



**The Week of March 27, 2022**  
**2 Timothy 2:1-26**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- **Love:** (1 John 4:7-21) I choose to sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others because I have personally experienced God's love for me.
- **I make disciples:** (2 Timothy 2:2) I am engaged in intentional relationships with other believers to encourage them in their spiritual growth.

**Intro Questions**

- How good are you at growing things?
- Do you have a "green thumb?"
- Which is more effective: wishing a plant would grow or patiently taking specific steps over a long period of time to provide a growing environment?
- Why do you think Paul often used the word pictures of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer to illustrate what spiritual growth and maturity required?
- If time and situation allows, play the Bible Project 2 Timothy video. This video will provide important insights into the context and history of this letter.
  - RightNow Media- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/interactive-content/527846/details>
  - YouTube- <https://youtu.be/urIvnxCaL00>

## 2 Timothy Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- How is this intro to the chapter 2 “discipleship in a nutshell?”
- Why is replication essential to the spread of the gospel and the kingdom of God?

<sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer. <sup>5</sup> Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to get a share of the crops.

- “A soldier, an athlete and a farmer walk into a church...” is not the start of a bad joke, but a great teaching about being a Christian from Paul. What is Paul trying to teach Timothy and us about the Christian life within the context of the church?
- A soldier, an athlete and a farmer have to lead disciplines to accomplish their mission. How does that parallel spiritual disciplines necessary for the Christian life?

<sup>7</sup> Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. <sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and descended from David, according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer to the point of being bound like a criminal. But the word of God is not bound. <sup>10</sup> This is why I endure all things for the elect: so that they also may obtain salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> This saying is trustworthy: For if we died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

- Where does our understanding come from?
- Why would Paul say that he was bound, but the word of God could not be bound?
- The trustworthy saying of verses 11-13 was most likely a common Christian poem or hymn. How would it be encouraging to the Christians undergoing persecution?

<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to fight about words. This is useless and leads to the ruin of those who listen. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, <sup>17</sup> and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among them. <sup>18</sup> They have departed from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and are ruining

*the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, bearing this inscription: The Lord knows those who are his, and let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.*

- Make a list of the things that Paul wanted Timothy to remember as he taught his people:

*<sup>20</sup> Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also those of wood and clay; some for honorable use and some for dishonorable. <sup>21</sup> So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.*

- How should a leader make themselves ready to be of use for God's work?

*<sup>22</sup> Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, because you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup> The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, <sup>25</sup> instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>26</sup> Then they may come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

- Although this passage is written to the young Pastor Timothy from his spiritual father Paul, it contains some important instructions for all Christians in their relationships with others.
- From verses 22-25a, make a list of do's and don'ts:

- From verses 25b-26, what is the desired and hoped for outcome?

## Next Steps

- Are you actively engaged in a discipling relationship at this time? If not make it a goal this week to get connected in a group or a T-Group (contact Pastor Doug dbedgood@icelebration.org or Jerri Chesney jchesney@icelebration.org to find out how)
- Assess how you are doing in the area of Spiritual Disciplines. Make a goal of starting a needed spiritual discipline this week and commit to three weeks of practicing it. A good introduction by Dallas Willard can be found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wpLjPUruCg>

## Spurgeon and the Doctrine of Scripture - Wednesday's Word

### by Paul Tripp

For all the supposed benefits smartphones have added to daily life, do you know what I might be most thankful for? The flashlight feature!

You probably used it half a dozen times yesterday alone: looking for something in the garage, reading a menu in a dimly lit restaurant, searching for something your child threw under the couch, or trying to get ready for bed without waking your spouse.

Why do we need light? Because darkness surrounds us. As a sinner living with other sinners in a fallen world, you encounter darkness every day. So while you may experience Instagram-worthy, sunny-day moments, they are short-lived. The reality is that life is more of a midnight walk through the woods.

From its very first words to the last, the language of darkness and light courses through the Bible:

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep." (Genesis 1:1-2)

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." (Revelation 22:16)

While you can find hundreds upon hundreds of verses that include darkness and light, I don't think a single one captures our need for light in a dark world better than Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet / and a light to my path."

And it's hard to find a better description of Psalm 119:105 than what the great nineteenth-century preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote:

"We are walkers through the city of this world, and we are often called to go out into its darkness; let us never venture there without the light-giving word, lest we slip with our feet. Each man should use the word of God personally, practically, and habitually, that he may see his way and see what lies in it. When darkness settles down upon all around me, the word of the Lord, like a flaming torch, reveals my way. Having no fixed lamps in eastern towns, in old time each passenger carried a lantern with him that he might not fall into the open sewer, or stumble over the heaps of ordure which defiled the road. This is a true picture of our path through this dark world: we should not know the way, or how to walk in it, if the Scripture, like a blazing flambeau, did not reveal it. One of the most practical benefits of Holy Writ is guidance in the acts of daily life: it is not sent to astound us with its brilliance, but to guide us by its instruction. It is true the head needs illumination, but even

more the feet need direction, else head and feet may both fall into a ditch. Happy is the man who personally appropriates God's word, and practically uses it as his comfort and counsellor,—a lamp to his own feet.”<sup>1</sup>

You need light for your marriage and your parenting. You need light for your job and your relationships with your neighbors. You need light for your struggles with desires and temptations.

You need light to help you deal with the unexpected. You need light to cope with new difficulties that emerge. You need light for when you have been sinned against. You need light to deal with weaknesses of the body and hardships of the heart.

You need light for those moments when you're alone and overwhelmed. You need light for all the unknowns that will show up on your doorstep tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, and for the rest of your life.

You don't need to bloody your nose and bruise your toes by bumping into trees and tripping over roots. You don't have to grope around fearfully in the darkness. The light of the world has graced you with the light of his word! It will shine around your feet in the dark so you don't stumble and fall.

<sup>1</sup> Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, vol. 5, *Psalms 111–119* (London: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 342, *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, [www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org).