why are these distractions so enticing?
2. Are there any "civilian pursuits" that are entangling you or your family? Is there anything you need to confess to God?

## **Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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<sup>31</sup> See also 4:17

<sup>32</sup> See also Matthew 10:32 – 33

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:1 – 13. What’s the difference between a person who merely believes in Jesus and a person who is living to please him? Why is this difference important?
2. Paul says that the message of the gospel should be multiplying through faithful people who teach others (vs. 2). What are you doing to multiply the gospel into others?
3. Consider the promise of verse 13: “if we are faithless, he remains faithful.” How does this promise encourage you?

### **Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

1. Use Friday as a catch up day.

### **Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:14 – 26 in preparation for tonight’s service. Also, spend a moment asking God to speak through tonight’s message and to move in a powerful way. Come to Revolution expecting God to move in a powerful way.

# **FIGHT FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 2:14-26**

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. – 2 Timothy 2:22

## **Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:14 – 26 and reflect on last night's service. Is there any business you need to do with God? Any change in your life because of last night's service?

## **Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:14 – 15. What is Timothy to remind the church about? Why is this important?
2. In verse 14, Paul discourages quarreling about words. But in verse 15, Paul encourages Timothy to handle the word of truth correctly. What is the difference?

## **Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:14 – 26. What are the results of quarreling (vs. 14), "irreverent babble" (vs. 16) and "foolish, ignorant controversies" (vs. 23)?
2. In verse 22, what is Timothy to flee from? What is he to flee to? Why does Paul add, "along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart?"

## **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

1. We live in a culture that enjoys complaining, arguing, and stirring up controversy. Why is this behavior inherently antithetical to the gospel?
2. In verses 21 and following, Paul urges Timothy to be godly ("cleansed"). Why is this important for our personal lives and ministries?

## **Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

1. In what areas of life are you most tempted to quarrel, gossip, or stir up controversy? Why are you drawn to these things? What can you do about it?
2. Sadly, many churches have been fractured or destroyed by people quarreling and stirring up controversy. As a partner or attendee at Revolution, how should you respond to controversy? In particular, how should you respond to leadership decisions that you don't agree with? What is a godly way to handle these concerns?

### **Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

1. Use Friday as a catch up day.

### **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 9 in preparation for tonight's service. Also, spend a moment asking God to speak through tonight's message and to move in a powerful way. Come to Revolution expecting God to move in a powerful way.

# **FIGHT YOUR FLESH**

**SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>  
2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 3:1-9**

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.  
– 2 Timothy 3:1

## **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 9 and reflect on last night's service. Is there any business you need to do with God? Any change in your life because of last night's service?

## **Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 9. Did Paul believe that he and Timothy were living in the “last days”? How do you know?<sup>33</sup>
2. How does Paul describe life in the “last days”?

## **Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 9. The people of verses 2 – 4 have the appearance of godliness, but they are denying its power (vs. 5). What do you think the mere outward appearance of godliness lacks the power to do?
2. How would you re-write verses 1 – 9 in your own words?

## **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5. To what extent do these verses describe the people in our society?
2. Are these “times of difficulty” difficult for the Christian or the non-Christian?

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<sup>33</sup> See also Acts 2:16 – 21

### **Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

1. Verse 5 says, “Avoid such people.” Does this mean that we should avoid all people who live this way or just those who are professing Christians?<sup>34</sup>
2. How can you avoid being a person who is “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth”?

### **Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

1. Use Friday as a catch up day.

### **Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:5 in preparation for tonight’s service. Also, spend a moment asking God to speak through tonight’s message and to move in a powerful way. Come to Revolution expecting God to move in a powerful way.

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<sup>34</sup> See also 1 Corinthians 5:9 – 13

# **FIGHT WITH THE SWORD**

**SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 3:10-4:5**

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17

## **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:5 and reflect on last night's service. Is there any business you need to do with God? Any change in your life because of last night's service?

## **Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:5. What is God's promise in verse 12?
2. What does it mean that "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (3:16)?
3. How does that impact your view of Scripture?

## **Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17. What is Scripture useful for?
2. How do these things happen in your life? Do you see Scripture doing these things in your life the more time you spend in God's Word?
3. What does it mean to "be ready in season and out of season" (4:2)?

## **Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

1. Some say that a strong focus on Scripture and Bible study leads only to head knowledge. From verses 16 – 17, how would you respond to this statement?
2. Many Christians acknowledge that the Bible is powerful, authoritative and true, but still hardly ever read it, study it or meditate on it. Why do you think this is?

## **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1. As you look back over your walk with Christ, what habits of Bible study have proven most effective at equipping you for every good work?
2. What fight of faith are you currently fighting? What promises or truths from Scripture are helping (or could help) you in this fight?

**Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

1. Use Friday as a catch up day.

**Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 4:6 – 22 in preparation for tonight's service. Also, spend a moment asking God to speak through tonight's message and to move in a powerful way. Come to Revolution expecting God to move in a powerful way.

# ***FIGHT TO THE END***

***SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> – OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>  
2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 4:6-22***

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. – 2 Timothy 4:7

### **Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 4:6 – 22 and reflect on last night's service. Is there any business you need to do with God? Any change in your life because of last night's service?

### **Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 4:6 – 22. What 'fights' and 'races' has Paul participated in (vs. 7)?
2. What reward does Paul anticipate?
3. Is the reward that Paul is anticipating important to you?

### **Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read 2 Timothy 4:6 – 22. What two 'loves' are contrasted in verse 8 and verse 10?
2. What is God's role in Paul's life and suffering at this point in his spiritual journey?
3. In your life and suffering, what role does ~~God~~, or has God played in your spiritual journey?

### **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

1. How does Paul's tenacity and focus on what God has called him to do compare to the typical mentality of today's evangelical culture? What might explain the differences?
2. Are you in love with Christ's appearing (vs. 8) or with the world (vs. 10)? How do you know?

### **Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

1. How do you normally respond to the type of opposition Paul describes in verse 14? Why?
2. Picture yourself at the end of your life, writing a letter to your spouse, friend, children or grandchildren. Write out what you'd like to be able to say.

**Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

1. Use Friday as a catch up day.

**Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1. Read Philippians 1:1 – 11 in preparation for tonight's service. Also, spend a moment asking God to speak through tonight's message and to move in a powerful way. Come to Revolution expecting God to move in a powerful way.