



# II Timothy

THE DOORWAY TO ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE

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# INTRODUCTION

*"Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus"*

*"I solemnly charge you in the presence  
of God and of Christ Jesus... fulfill your ministry"*

*"I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the course,  
I have kept the faith"*

Welcome to our study of 2 Timothy, a book that communicates the fundamental values and priorities of life with clarity, power, and conviction. Among its many relevant teachings, we will learn about the power of the gospel, the priority of discipleship, and the future reward of faithfulness.

The twelve lessons in this packet are designed to walk us through this profound book of the Bible, Paul's last recorded writing. During the first lesson (Survey) we will get an overall picture of the book of 2 Timothy. We will spend the next ten lessons studying each passage in detail. Then, in our last lesson (Synthesis) we will summarize for future reference what we have learned.

As we study each passage in detail, we will be learning and using a number of basic Bible study methods. These methods fit under three fundamental skills that are meant to be practiced in order each week - **observe, interpret, and apply**. These skills are summarized on the next few pages, which are designed as a "Quick Reference Guide" that you can flip back to throughout your study. There are also advanced Bible study skills in the Appendix for those who want to go deeper in their study.

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# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing we should do is ask, “**What do I see?**” This is the crucial skill of **observation**, and it lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below:

### OBS TASK 1: Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following elements:

- **Underline all verbs.** A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.
- **Circle key words or phrases.** These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “word of truth” in 2:15) or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage, such as “approved” and “worldly and empty chatter” in 2:15,16).
- **Highlight repeated words or phrases.** Also, include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “suffer hardship” and “endure suffering”). You’ll also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as “truth” repeated in 2:15,18,25; 3:7,8).
- **Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:
  1. **COMPARISON:** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas, or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g. “flee youthful lusts AND pursue righteousness” 2:22).
  2. **CONTRAST:** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g. “pursue righteousness... BUT refuse... speculation” 2:22-23).
  3. **PURPOSE:** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g. “I endure all things... SO THAT they also may obtain the salvation...” 2:10).
  4. **RESULT:** very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g. “who sinned, this man or his parents, THAT he would be born blind?” Jn 9:2).



5. **CAUSE:** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since and sometimes for (e.g. “they will not make further progress **FOR** their folly will be obvious to all” 3:9).
6. **EXPLANATION:** what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true or why it occurred or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word for (e.g. “**FOR** the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” 4:3).
7. **INFERENCE:** provides a logical consequence, a conclusion, or a summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: therefore, for this reason (e.g. “**FOR THIS REASON** I remind you to kindle afresh...” 1:6).
8. **CONDITION:** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e. it could be hypothetical). Key word is if (e.g. “**IF** we died with Him, we will also live with Him” 2:11).

## **OBS TASK 2: List out 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week.**

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth or command that the passage focuses on, such as “suffering for the gospel” and “God’s grace and mercy” in 1:8-18. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

## **OBS TASK 3: Write two or more observations per verse.**

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

## **OBS TASK 4: Record your own interpretive questions.**

Here are a few examples:

### **WHO** is...

- ...Paul talking about?
- ...accomplishing the action?
- ...benefiting from it?

### **WHAT** is the...

- ...meaning of this word?
- ...significance of this phrase?
- ...implication of this statement?
- ...relationship between these phrases?

### **WHY** did Paul...

- ...choose this word?
- ...include this phrase, statement, or command?
- ...connect these ideas?
- ...not say \_\_\_\_\_?

### **HOW**...

- ...was this action accomplished?
- ...will this situation occur?



*what does it mean?*

# INTERPRET

Our observation of a passage should have stirred up interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study, interpretation. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions)! Use the following six methods as needed to tackle a variety of questions, and make sure to familiarize yourself with the three “Principles of Interpretation” that appear on pages 93, 103, and 114.

## INT METHOD 1: Use the context.

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow Paul’s flow of thought through the whole chapter you are studying. This may take you back to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may also need to read ahead in 2 Timothy for clues.

## INT METHOD 2: Compare multiple translations.

This packet uses the New American Standard (**NASB**) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (**NKJV**), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (**NIV**) and the New Revised Standard Version (**NRSV**) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and are thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (**NET**) available online for free at [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at [www.biblestudytools.net](http://www.biblestudytools.net).

## INT METHOD 3: Look up key words.

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy thanks to the internet. Simply log onto **[www.biblestudytools.net](http://www.biblestudytools.net)**, and as an example, type in “2 Tim 2” in the “search for:” box, set the “using:” box to “NAS with Strong’s Numbers” and click “Find.” All of 2 Tim 2 will appear on the screen with most of the words highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”) and get a display of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. To refine your understanding of Paul’s use of a word, look at some of his uses in his other books, such as Romans or Philippians.



## INT METHOD 4: Study cross-references (Xrefs).

XRefs are simply other passages in the Bible that are somehow related to the passage we are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as we seek to understand our passage. You can find a few XRefs in the margins of most Bibles, but you can find many more by logging onto another helpful website: **net.bible.org**. In the top left of the screen under “Display Bible,” choose “2 Timothy,” then the chapter you are interested in, and then click “Go.” A new screen will appear with the NET Bible translation of the chapter you requested. Click the “XRef” tab at the top of the screen, and this will take you to an extensive list of XRefs for every verse in this chapter based on the classic book *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. Clicking any of these will bring up the single verse, but you can then click “context” to see the verse in the midst of its surrounding context.

