

2 Timothy: The Good Fight Finishing Well in Christ

Lesson 44—2 Timothy 3:14-17

Continuing from our last study...

Prayer

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times. The depth of theology is so great that I would strongly advise using the New Living Translation for one of your Scripture readings.

Scripture Meditation/Memorization

One of the most fundamental and rewarding Christian disciplines that pays back in full spiritual dividends is Bible meditation/memorization. It is an absolutely fundamental in the formation of your spiritual development, spiritual walk and faith growth. In Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT), the Psalmist warrior, King David said,

*“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.”*

Memory Verse

“[16] All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”—2nd Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

Study Format

We have all had weeks in which the time available for preparation of our Bible study evaporates under an unexpected event or a pressing project at work. To enable everyone to complete the study, even when time is at a premium, questions are being divided into two categories: essential and expanded. The Essential Questions are those necessary to understand key points of the passage. The Expanded Questions or growth questions help expand knowledge and gain deeper insight into the Scripture.

If you are concerned about having enough time to complete the whole study, it is suggested that you start by first answering the Essential Questions for each day and answer the Expanded Questions as time permits.

2 Timothy 3:14-17—*Be Loyal to The Faith*

When Paul writes in verse 16 that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, the Greek word used is *theopneustos* or literally “God breathed.” The inerrancy of God’s Word is a foundational bedrock for our faith. This is one of the most definitive passages in the Bible on the authority of God’s Word.

Essential Questions:

1. What is Paul’s advice to Timothy in verses 14–15?

2. What do we learn of the authority and purpose of God’s Word in verses 16–17?

3. *The profit of Scripture relates to both core beliefs and conduct. The false teachers divorced them; we must marry them. How does God’s Word accomplish each?¹

¹ Stott, J., & Johnson, L. (1998). [2 Timothy: Standing Firm in Truth](#) (p. 42). Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press; IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press.

4. God's Word is unique. In over 680 passages of the Old Testament, its authors claim divine inspiration for the words they wrote. What do we learn about its uniqueness in the following passages?

a. 2 Pete 1:20-21

b. John 10:35

c. Luke 16:17

d. 1 Corinthians 2:13

e. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

f. John 14:26

g. Psalm 119:8-11

Expanded Question:

5. What is the ultimate reason for the seeming delay in God bringing about the conclusion of the last days and the return of Jesus according to 2 Peter 3:3–9?

6. *Besides the Bible, what other books have you found helpful in your spiritual life?²

a. What are their strengths and limitations?

Lesson 44 Summary/Take Away

If one of your friends at work or a neighbor were to ask you what you did on Tuesday, you would tell them you went to a Bible study. The next question would

² Question taken from *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary—1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, Tenn., 2013

likely be, “What did you learn?” We often summarize an entire athletic contest or a movie in a few brief sentences and easily convey the essence of the event. Now apply these same skills to give a summary of the passage in a sentence or two. Then, in an additional sentence or two, describe what impact this passage will have on how you live.

Memory Verse

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Key Words/Phrases

Write out the definition of these key words. You can use a regular dictionary or go to one of the Greek sources listed in the Tool Box at the end of the study. You may also use a concordance to see where else and how the word is used in the Bible.

Given by Inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16)

Thoroughly Equipped (2 Timothy 3:17)

Comparison of End-Times Beliefs of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism

About 54% of the world's population belongs to one of the three great monotheistic religions. They all have doctrines on the end of days and this chart will explore similarities and differences in their beliefs. This chart is modified from a table created by Contender Ministries.³

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
Reason for Jesus' Return	Jesus (Isa) will return to overthrow antichrist/al-Dajjal in battle in Syria or in Jerusalem. Jesus will kill all pigs and break all crosses, confirming Islam as only true faith. After 40 years, Jesus will die and be buried next to Muhammad in Medina. Jesus didn't die in His first visit.	The Messiah will defeat the Gentile nations (Zechariah 14:10). Jesus is not the Messiah. Jews will return and rule in spiritual harmony (Zechariah 14:5). God recognized as Sovereign King of all (Isaiah 42:6 and Zechariah 14:9).	Jesus comes to rescue Israel, defeat the Antichrist (Revelation 19:11), judge the nations (Matthew 25:31), judge Israel (Ezekiel 20:33), and rule over messianic kingdom (Revelation 20:1).
Resurrection of the Body	Yes. All will assemble at Mt. of Olives for judgment.	Yes	Yes. (1 Corinthians 15:4, 12)
Destruction of Earth	Allah will destroy all non-Islamic nations. At time of Jesus and messianic Iman's rule, the angels will be destroyed and earth "spill out it contents."	The Earth will be destroyed.	The Earth will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10)

³<http://www.contenderministries.org/prophecy/eschatology.php>

Signs of Coming Judgment Day	Jews will be gathered together. Final battle between Muslims and Jews. Reference to Gog and Magog.	Yes	Yes. (Matthew 24:4–28)
Judgment Announced with Trumpet	Yes. “And trumpet shall be blown and lo, they shall speed out of their sepulchers to their Lord” (Sura 36:51).	Yes. Shofar announces messianic reign, gather Jews, and serve to summon court for Day of Judgment.	Yes. Trumpet signals angels to gather elect together (Matthew 24:31).
Who Dies?	All will experience physical death.	All will experience physical death.	All die (not if alive at Christ’s return)
Basis for Salvation	Works judged on scale on Temple Mount. Muslims with more good than bad are saved.	Works—keeping the commandments and laws of Torah.	Salvation by grace alone through faith/accepting Jesus as Savior.
Levels of Reward	Seven levels of reward.	Three levels of reward.	Not levels, but rewards differ.
Hell as an Eternal Punishment	Hell is where infidels/non-Muslims live in torment. “Some turn aside from Mohammad—the flame of hell is their suffering torment (Sura 4:56). There are eight levels of hell.	Bodies sent to Gehinnon where they burn eternally.	Unsaved will be thrown into fire of hell for eternity (Matthew 5:29). The lake of fire is for the second death (Revelation 20:14).

