**Bible Study – 4/20/2022-4/21/2022**

**2 Timothy 2:8-3:9**

Introduction: Last week we saw how Paul suffered in his efforts to spread the Good News of the gospel and how he encouraged Timothy to do the same. Today, as we work to spread the Good News, we have to be careful to do it in a way that actually points back to Christ (after all that is the whole point!) This passage highlights the importance of sound, biblical teaching. We will look at the importance of knowing the gospel, instructions on how to respond to false teachings, and how to identify false teachers.

**Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

In verses 2:8-13, Paul gives a list of things to keep in mind. The first thing to keep in mind, as seen in verse 8, is to remember the gospel. Verse 8 specifies points about the gospel that we should remember: 1. Jesus is raised from the dead. 2. Jesus is of the seed of David.

* What is the significance of remembering these two things?
  + *By remembering Jesus is raised from the dead, we remember that Jesus has saved us from our sins. By remembering Jesus is of the seed of David, we remember that Jesus fulfilled prophecy (in being descended from David as well as other prophecies) and He is who He claimed to be.*
  + In what ways have you struggled to understand or remember that God is who He claims to be? How can you be more intentional about remembering that God is who He claims to be?

In verses 9-10, Paul calls us to two things about the power of the gospel: 1. The word of God is not chained. 2. The gospel allows people to obtain salvation through Jesus.

* How does each of these truths shape your understanding of the power of the gospel?
  + *Even while Paul was imprisoned, the Good News of the gospel was still spreading. God will still allow His word to spread despite human efforts to “chain” it.*
  + Paul uses his circumstances as a prisoner, while he’s a prisoner, to encourage the spread of the gospel. How have you used difficult life circumstances to help spread the gospel? Or in what ways do you think you could use challenges in your life to spread the gospel?

In verses 11-13, Paul gives a list of consequences (whether good or bad) to remember for certain actions.

* How is the consequence in v. 13 different from the consequences listed in v. 11-12?
* How have you been challenged to “die with Him” or endure in the faith when others call you to deny Him? Did you respond in a way that exemplified faith*fulness* or faith*lessness* to God*?*
* **Read Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son).** How does the parable of the prodigal son affect how you view God’s faithfulness despite our seasons of unfaithfulness?
  + How has remembering God’s faithfulness affected your walk with Christ during times of unfaithfulness?

**Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19**

These verses explain how to talk about and handle scripture in a God-honoring way.

* In verse 14, we are told to not “dispute about words” since they are “useless and leads to the ruin of the listeners” (NASB). However, throughout the New Testament, Jesus and His disciples correct others’ interpretations of scripture.
  + How do you determine if a conversation involving conflicting viewpoints is necessary about God or scripture is for correction or is a “dispute about words” that will only “lead to the ruin of listeners”?
* In verses 15-18 we are told to avoid acting and speaking in ways that will detract from the truth of the gospel.
  + How does acting as a “worker who does not need to be ashamed” relate to how people perceive what we teach about the gospel?
  + What are some examples of “godless chatter”? How do you think the ways you have engaged in godless chatter affect your ability to spread the gospel well?
  + How have you seen false teachings from the Church affect your relationship with God?

**Read 2 Timothy 2:20-2:26**

* What does this analogy mean - what does the large house represent? What do the “vessels of gold and silver” and of “wood and clay represent”?
  + “‘A great house’ is Paul’s metaphor for the church, the Christian community that Paul had earlier called the ‘household of God’ (1 Timothy 3:15)” (Hughes).
  + “Some [vessels] are used on occasions of great honor (the gold and silver vessels), and some are used for dishonor – such as a garbage bin or an ashtray” (Guzik). “We are to understand that the Christian community contains both ‘honorable’ and ‘dishonorable’ vessels⎯that is, both believers and false teachers” (Hughes).
* **Read 1 John 1:5-9.** In 2 Tim. 2:21, we are told to “cleanse” ourselves. What are some practical ways we can cleanse ourselves? How do these practices prepare us “to do any good work”?
* In verses 2:14-19 we saw practices we should avoid when talking about scripture.
  + According to verses 22-25, how should we actually act in disagreements about scripture?
  + How does the way you engage in conversations and conflicts align with the way Paul says we should handle conflict? In what ways does the way you engage in conversations and conflicts *not* align with the way Paul says we should handle conflict? For the ways you struggle to handle conflict in a biblical manner, why do you think that is a struggle for you?
  + Have you ever challenged somebody’s viewpoints about God or scripture? How did you manage to challenge them while still being gentle, or how do you think you could have approached them more gently?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9**

This passage gives us more description of what the lives of false teachers look like, how they conduct their work, and its effects.

* According to verses 5-7 how do false teachers manage to get people to follow them?
  + While being in Christian community is highly important, and is something we are called to pursue, these verses show us the importance of having a personal relationship with Christ. How do these verses show us the importance of having a personal relationship with Christ outside of church?
  + Having a growing, personal relationship with Christ will help us to continuously better understand what He wants our lives to look like. As a result we will be able to better identify what are false teachings and what is truly what He wants. Do you feel equipped to identify false teachings? How can you improve your spiritual life to better understand what God wants and doesn’t want our lives to look like, and as a result better identify false teachings?

**Conclusion:**

We need to keep the basics of the gospel at the forefront of our minds as we analyze biblical teaching and ensure our responses to unbiblical teaching are given in a way that exemplifies Christ-like love. Identifying and correcting unbiblical teaching will help us and those around us live a more God-glorifying life. However, we are promised that eventually false teachers, “ will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was” -2 Timothy 3:9.