## INT METHOD 5: Look up background info.

You can find very helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary, or looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall, but you can also find the older *Int'l Standard Bible Dictionary [ISBE]* online for free ([net.bible.org/dictionary.php](http://net.bible.org/dictionary.php)). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is an excellent example of a verse-by-verse background resource.

## INT METHOD 6: Tackle tough questions step-by-step.

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four step process. **(1) LIST ALL THE OPTIONS.** Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question that you can think of. **(2) LIST PROS AND CONS FOR EACH OPTION.** Seek out all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology. **(3) CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION.** Look back at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books or from Christian theology as a whole does not carry as much weight unless the solution you are looking at contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God can not contradict Himself, you know that solution will not work. **(4) DECIDE ON YOUR CERTAINTY LEVEL.** Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct... 60% = this solution is just a bit more likely than the others!) Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.





# how does it work?

## APPLY

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just **know** His Word, but also **obeys** His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply this passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

### APP TASK 1: List out many potential principles for your passage.

A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g. 1 Tim 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g. "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). An example from 2 Tim 1:6-7 would be, "God calls us to confidently use and develop the spiritual gifts He has given us." It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

### APP TASK 2: Choose one principle and create a plan to apply it to your life this week.

Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully *choose the one principle you most need to work on* (do not just choose the easiest to apply!) If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the one God is leading you to apply! Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

- *What exactly will I do differently this week to apply this principle to my life (be specific)?*
- *Who, other than the Lord, will I ask to help me follow through with this application?*

# My Notes...

*Include here any helpful Bible study method tips or techniques you learn throughout your study of 2 Timothy. Also, remember that advanced skills are included in the Appendix section.*





one

*See the Big Picture*

2 Timothy Survey

A person in a white lab coat is looking at a large screen. The screen displays a survey titled "See the Big Picture" and "2 Timothy Survey". The survey includes a list of 10 items with checkboxes and a "Next" button. The items are: 1. I have a good understanding of the Bible, 2. I have a good understanding of the church, 3. I have a good understanding of the world, 4. I have a good understanding of the people, 5. I have a good understanding of the culture, 6. I have a good understanding of the economy, 7. I have a good understanding of the environment, 8. I have a good understanding of the technology, 9. I have a good understanding of the politics, 10. I have a good understanding of the society. The person is looking at the screen with a focused expression. The background is a blurred image of a person in a white lab coat.

# See the Big Picture

## 2 Timothy Survey

# 2 Timothy Survey

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## CASE STUDY



*why should i care?*

Chase, a middle-aged father of three, rarely gave himself time to reflect on sentimental feelings. Yet how could he resist on this long-dreaded day, as his first-born son, Brian, prepared to leave for college? Three hours separated their suburban home from the large state school where Brian would spend the next four (or more likely six!) years. Chase was proud of his boy, proud that he had been admitted to a top-notch university and even prouder that he had demonstrated diligence at school and at work the past few years to make this accomplishment possible. Yet this pride was bitter-sweet, for Chase knew that Brian's accomplishment marked a major turning point in their relationship. No longer would Brian be at home, and even more significant, no longer would Brian be a youth depending on his dad's wisdom and provision. Today, whether he wanted to or not, Chase would release Brian to be the man he was quickly becoming. But was Brian ready? Had he instilled in him the values and priorities that would guide Brian to a God-honoring life? Had he prepared his boy for the distractions and temptations of adult life?

- ❖ *If you were in Chase's shoes three years before the day described above, what values and priorities would you make sure to pass on to Brian to help him become a God-honoring man?*

# what's the big idea?

## SURVEY

### instructions

Surveying a book like 2 Timothy allows you to grasp the big picture, the overall storyline of the book, before getting caught up in the details. This survey then provides an incredibly helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. So begin this crucial first step by taking the next fifteen minutes to read once straight through the whole book of 2 Timothy without stopping. Then answer the questions below *before* moving on to the next page.

- *How would you describe Paul and Timothy's relationship?*
  
- *What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: look for repeated words and ideas)*
  
- *Now that you have read through the entire book, what are Paul's purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can.*
  
- *Based only on 2 Timothy, how would Paul answer the question on the previous page about Chase and Brian?*

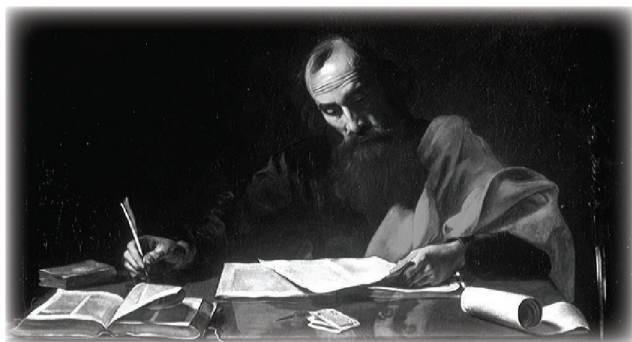


Once you have completed the introductory questions on the previous page, read this background article on the book of 2 Timothy (portions compiled from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

