

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Discuss this phrase: "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." Where do we see this around us? How do we guard against being influenced by this?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Where in your life are you loving yourself or your pleasures too much? How can you check your heart in this more regularly?

Check out the Developing Disciplines for a way to attack this area.

PRACTICING PRAYER:

Pray for the children and grandchildren of the families in your group, that they would "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal (their) mind(s)" (Romans 12:2) and "not love the world or the things of this world ... which is passing away" (1 John 2:15-16).

This helps them be good discerners and tellers of truth as 2 Timothy 2:22-26 encourages them to be and "avoid such people" as 2 Timothy 3:5 warns.

MEMORY VERSE:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2, ESV

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Fasting is a good way to do a reboot in areas of your life. If you are loving something besides God too much, fast from it for a period of time and ask God to fill that gap in your life which is His rightful place.

One place to start is to evaluate your screen time practice (social media, sports, YouTube, video games, etc...). Do the characteristics that come out in you look more like this list from 2 Timothy 3 or the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5?



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

Leader Resource Guide

Date: February 13, 2022

Difficult Times



SERMON NOTES

2 Timothy 3:1-10

1. What does v.1 mean?
 - A. Revilers, unholy, ungrateful, haters of good.
 - B. Lovers of self, money, and pleasure (rather than God).
 - C. Boastful, arrogant, conceited, without self-control.
 - D. Disobedient to parents, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, brutal treacherous, reckless.
2. What will the difficult times be like?
 - A. Revilers, unholy, ungrateful, haters of good.
 - B. Lovers of self, money, and pleasure (rather than God).
 - C. Boastful, arrogant, conceited, without self-control.
 - D. Disobedient to parents, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, brutal treacherous, reckless.
3. Why did God tell us this?
4. What is our hope in difficult times?

COMMUNITY BUILDING

It's mid-February in Wisconsin and many of us are getting tired of winter. What are you looking forward to about summer?

Would you rather be a figure skater, a cross country skier or a snowboarder? Why?

CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. Historically, some Christians have tended to believe the times they were living in were the very last days before Jesus was coming back (but they were wrong). They thought things had never been so bad and couldn't ever be any worse. How can we avoid getting caught up in this kind of apocalyptic hysteria?
Essentially, how do we apply this passage well? How do we faithfully follow Jesus in all of life, for all of life? Brainstorm, as a group, a list of verses that encourage you, both in perseverance as a saint as well as in who God is and what He is doing now and what He will ultimately accomplish on the last day.
2. **Think through the progression of the characteristics of culture in the last days outlined in 2 Timothy 3:2-4: 1 - not loving God, 2 - seeking other loves 3 - becoming self-centered and finally 4 - hurting, disregarding or taking advantage of others. Are there any red flags in your life where you are on the wrong trajectory? How can you turn that around?**
Go back to the first issue and LOVE GOD.
Blaise Pascal, a French philosopher from the 1600's, said "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." When we do not fill that vacuum with God, we try to fill it with something else.

3. **We are warned in 2 Timothy 3:5-6 to avoid those who have the appearance of godliness but aren't really godly. The following verse says they lure the "weak" astray. Sometimes we think too highly of ourselves to be at risk of being led astray.**
 - A. **How is this a dangerous way to think?**
 - B. **Has an external show of religion taken priority over your heart's condition? How so?**
 - C. **How can you nurture the proper heart condition? How can you guard against being morally weak or vulnerable?**

Ideas include: Know Scripture. Pray. Be in transparent, authentic relationships that hold you accountable and encourage you to stay on track.

4. How does the context (2:14-26 and 3:10-17) enable us to understand 3:1-9?
Go ahead and read those portions. Remember, last week Pastor Brian encouraged us to "rightly divide the word of truth" to keep us on course. How can knowing Scripture help guard against the characteristics from this week's passage (either in our own lives or in the lives of others)?
5. **Discuss Romans 12:1-2 and I John 2:15-16 regarding what Christians are to do/be in light of the days we are living in?**
6. How does the hope(promise) that evil doers are ultimately defeated by the power of God impact your attitude and outlook?