Man's Nature	Men are basically good (Sura 7:23). We are inherently good but Satan brings some trouble as Allah wills.	Man has two inclinations within—good and bad.	Men have a sinful nature and are inherently wicked—from Adam (Romans 9:20). Dead in sins/made alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1–5).
Belief in Purgatory (Site of Possible Purification)	Yes. Barazkh	No. (Abraham's Bosom and Sheol temporary locations until final judgment but no purification occurs here.)	Protestants—No Catholics—Yes
Assurance of Salvation	It's impossible in life to have assurance of salvation. Good works measured against bad but Allah can be capricious. If a Muslim is martyred in a Jihad they are assured of heaven	Yes but only for Jews keeping the law.	Salvation is a free gift for all who accept Jesus as Savior (John 1:12). You can know you have salvation.
God's Judgment	Allah is arbitrary. "Verily Allah misleadeth whom He will and guideth whom He will" (Sura 35:8).	YHWH is a just God.	God is a just God (Romans 3:26). God wants all to come to salvation (2 Peter 3:9).

Who Will Experience the Tribulation	Allah’s followers hidden with Mohammad while all others are killed by “wind of destruction.”	The whole world is destroyed while Israel is delivered out of it (Daniel 12:1). Time of Jacob’s trouble-Jews saved out of it (Jeremiah 30:7).	The church will be raptured to be with the Lord either before (pre), during (mid), or after the Tribulation.
Christ Return	Yes. “To break the cross and kill the swine” followed by an eruption of fire in Eden.	No. The Messiah has not yet come but will come at the end of the Tribulation.	Yes. Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation.
Signs of the End Times	Major Signs: 1. Gross materialism 2. Women outnumber men 3. Muslims defeat Jews, Muslims and Christians defeat infidels, and then Muslims defeat Christians 4. Worldwide Caliphate Minor Signs: 1. Increase in war/bloodshed 2. Religious knowledge decreases 3. Ungodliness increases 4. Contraction of time (Sura 21:96).	Ten signs (Sanhedrin 97b): 1. World is either guilty or righteous 2. Falsehood prevails 3. Inflation 4. Wise people scarce 5. Israel repopulated 6. Jews despair of redemption 7. Young hate the old 8. Scholarship rejected 9. Piety held in disgust 10. Jews turn against fellow Jews	From Matthew 24, Daniel 9, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Revelation 6, 11: Wars. Famine. Earthquakes. Israel reborn. Temple worship restored. Abomination of Desolation. Jews persecuted. False prophets and christs. Global preaching of gospel. And signs in the heavens.
Outcome of End Time Battle	Everything destroyed except Allah and then a	War of Gog and Magog. God defeats	After Armageddon, Satan is bound

	resurrection/re-creation.	Gentiles—establishes Israel over all.	for Millennial reign of Christ. He's released with final battle ending with new heaven and new earth (Revelation 20).
End Time Ruler (After Battle)	Gog and Magog led by Darius, King of Persia (Sura 21:96).	Messiah as King rules over the earth until time of new creation.	Christianity
Length of Judgment	50,000 years	The world will exist for 6,000 years, then a time of renewal, Sanhedrin 97.	Eternal (Mark 9:43).
Temporary Dwelling Place of Dead	Most say both good and bad with Allah until judgment. Some separate bad into "Alam Baza."	Sheol for wicked and Abraham's Bosom for righteous.	Christians will be in Christ's presence (2 Corinthians 3:18), wicked go to Hades (Revelation 20:15).
Eternal Dwelling Place for Believers	Janah (Paradise)	Gan'eden (heavenly abode)	Heaven/New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2) in the presence of God.
Nature of Eternal Life	Mutahsibir—sensual pleasure (feasting and virgins for sexual indulgence, Sura 55:56).	Enjoying the radiance of the divine presence (Berakhot 17a).	Fellowship (Revelation 21:3), service (Revelation 22:3), worship (Revelation 6:9), and praise

			(Revelation 19:1).
Future of Israel	Eternally destroyed	Eternally restored (Jeremiah 31:35).	Eternally restored (Jeremiah 31:35).

Tool Box

Step 1: The Bible. Read the passage in a couple of different versions. If you are having trouble understanding a passage, choose a more dynamic version such as *New Living Translation*. To focus in on the exact meaning of a verse, choose a more literal translation such as *New King James Version*, *New American Standard Bible* or *English Standard Version*. *The Amplified Bible* is another excellent version.

Step 2: Study Tools. Use these to help you dig deeper. Background Information: 1) Unger's Bible Dictionary, 2) Bible Dictionaries online at biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.com. (recommend both David Guzik and Chuck Smith's commentaries/study notes); Word Studies: 1) Zodhiates' *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, 2) Vine's *Complete Expository Dictionary*, and 3) Strong's *Dictionary of Bible Words*.

Step 3: Commentaries. Commentaries should not be used in place of studying God's Word directly, but they can give you additional insights. Some good commentaries include: Warren Wiersbe, J. Vernon McGee, F.F. Bruce, *the Expositors Bible Commentary*, *NIV Application Commentary*, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (edited by Walvoord & Zuck), *the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, and William Barclay (*great for background and culture, but be careful of his spiritual applications).

Step 4: Online Assistance. Should you have a specific question about the study please e-mail your inquiry to: mannyqwcm@gmail.com