*Sunlight gleams off the highly polished blade of the executioner's sword. His bound victim kneels before him with head bowed. Despite being emaciated and exhausted from mistreatment, the condemned man is still fully alert, completely aware of his imminent death. Yet it is not fear that grips him, but concern; concern for a young man hundreds of miles away. Would his protégé, a young pastor whose task it would be to carry on the leadership of one of the largest churches in the empire, prove steadfast? Would he resist the cunning false teachers who were even now leading many in his church astray? Would he work diligently to raise up new leaders even when others betray him? Would he continue to proclaim the gospel even under the threat of an executioner's sword?*

## AUTHORSHIP

These are the questions that motivated Paul to write a “last will and testament” to his faithful protégé. 2 Timothy is Paul’s last known letter and was likely written just a few months before his execution around AD 67 (church tradition indicates that Paul was beheaded between AD 65-67, during the bloody second half of Nero’s reign). It makes up the third part of the “The Pastoral Epistles,” a term used to designate Paul’s two letters to Timothy and one letter to Titus. Unlike his other letters, these three were addressed not to a congregation but to two young men who were functioning in pastoral roles. This does not mean, of course, that the letters were not read before congregations. The epistles show clear signs that their author intended them to be used widely.



“Saint Paul Writing His Epistles” by Valentin de Boulogne (ca. 16th century)

## RECIPIENT

Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother (Acts 16:1). No mention is made of his father being a Christian, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both known for their sincere faith (2 Tim 1:5), and they had already taught the Old Testament Scriptures to Timothy by the time Paul arrived in his hometown of Lystra during Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14:6; 16:1). Paul took him on as a promising protégé, becoming like a spiritual father to the young man ("my true son in the faith" in 1 Tim 1:2 and "my dear son" in 2 Tim 1:2). Timothy's promise for the ministry was recognized early (1 Tim 1:18; 4:14). He also became Paul's faithful partner, representative, and messenger on multiple occasions (e.g. Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17). Timothy had become so dear to Paul that this last letter includes touching appeals for Timothy to join him in his final days of imprisonment (2 Tim 1:4; 4:9, 21).

Ephesus was a leading city of the Roman province of Asia; it boasted great prowess both economically and religiously during the Apostle Paul's lifetime. Ephesus represented the materially "successful" religion of that era. On his departure from Ephesus, Paul left Timothy behind to provide leadership to the congregation. Then after an interval Paul wrote Timothy a letter, 1 Timothy, urging him on in that ministry, and later wrote 2 Timothy for the same purpose.



*Interior view of the theater of Ephesus. It was under renovation during Paul's visits, and when completed could seat 24,000 people!*

## PURPOSE

Paul wrote this letter first and foremost to prepare Timothy to stand strong without his frequent guidance. Paul was deeply troubled by false teaching (2 Tim 2:23) and apostasy (3:1-9) which endangered the church at Ephesus. Paul urged Timothy to teach sound doctrine, promote good works, and ac-

cept one's share of suffering for the sake of the gospel. Sound doctrine is so vital to the health of the church that it is something to be pursued, fought for, and even suffered for.

*bonus*

If time permits, read all of 2 Timothy one more time and then create your own title for each of the major sections below (you can divide these sections into smaller sections if you wish). Do not use the titles in this packet or in your Bible. Create your own titles that capture your understanding of the main idea of each section.

### ***My titles for...***

- ☛ 1:1-7
- ☛ 1:8-18
- ☛ 2:1-13
- ☛ 2:14-26
- ☛ 3:1-9
- ☛ 3:10-17
- ☛ 4:1-8
- ☛ 4:9-22

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*





# *Fan the Flame*


2 Timothy 1:1-7

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 1:7** For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

## CASE STUDY



Few people would ever think to call Jake timid. Whether in his business or in the community, Jake's confident leadership demands respect. In fact, Jake has proven a natural and capable leader in all areas of life, except one, his church. He had attended a Bible church as long as he could remember, yet never participated beyond Sunday morning and Wednesday night attendance. It wasn't that Jake didn't care. He loved the Lord and wanted to please Him. Yet while his education and vast experiences bolstered his confidence in business and in the community, his lack of knowledge about the Bible and his continued struggle with sin undermined his involvement in the church. Every time the pastor asked for volunteers, Jake thought, "There's no way he can be talking to me. There are so many people around here who know their Bibles much better than I, and who would never struggle with sin like I do. God wouldn't want a guy like me serving in His church."

❖ *Have you ever felt at all like Jake?*

❖ *Do you think that Jake's view of God is accurate? Why or why not?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

two

### instructions

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing we should do is ask, **“What do I see?”** This is the crucial skill of **observation**, and it lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. **We will learn a new observation skill each week** to practice along with the others we have already learned. This week, we simply want to read the passage below and then write out two observations for each verse in the box that follows. Our observations might identify **people, places, or events**, point out **repeated words or key terms**, record important **connections between words and sentences**, or even point out **something missing** that we expected to see. The first few have been done for you.

