

2 Timothy 1:13-18 Lesson 3

A Call to Faithfulness

Day 1: Read 2 Timothy 1:13-18 To have and to hold

1. Paul has been talking about protecting the truth of the gospel from those who would seek to water it down or change it. If last week he prepares us for the suffering ahead, this week he challenges us to be faithful for the long haul. Understanding this, how would you define faithfulness? _____

2. Our marriage vows are probably the best clarification of faithfulness from a human standpoint. Why does the phrase "**to have and to hold**" form the basis of our loyalty? _____

3. Now apply the above answer by explaining how faithfulness starts with "having and holding" the truth of the gospel. (verses 13 and 14). _____

4. What are some excuses by Christians and churches for unfaithfulness (i.e. watering down the truth)? (2 Tim 4:2-3) _____

5. Explain why the church must be absolutely unflinching in defending the truths of the gospel especially when it comes to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Give examples of small errors that can turn the saving gospel into a damning gospel. _____

Day 2: Read 2 Tim 1:13-18 For better or for worse

1. Paul inducts two men into the "**Hall of Shame**" for their unfaithfulness to the message and the messenger. Read verse 15 and describe what you think is the driving force behind their desertion. _____

2. How is that driving force descriptive of "**self rule**" rather than "**Christ rule**"? How would you counsel someone feeling this way? (1 Thess 5:14, Col 1:28, 1 Pet 3:15) _____

3. By using real world examples, Timothy is forced to "**see**" the reality and results of unfaithfulness. How would you walk someone through a scenario of "**for better or for worse**" so that they might be prepared to remain faithful to the truth? _____



Day 3 Read 2 Tim 1:13-18 In sickness and in health

1. Onesiphorus is used as the model to follow in verse 16. What attitude do we see in him? Why is this necessary for faithfulness and how is this evidence of genuine saving faith? (Mark 8:38) _____

2. Onesiphorus' attitude was followed by action. (verse 16). What would faithfulness to the message and the messenger look like today? _____

Day 4 Read 2 Tim 1:13-18 Forsaking all others

1. Our model sets his heart to find Paul at all costs (verse 16, 17). Faithfulness is an active, not a passive concept. Explain. _____

2. During the sermon, we talked about how adding spices in cooking sometimes masks the real flavor. Similarly, when we add the world's philosophy to the truth, the real message is lost. Describe in what ways worldly philosophy like materialism, postmodernism, and mysticism, etc. find their way into pulpits and mask the truth. _____

3. How can you as a believer, practice "forsaking all others" in your daily life? _____

Day 5 Read 2 Tim 1:13-18 Till death do us part

1. How long are we to be faithful? (verse 18) What are the words we hope to hear on that day when we stand before Christ? (Matt 25:21) _____

2. What are tangible ways our knowledge of the end times (and afterlife) can encourage us to faithfulness? How is this different than the way many view prophecy? _____

3. Verse 18 literally says, "**and you know how many times he played the deacon (servant)**". Onesiphorus' faithfulness was known because it was demonstrated over and over. What are some simple, consistent ways you can serve Christ's body in a weekly manner? How can you help motivate others to do the same? _____

"Faithfulness is not the great things we do today. It is the consistent small things done day after day for a lifetime. And it is He who will give us the strength each morning."