



**The Week of March 27, 2022**  
**2 Timothy 3:1-4:5**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- I am engaged in the church: (Acts 2:46-47) I consistently connect with my church body for fellowship and community while using my spiritual gifts for ministry and encouragement.
- I study God's Word: (2 Timothy 2:15) I consistently study the Bible to know God, the truth and find direction for my daily life.

**How did last week's Next Steps go?**

- Did you start a discipling relationship last week if you did not already have one?
- How did you do starting a needed spiritual discipline last week?

**Intro Questions**

- In our current social media culture, what are influencers and how do they influence others? For good or bad?
- In an average week, who do you spend the most time with in person or online?
- Looking back, how much have they influenced what you believe and do?
- What truth is there in the quote: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."
- If time and situation allows, replay the Bible Project 2 Timothy video (<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/interactive-content/527846/details>) from RightNow Media (7:45 minutes)

## Study

<sup>1</sup> But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who worm their way into households and deceive gullible women overwhelmed by sins and led astray by a variety of passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so these also resist the truth. They are men who are corrupt in mind and worthless in regard to the faith. <sup>9</sup> But they will not make further progress, for their foolishness will be clear to all, as was the foolishness of Jannes and Jambres.

- How accurate of a picture does Paul's description of society paint for life today?  
"Teachers manifesting some of the characteristics he just enumerated made a practice of gaining entrance into households in which the wives were spiritually weak (lit. little). He described these women further as dominated by various sins, responsive to their sinful desires, and seemingly ever learning but never really able to comprehend the truth of God. They cannot learn the truth because what they are learning is falsehood. The false teachers captivated such women with their teaching. Women were probably more susceptible to the influence of false teachers than men because in Paul's culture women occupied a lower status in society. Furthermore, they did not usually have as much education as their husbands. Another explanation is that they had more time on their hands with which they could dabble in various things." (Constable's Notes for 4:6-7)
- How does "little" spiritual depth make women and men susceptible to false teaching?
- How do you discern a false teacher according to verse 8?

<sup>10</sup> But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, <sup>11</sup> along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured—and yet the Lord rescued me from them all. <sup>12</sup> In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup> Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- What did Paul say would come to those who followed him and lived a godly life?
- Will these false teachers become better or worse as time goes on and the end is near?

*<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, <sup>15</sup> and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- What is Paul's advice to Timothy (and to us) in dealing proactively with persecution and false teaching?
- Where do the scriptures have their origin?
- What are the four "profits" of scripture?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
- If you utilize scripture in these four ways, what is the result?

*<sup>1</sup> I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and because of his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But as for you, exercise self-control in everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

- In verse 2, what is Paul's charge to Timothy and to us?
- In verses 3 and 4, what is Paul's diagnosis of those who might hear Timothy's message?
- Can you think of a modern day false teacher who is "telling people what they want to hear" and away from the truth of God's word?
- In verse 5, how does Paul want Timothy to conduct his ministry?

## Next Steps:

- Do an influence audit: What voices and images are filling your mind? How is your soul and heart being affected? Are you becoming more a person that reflects Christ and lives by faith or a person who is striving and fearful? What sources do you need to stop or add?
- Think of who you influence that are obvious and not so obvious. How can you more intentionally provide an example for them to follow in godly living? Come up with one person to positively influence this week and make a plan to make it happen.

# 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).*