## 2 Timothy 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>To  
Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from  
God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience  
the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember  
you in my prayers night and day, <sup>4</sup>longing to see you,  
even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with  
joy. <sup>5</sup>For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you,  
which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your



mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

<sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

**My Themes** (optional; we'll learn about this during lesson 4)

**My Observations**

**vv1-2**

- it was God's will that Paul be an apostle
- life is found in Jesus
- Paul calls Tim his "beloved son"
- Paul wishes for Tim to experience God's grace, mercy, and peace
- Jesus is our Lord

**vv3-4**

**vv5-6**

**v7**

# what does it mean? INTERPRET

two

## instructions

Our observation of 2 Timothy 1:1-7 should have stirred up interesting questions like, “*What is an apostle?*” and “*What is the ‘gift’ in v6?*” So how do we answer such challenging questions? Gratefully, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for the answer (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions)! God desires all of us to become approved workmen, “accurately handling the Word of truth” (2:15). To that end, **we will learn a new interpretive skill each week** to practice along with the others we have already learned. This week’s skill is the most important: **USE THE CONTEXT**. Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow Paul’s flow of thought through the whole chapter you are studying. This may take you back to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may also need to read ahead in 2 Timothy for clues.

1. For the following questions on the term “apostle,” use these passages to find answers: 1 Corinthians 9:1-2; 12:28-30; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 2:19-22 and 3:1-7.

- What is the basic meaning of the title “apostle”?
- What qualifications did an apostle need?
- What were the responsibilities of an apostle?

2. What words or phrases in 1:1-7 describe Paul’s relationship with Timothy? How close were they?



3. What is the significance of “laying on of hands” (see 1 Timothy 4:13-15)?

4. For the following questions on spiritual gifts, use the following passages to find answers: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-16; and 1 Peter 4:11.

- What are spiritual gifts?
- For what purpose are they given?
- What specific gifts did Timothy receive (4:1-5)?
- Does everyone have a spiritual gift? Why is this question significant?

## My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.



# how does it work?

## APPLY

two

### instructions

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just **know** His Word, but also **obeys** His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply this passage to our lives? We will learn the first two application steps this week. **First**, each week we will start by reflecting back on our introductory case study to see how we might modify our initial answers. **Second**, we will step back and look at the passage as a whole and list out potential "**principles**" that could flow out of it. A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g. 1 Tim 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g. "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). A few examples are provided on the next page.

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Having studied 2 Tim 1:1-7, how might you encourage Jake to volunteer and even lead at his church? What hope can he find in this passage?





## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 1:1-7. Remember, a legitimate principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life. The first two have been done for you as examples.

1. *When we need grace, mercy, or peace we should turn to God who is the source of all of these.*
2. *God calls us to confidently use and develop the spiritual gifts He has given us.*
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## Apply to life:

What spiritual gifts has God given you?

Is there one that you are not currently using? If so, what practical steps can you take this week to begin using this gift to bless others?

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

two





three

# *Choose the Chains*

2 Timothy 1:8-18



**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 1:8-9** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God...



## CASE STUDY

*Why should I care?*

Yun has not experienced an ordinary life. He lived as a fugitive for many years, all the while knowingly breaking the laws of his country. Though married to the same woman for 20 years, he has spent seven of those years imprisoned in multiple countries. In prison, he experienced prolonged deprivation and horrific disease along with psychological and physical torture. He now lives as an exile unable to return to his home on pain of death.

What crimes has this man committed to warrant such extreme suffering? Only one - unwillingness to stop telling others about Jesus Christ. Brother Yun is a house church leader exiled from his home country of China because he has chosen to be faithful to God regardless of the price.

❖ *Why do you think many Chinese believers like Yun are willing to endure such suffering?*

❖ *Why do we in America so easily forget their plight?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

three

instructions

Like last week, read the passage below and write down your observations in the box which follows. This week, we will also begin to write our own **interpretive questions**. Try to come up with at least eight questions as you read and observe the passage, and write these in the margins next to the relevant verses. Use these examples as you write your own interpretive questions:

### **WHO** is...

- ...Paul talking about?
- ...accomplishing the action?
- ...benefiting from it?

### **WHAT** is the...

- ...meaning of this word?
- ...significance of this phrase?
- ...implication of this statement?
- ...relationship between these phrases?

### **WHY** did Paul...

- ...choose this word?
- ...include this phrase, statement, or command?
- ...connect these ideas?
- ...not say \_\_\_\_\_?

### **HOW**...

- ...was this action accomplished?
- ...will this situation occur?

## 2 Timothy 1:8-18

<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of

our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in

suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

<sup>9</sup>who has saved us and called us with a holy calling,

not according to our works, but according to His own

purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus

from all eternity, <sup>10</sup>but now has been revealed by the

appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup>For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

<sup>13</sup>Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

<sup>15</sup>You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup>The Lord grant mercy to the house of

Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; <sup>17</sup>but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me— <sup>18</sup>the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

### **My Themes** (optional; we'll learn about this during lesson 4)

### **My Observations**

***vv8-9***

***vv10-12***

***vv13-14***

***vv15-18***

# what does it mean?

## INTERPRET

### instructions

Last week we learned to use the context to help us answer our interpretive questions. This week, we will add **our second interpretive skill - COMPARE MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS**. This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. As you tackle the questions below, look up the passage in other translations and compare to the NASB to look for helpful clues or clearer wording. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text and, therefore, quite accurate for Bible study. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and are thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). You can find and compare numerous English translations of any Bible passage at [www.biblestudytools.net](http://www.biblestudytools.net).

