



GRADUATION SUNDAY:

STANDING FIRM IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Week of May 21, 2023

Start at 9:45–9:55

Belong: *Use 5–10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, Name one thing that you've always imagined doing but never did?
- **How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

9:55–10:05

Believe: *Use 5–10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

In today's sermon, Mike preached on **2 Timothy 3:1–17**. This is Paul's last letter he wrote to Timothy. In this letter, Paul encourages Timothy to remain steadfast in knowing and following Jesus. He (Paul) also hopes to accomplish 2 things: to instruct Timothy to avoid false teachers (**verses 1–9**); and, in the second part (**10–17**), he encourages Timothy to focus on the Word of God, because it is the truth of God. Sometimes, we can be tempted to look for God's will in places other than the one place He has revealed it—His Word. As we constantly look to live out God's will for our lives, we must look to His Scripture for guidance. His Word is sufficient to prepare us to please Him wherever we are and whatever we are called to do.

10:05–10:20

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

In **2 Timothy 3:1–5**, how does Paul describe the "times of difficulty" [*what are people like*]?

- In **vs. 4**, what will people in the last days love instead of God?

In **vs. 5**, what does the phrase "having the appearance of godliness, but denying it's power" mean?

- Do we see this in our churches today? And, how do we expect to avoid these kind of people?

In **vs. 7**, how does Paul describe what godless people always doing?

- What does this mean?

In **vs. 12**, what does Paul promise?

- Why don't we put this promise on church brochures or websites?

In **vs. 14**, what should Timothy do knowing that he would be persecuted?

10:20–10:35/40

Become: *Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

Think back over your life. Are there instances where you started something and then quit? It could be "honey-do's", playing a musical instrument, or a hobby...**OR???**

- Why did you quit?
- Have you ever considered "quitting your faith" in Jesus Christ?
 - What stopped you?

In our Scripture today, Paul warns/ encourages Timothy not to quit – but to endure, to hold on to His faith in Jesus Christ.

- As you look at the Scripture, what are some examples of how Paul does this?

Read **2 Timothy 3:14–17** again. List all the ways that "Scriptures" are described.

- Using those words, how would you explain the Bible to an unbeliever in our community?

What does **2 Timothy 3:16** mean?

- Do we think of God's written word as being as authoritative as if God were speaking audibly to us? Why or Why not?

Have individuals in your group read **Psalms 119:9–11, Isaiah 40:8 & 2 Peter 1:20–21**.

- How do these Scriptures help us to understand the importance of Scripture for our lives?

10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: *Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?

What specifically will you do to apply what we have learned today?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time—sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: 2 Timothy 3: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: 2 Timothy 3: Check out the QR code to learn more.

