



The Week of April 10, 2022
2 Timothy 4
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am Confident:** (1 Peter 1:3-5) Because my hope for the future is placed on the steadfastness of God and the trustworthiness of his promises, I live with confidence.
- **Faithfulness:** (Proverbs 20:6) I will be the person those around me can depend upon.

How did last week's Next Steps go?

- How did your influence audit go? Have you made any changes to what or who influences you?
- Did you come up with one a person that you could positively influence last week? How were you able to have influence?

Intro Questions

- How true is the quote from Jim George: "It's not how you start that's important, but how you finish!"?
- Have you had a time when you persevered through a project to see it to the end, even when other's gave up?
- Do you know of someone who has lived a godly life over a long period of time and through many trying circumstances?
- 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)

2 Timothy, Chapter 4

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing.

- What does Paul's statement tell us about his attitude and faith as he faced the end of his earthly life and the coming of Christ?
- Why does Paul use the metaphors of a fighter and a runner in a race to talk about his life?
- Have someone read Hebrews 12:1-2. How do these two passages parallel each other?

⁹Make every effort to come to me soon, ¹⁰because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

¹¹Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, as well as the scrolls, especially the parchments.

- Relationships were key to Paul and his ministry. Make a list of who he mentions and how it impacts him.
- Have someone read Acts 12:24-25, 15: 36-41; Colossians 4:10 and Philemon 23-25. How had Paul's relationship with John Mark changed over time? How about Demas? Luke?
- How important was having the scriptures brought to him?
- Compared to Paul, we have incredibly easy access to the Bible; how do we fight the tendency to neglect it?

¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works.

¹⁵Watch out for him yourself because he strongly opposed our words. ¹⁶At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them.

- Why do you think a local coppersmith might give such opposition to Paul? Have someone read Acts 19:23-27.
- How do you think his being abandoned at his trial affect Paul? How does Paul's example prepare you to stand alone at times for God?

¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

- What does Paul say is the reason for his victorious perspective in the face of suffering and persecution?
- Paul spoke of hope for deliverance in the present and hope of a future heavenly kingdom. What are your hopes for the present and the future that God has given you?

¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus has remained at Corinth; I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. ²¹ Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters. ²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

- Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila were prominent leaders in the early church. Have someone read Romans 16:3-5a.
- How important was it for Paul to have “co-workers” in the ministry?

Next Steps:

- Take time this week to contemplate how your “race” and “fight” are going. Memorize and meditate on 2 Timothy 4:7-9.
- Think about who are your co-workers. Think about relationships you should pursue or strengthen in mutual focus on the mission. Make a plan to grow in some way in building that relationship this week.

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." ¹

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.

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