1. Answer any *two* of your own interpretive questions:

a)

b)

2. How does this passage relate to the previous passage? In other words, how does v8 connect to v7?

3. How do vv 15-18 relate to vv 8-14?

three

4. What truths about the gospel do you learn from this section? Simply list them below:

5. What gave Paul the courage to suffer for the gospel and not feel ashamed (see 1:12; 2:9-10; 4:7-8,18)?

### My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.



# how does it work?

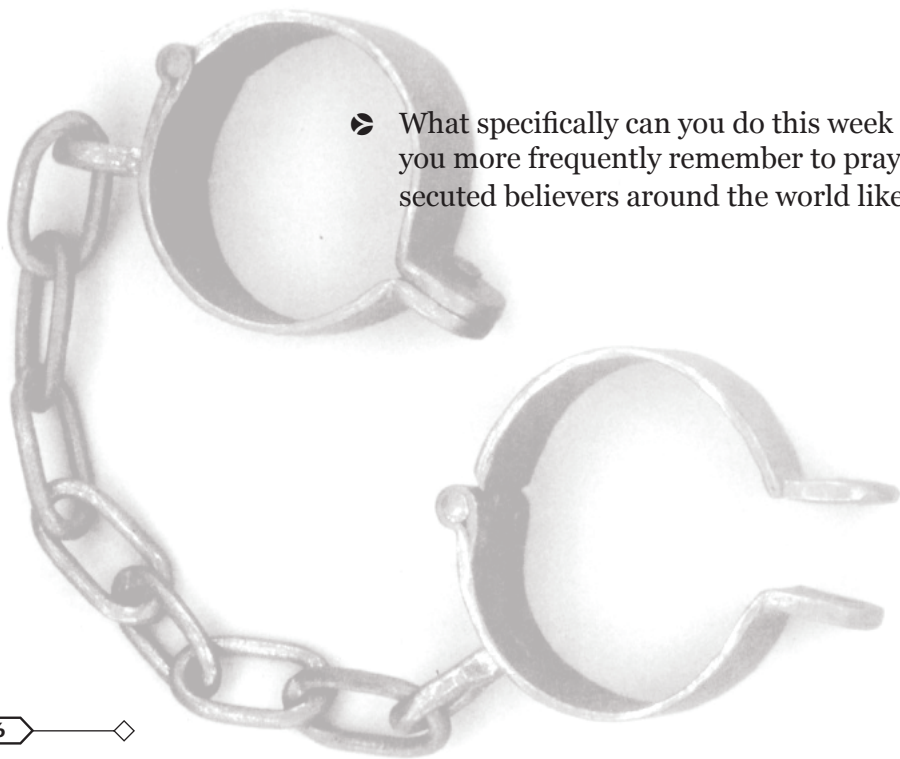
## APPLY

### instructions

Like last week, we will start the process of application by reflecting back on our introductory case study and by listing out principles we have learned from the passage. This week, we will add a third application step - **choose one principle and create a plan to apply it to our lives this week.** Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully *choose the one principle you most need to work on* (do not just choose the easiest to apply!) If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the one God is leading you to apply! Once you have chosen a specific principle, follow the directions on the next page to develop a realistic and specific plan to apply it to your life.

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Having studied 2 Tim 1:8-18, what have you learned about the value of suffering for the gospel?
- What specifically can you do this week to help you more frequently remember to pray for persecuted believers around the world like Yun?



## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 1:8-18.  
(Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

➤ *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*

➤ *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*



four

# *Pass the Baton*

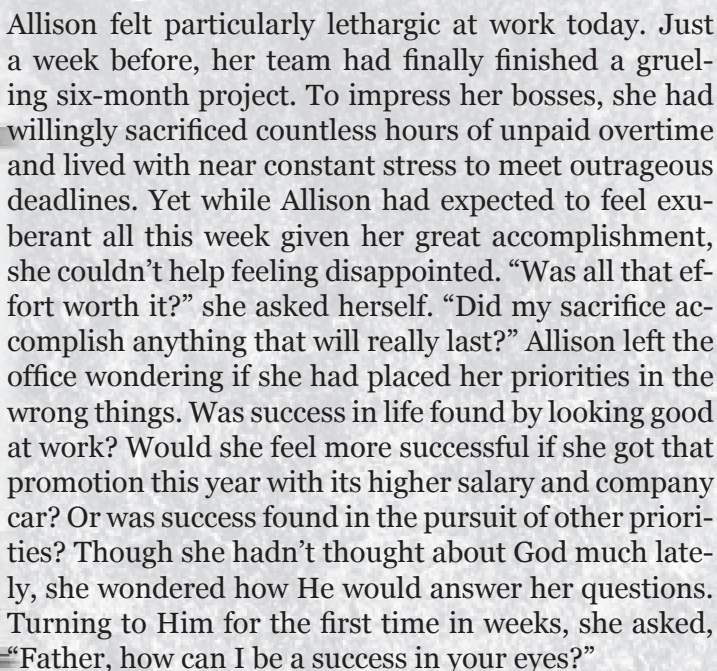
2 Timothy 2:1-7

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 2:2** The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

## CASE STUDY



Allison felt particularly lethargic at work today. Just a week before, her team had finally finished a grueling six-month project. To impress her bosses, she had willingly sacrificed countless hours of unpaid overtime and lived with near constant stress to meet outrageous deadlines. Yet while Allison had expected to feel exuberant all this week given her great accomplishment, she couldn't help feeling disappointed. "Was all that effort worth it?" she asked herself. "Did my sacrifice accomplish anything that will really last?" Allison left the office wondering if she had placed her priorities in the wrong things. Was success in life found by looking good at work? Would she feel more successful if she got that promotion this year with its higher salary and company car? Or was success found in the pursuit of other priorities? Though she hadn't thought about God much lately, she wondered how He would answer her questions. Turning to Him for the first time in weeks, she asked, "Father, how can I be a success in your eyes?"

