

# Final Thoughts

Stand strong till the end, your reward is waiting  
2 Timothy 4:1-8

Paul's FIRST solemn challenge vs. 1-4

The WEIGHT of the charge: Paul, God, Jesus, judge, appearing

The ACTIONS of the charge:

'PREACH THE WORD' – its importance cannot be exaggerated

'REPROVE' – replacing bad ideas with BIBLICAL ideas

'REBUKE' – point out errors, who's responsible, and consequences

'EXHORT' – coach/athlete relationship; confront, confidence, comfort

The ATTITUDE of the charge: great patience and instruction

The REASON for the charge: a time coming

Paul's SECOND solemn challenge vs. 5-6

The ACTION of the charge: be sober, endure, work, fulfill

The REASON for the charge: Paul's time is complete

Paul's PROMISE of awaiting reward vs. 7-8

Paul stood STRONG till the end

God's REWARD of the crown of righteousness

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Life Group Discussion Questions – March 26, 2023

**2 Timothy 4:1-3** *"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,"*

### DISCOVER (Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8)

1. Why was Paul making such emphasis in his exhortation to Timothy? In what ways was Paul holding Timothy accountable? Who holds you accountable and how do they influence you? Do they know they have your permission to challenge you? What or who drives you forward so that you stay strong in a commitment?
2. Why is it so tempting to believe that which 'tickles the ears'? Why aren't Christians immune to this temptation? What draws you back to the truth?
3. Why must preaching God's word be a top priority? What is more important in a church than preaching the word? No matter what your response is, explain your reasoning. Not all are called to preach. If Paul wrote to you then what text would replace "preach the word"?
4. What did Paul mean when he said to be sober about all things? How does that apply to us today?

### EXPLORE

1. Read Psalm 119:105, Matthew 4:4 and Mark 13:31. What is the consistent message given across these scriptures? Where do people turn, aside from the Bible, in their search for truth? So called "truth" that changes with the times may feel very attractive. Why so?
2. How would you describe the intensity of Paul in vv. 1 and 2? Was Paul's passion justified? Explain your reasoning. Read Matthew 16:23. Jesus was not gentle in his instruction. When is this type of passion justified? When have you delivered or received an impassioned plea? What can go wrong when being very dramatic? What can be beneficial?
3. What do the commands reprove, rebuke and exhort mean? What other commands were given by Paul? When have you received or shared reproof, rebuke, or exhortation? How did it impact you or the recipient?

### EXPERIENCE

1. In verse 3, "they" refers to people in the church. How do we avoid such a demise? What myths have been taught in churches over the millennia? Who should ensure that church teaching points to truth? If you think the church you are attending is teaching false doctrine, then what should you do? What must you examine before raising a doctrinal issue? How does humility play into this?
2. How can people, who claim to be following Jesus, have such different interpretations of scripture? Are we free to interpret scripture or is there singular intent and meaning to all scripture? What did the author mean should be the standard, not what you want it to mean in a way that tickles your ears? What resources are available when you need help interpreting scripture?
3. How can we have civil discourse when we are called "haters"? Why should we never give up? What is wrong with giving up on discourse? What did Paul exhort Timothy to do when facing people that covet false teaching? How do you handle frustration when faced with false teaching? Do you stay calm? What can you do to improve your approach when confronting false teaching?

### PRAY

*Pray... Dear Father, grant us a thirst for your word that is insatiable. As we read scripture, may we treasure your word in our hearts so that we do not sin against you. We know that everyone needs Jesus. There can't be any better reason for us to endure and live out the truth. Please give us the strength and passion to share the good news about you until we breathe our last. Amen.*