**BCM Bible Study - 4/27-28, 2022**

**2 Timothy 3:10-4:22**

This is a beautiful farewell that is written initially to Timothy with desire and longing for Paul’s son in the faith, but also is deeply concerned about the future of God’s kingdom here on earth.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17**

* Paul points to every part of his life as having set an example which Timothy has followed. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12** How does Paul make it apparent that discipleship goes beyond just spiritual training, but all of life?
	+ What parts of this sharing your life and example setting do you need to grow in?

**Read Acts 13:49-14:7, 14:19-20**

* Stonings and harsh persecution were common at this time, with just some of Paul’s experiences recorded Biblically. So Paul was likely in a pretty rough physical condition. Yet, in 3:11 Paul continues to praise God’s goodness!!
	+ What has God rescued you from? Did that situation resolve as you expected/hoped it would?
	+ What are some ways that we can grow in trusting in God and his goodness during our sufferings?
* Few of us have experienced severe persecution. How might 2 Timothy 3:12-13 offer those that have comfort?
* How does verse 14 impact you and the way that you think about the value of relationships within the church?
	+ What does this suggest about how we can have healthy disagreements and disucssions with others?

2 Timothy 3:15-17 are three incredibly important verses which speak about Scripture, its Godly origin and its incredible usefulness.

* “He [Paul] recognized that what God uniquely brought forth from the apostles and prophets in his time was also Scripture; it was also the God-breathed word of God.” (Guzik)
* What do these verses mean for us and how we view Scripture?
* What parts of Scripture do you find it most challenging to engage meaningfully with?
	+ How do we as followers of Christ grow in these harder areas?
	+ Where have you seen God “equip” you with Scripture for accomplishing good works?

**Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8**

Verse 2 should be considered and understood as a cornerstone of this passage and the entire book. Paul’s encouragement here is to a fellow minister and his spiritual son whom he cares for deeply.

* Are there any parts of Paul’s command in verse 2 that draw your attention?
	+ Why is it so important that all this be done “with great patience and careful instruction”?
	+ How can we make sure that we are approaching our interactions in this gracious way?
* What can we do to make sure that those teachers we listen to and learn from aren’t just appealing to us, but are actually teaching us Biblical truth?
* Which part of Paul’s encouragement in 4:5 stands out the most to you and why?
	+ In all that Paul is saying to Timothy, there has been no mention of the results of his ministry. Instead, Paul wants Timothy to honestly do the work and trusts in the Lord beyond that.
	+ What encouragement does this focus on our faithfulness over results offer to you as you think about serving the Lord?
* What is the significance of Paul being poured out “like a drink offering”?

“Deep in the mud of the earth, Paul looked at his *present* death as a triumphant sacrifice and as a loosing of the moorings at the beginning of a great voyage. The bars of death became a grid for the stars.” (Hughes)

* As you think about how you might be remembered one day, what would you like people to say about your faith?

Paul’s comfort with his earthly status and his longing for heaven meet at this point, as he describes what awaits him, as well as all believers in 4:8. How does this impact how you view eternity?

* What does it look like for us to be aware of our crowns of righteousness one day?

**Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22**

* What might Paul’s request of his cloak and scrolls imply about the way that we as believers can still benefit from material objects?
* Paul of all people understands the incredible nature of God’s mercy (1 Timothy 1:15), but he places such a harsh warning upon Alexander. What does that suggest about Alexander? What might be warning signs for us of someone so anti-Christian?
* How do the words of Paul and his faith in v.16-18 sound to you?
* “The Lord be with your spirit.” was a farewell used in several of Paul’s letters. What meaning does this goodbye have for you?

**Reflection**

* Reflecting back on both 1 & 2 Timothy, what did you find most challenging? What about personally encouraging for your faith?
* What does allowing these books to impact you and your faith walk going forward look like?

Extra Notes:

* Drink offering reference: Genesis 35:1-15, Numbers 28:1-9
	+ Both of these help to add some context to the way that the drink offering occurred in conjunction with other offerings and was done to honor God and what he’s done. It is likely then that Paul viewed his own life in a similar fashion.
* Other Demas references in Scripture: Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 1:24