❖ *Have you ever felt at all like Allison? What brought on these feelings?*

❖ *How do you define "success" in your own life?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

four

### instructions

Like last week, read the passage below and write down at least two observations per verse in the box that follows and at least eight interpretive questions in the margins of the text. You have probably noticed the **“My Themes” box** after the passage each week. This is our third observational skill - **list out 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week**. A primary theme is a central idea, truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “suffering for the gospel” and “God’s grace and mercy” in 1:8-18. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

## 2 Timothy 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that  
is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>The things which you have heard  
from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust  
these to faithful men who will be able to teach oth-  
ers also. <sup>3</sup>Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier  
of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier in active service entangles  
himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may  
please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. <sup>5</sup>Also if  
anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the



prize unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup>The

hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his

share of the crops. <sup>7</sup>Consider what I say, for the Lord

will give you understanding in everything.

## My Themes

## My Observations

***vv1-2***

***vv3-4***

***vv5-6***

***v7***



# *what does it mean?* INTERPRET

four

## instructions

As you answer the questions below, continue using your first two interpretive skills (use the context and compare multiple translations) and add this third one - **LOOK UP KEY WORDS** (such as “grace,” “entrust,” or “entangles” in this passage). While doing so in English is helpful, looking them up in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy thanks to the internet. Simply log onto **www.biblestudytools.net**, type in “2 Tim 2” in the “search for:” box, set the “using:” box to “NAS with Strong’s Numbers” and click “Find.” All of 2 Tim 2 will appear on the screen with most of the words highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the NT! You can even click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”) and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word! What used to take hours now takes seconds.

1. Why does Paul include v1 before v2? In other words, why is it significant that we know and apply v1 before we move on to vv2-3 (see also 2 Cor 3:5-6)?
  
2. Using the process described in the directions above, look up the word “entrust” in v2.
  - Of the definitions listed, which one best fits here?
  
  - What would it practically look like in your own life to “entrust” what you have learned in the Word to someone else?

3. What principles for “spiritual multiplication” (often called “discipleship”) can you derive from 2 Tim 2:1-6?

four

4. Describe the illustrations used by Paul in vv4-6.

Illustration:

What is required  
of them?

What does their  
faithfulness earn?

1. soldier (v4)

2. athlete (v5)

3. farmer (v6)

## My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.

# how does it work?

## APPLY

four

### instructions

This week's application section involves the exact same three steps as last week's which we will continue to use throughout our study: **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles, and choose one to apply this week.** It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Having studied 2 Tim 2:1-7, what priorities do you think God desires Allison to pursue first and foremost in life?
- Allison is a busy woman, but she really wants to begin devoting her life to spiritual multiplication. What practical advice would you give her? What specific activities at our church would you encourage her to participate in?

## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 2:1-7.  
(Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

➤ *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*

➤ *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

**four**





A black silhouette of a person in profile, facing left, shouting into a large megaphone. The person's right arm is raised, holding the handle of the megaphone. The background is a light gray gradient.

five

*Spread the Word*

2 Timothy 2:8-13

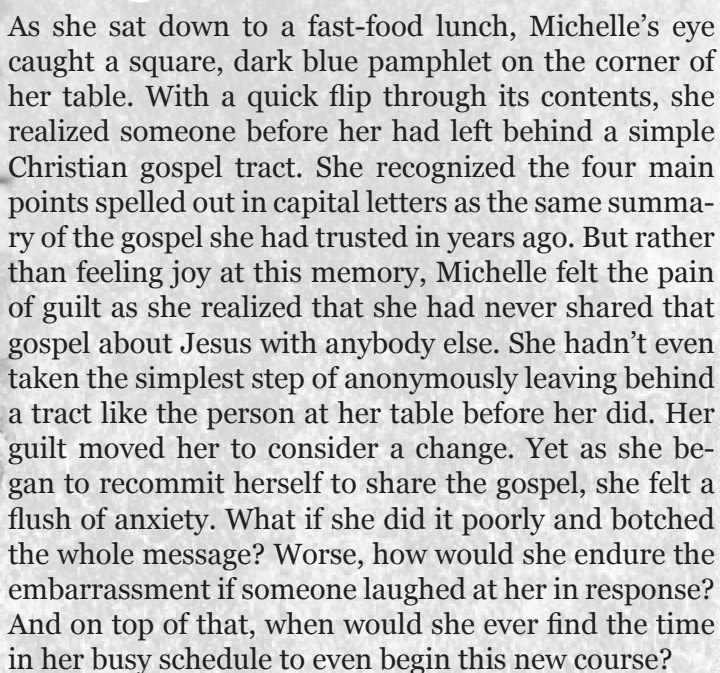
**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 2:10** For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

five

## CASE STUDY



As she sat down to a fast-food lunch, Michelle's eye caught a square, dark blue pamphlet on the corner of her table. With a quick flip through its contents, she realized someone before her had left behind a simple Christian gospel tract. She recognized the four main points spelled out in capital letters as the same summary of the gospel she had trusted in years ago. But rather than feeling joy at this memory, Michelle felt the pain of guilt as she realized that she had never shared that gospel about Jesus with anybody else. She hadn't even taken the simplest step of anonymously leaving behind a tract like the person at her table before her did. Her guilt moved her to consider a change. Yet as she began to recommit herself to share the gospel, she felt a flush of anxiety. What if she did it poorly and botched the whole message? Worse, how would she endure the embarrassment if someone laughed at her in response? And on top of that, when would she ever find the time in her busy schedule to even begin this new course?

- ❖ *How often do you share your faith?*
  
- ❖ *Have fear, embarrassment, or busyness ever kept you, like Michelle, from sharing the gospel?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

As always, read the passage, write 2-3 themes and at least 2 observations per verse in the boxes that follow, and write at least 8 interpretive questions in the margins. Also this week we will begin to mark up the passage to aid our understanding of it. So from now on, as you read the passage, **UNDERLINE ALL OF THE VERBS** (as was done for you in vv8-10). Quick review: a verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Because verbs express the action of the passage, they are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought and, thus, are crucial to observe.

five

## 2 Timothy 2:8-13

<sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, de-

scendant of David, according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup>for which

I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal;

but the word of God is not imprisoned. <sup>10</sup>For this reason

I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen,

so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in

Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

<sup>11</sup>It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

<sup>12</sup>If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

<sup>13</sup>If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He can-

not deny Himself.

## My Themes

## My Observations

**v8**

**v11**

**v9**

**v12**

***v10***

**v13**



# what does it mean?

## INTERPRET

five

### instructions

Here is a fourth interpretive skill to aid you as you answer the questions below - **STUDY CROSS-REFERENCES (XRefs)**. XRefs are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the passage we are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as we seek to understand our passage. You can find a few such XRefs in the margins of most English Bibles, but you can find many more by logging onto another helpful website: **net.bible.org**. In the top left of the screen under “Display Bible,” choose “2 Timothy” and then “2” and click “Go.” A new screen will appear with the NET Bible translation of 2 Tim 2. Click the “XRef” tab at the top of the screen, and this will take you to an extensive list of XRefs for every verse in this chapter based on the classic book *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. Clicking any of these will bring up the single verse, but you can then click “context” to see the verse in the midst of its surrounding context. This is a great help as you will see below!

1. Answer any *two* of your own interpretive questions:
  - a)
  - b)
2. Use the XRef instructions above to determine why Paul focuses on these two particular characteristics of Jesus in v8:
  - “risen from the dead”
  - “descendant of David”



3. The 4-line poetic “saying” Paul quotes in vv11-13 is challenging to interpret! To gain a clearer understanding of it, answer the following questions *in order*:

a. Why does Paul include this “saying”? In other words, how does it fit his argument in this chapter?

b. Whom does “we” refer to in this passage and how would you defend your answer?

c. What is required to “rule” with Christ? See also 4:7-8 and Rev 2:26-27.

d. What does it mean to “deny” Christ, and is it something a believer can actually do? See also Matt 16:24-27; 26:33-35; Luke 12:8-9; and 1 Tim 5:8.

e. Finally, summarize the meaning of this “saying” in your own words:

### My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.

# how does it work?

## APPLY

five

### instructions

As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions from last week to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Using 2 Tim 2:8-13, how could you help Michelle overcome her barriers to sharing the gospel?
- What practical steps could Michelle take this week to begin living a more evangelism-focused life?



## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 2:8-13. (Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

five



# *Abstain from Shame*

2 Timothy 2:14-19

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

six



## CASE STUDY

Dave and Jan used to love reading the gospel accounts of Jesus' life. But a "History of Religion" class in college changed all that. They were shocked as their professor presented what he called convincing historical evidence that the Jesus of history was totally different from the Christ presented in the gospels. In his own "authoritative" view, the real Jesus was nothing more than a poor, misunderstood teacher like so many of the Old Testament prophets. He described their beloved gospel stories as the "inventions of Christians decades later" who cared more about inventing theology than about following Jesus' simple example. Could their professor be right in saying that the disciples made up stories about miracles and resurrection simply to lure in more followers? Dave and Jan ended their semester in fear and doubt, wondering if their beloved gospel stories were nothing more than 2000 year-old lies.

- ❖ *Why are alternate views about Jesus so popular in our culture today (The DaVinci Code, the Tomb of Jesus "documentary," the Gospel of Judas, etc.)?*
  
- ❖ *Have you ever struggled like Dave and Jan with doubts about Jesus' identity? What triggered these doubts?*



# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

Read the passage and underline the verbs. Write 2-3 themes and at least 2 observations per verse in the boxes that follow, and write at least 8 interpretive questions in the margins. This week, we also want to begin to **CIRCLE ALL OF THE KEY WORDS OR PHRASES**. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “word of truth” in 2:15) or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage, such as “approved” and “worldly and empty chatter” in 2:15,16).

six

## 2 Timothy 2:14-19

<sup>14</sup>Remind them of these things, and solemnly

charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle

about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin

of the hearers. <sup>15</sup>Be diligent to present yourself

approved to God as a workman who does not need to

be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

<sup>16</sup>But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead

to further ungodliness, <sup>17</sup>and their talk will spread like

gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

<sup>18</sup>men who have gone astray from the truth saying that

the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. <sup>19</sup>Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

## My Themes

## My Observations

**v14**

**v15**

**v16**

**v17**

**v18**

**v19**

# what does it mean? INTERPRET

six

## instructions

This week's interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers - **LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFO**. You can find very helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary (best is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall, but you can find the older *Int'l Standard Bible Dictionary [ISBE]* online for free at [net.bible.org/dictionary.php](http://net.bible.org/dictionary.php)) or looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary (e.g. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener). Here is an example from the *IVP Commentary* on vv17-18 that should help with question #3:

"...gangrene's basic characteristic is that it spreads and poisons the whole body, ultimately killing it if it is not removed. Hymenaeus and probably Philetus had been officially cut off (1 Tim 1:20) but still retained a pervasive influence and probably a significant following... A future resurrection of the body did not appeal to Greek thought... Some false teachers like Hymenaeus and Philetus had apparently "demythologized" the gospel to make it more palatable to their culture..."

1. Answer any *two* of your own interpretive questions:

a)

b)

2. What does it mean to accurately handle the word of truth (see 2 Tim 2:18,23-25; 3:15-17)? Give a specific example of what this would look like in your own life.

3. Why does Paul so strongly condemn the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus? Why is their teaching about the resurrection so dangerous? Xref 1 Cor 15:12-19.

## six

4. a) Explain what the two quotations in 2:19 mean.  
*HINT: both are OT quotations probably taken from Numbers 16:1-40, an account of the rebellion against Moses and Aaron led by a man named Korah. Read this account, and think about how it relates to Paul's point in 2 Tim 2.*

b) Why are these statements described as a "seal"?

### My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.

# how does it work?

## APPLY

### instructions

As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

six

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Using 2 Tim 2:14-19, how might you help Dave and Jan gain perspective on what they heard in class?
- Where could they turn to find helpful evidence for the historical reliability of the gospel accounts?



List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 2:14-19. (Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

six







seven

*Serve with Honor*

2 Timothy 2:20-26

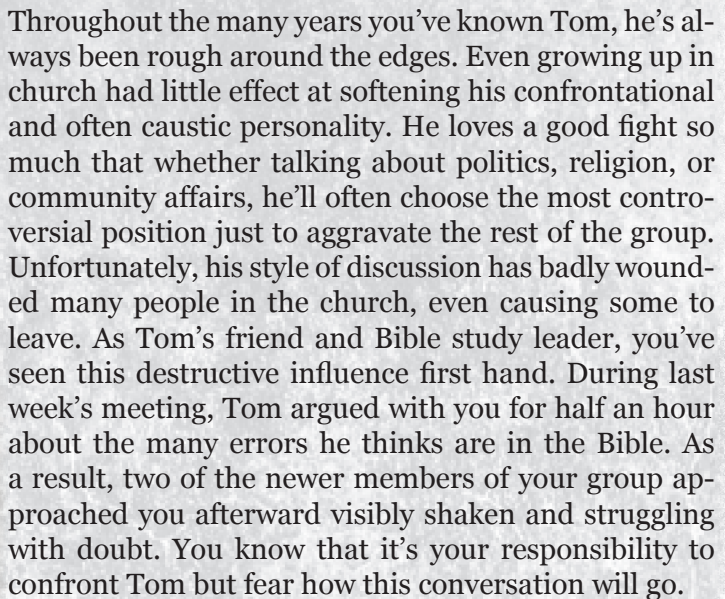
**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 2:22** Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

seven

## CASE STUDY



Throughout the many years you've known Tom, he's always been rough around the edges. Even growing up in church had little effect at softening his confrontational and often caustic personality. He loves a good fight so much that whether talking about politics, religion, or community affairs, he'll often choose the most controversial position just to aggravate the rest of the group. Unfortunately, his style of discussion has badly wounded many people in the church, even causing some to leave. As Tom's friend and Bible study leader, you've seen this destructive influence first hand. During last week's meeting, Tom argued with you for half an hour about the many errors he thinks are in the Bible. As a result, two of the newer members of your group approached you afterward visibly shaken and struggling with doubt. You know that it's your responsibility to confront Tom but fear how this conversation will go.

- *What would you say to Tom?*
  
- *Have you ever felt the need to confront a fellow believer about his or her sinful behavior? Did you follow through? Why or why not?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

Read the passage, underlining the verbs and circling the key words. Then write 2-3 themes and at least 2 observations per verse in the boxes that follow, and write at least 8 interpretive questions in the margins. This week, we also want to begin to **BOX CONNECTING WORDS**. We will learn eight types of connecting words in the next few weeks; here are the first two:

**COMPARISON:** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas, or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g. “flee youthful lusts **AND** pursue righteousness” 2:22).

**CONTRAST:** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g. “pursue righteousness... **BUT** refuse... speculation” 2:22-23).

seven

## 2 Timothy 2:20-26

<sup>20</sup>Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor.

<sup>21</sup>Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup>Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup>But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup>The

Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup>with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

## My Themes

## My Observations

v20

**v21**

v22

vv23-24

**v25**

**v26**

# what does it mean? INTERPRET

seven

## instructions

How do we answer difficult interpretive questions when more than one option seems possible? This requires two skills, the first of which is... **LIST ALL THE OPTIONS WITH PROS AND CONS.** Always start by brainstorming, listing every possible answer to your question you can think of. Be open-minded and creative and don't rush this process. You will often find that your third option proves better than your first. Once you have created a list of possible options, list out both pros and cons for each one. You are looking for all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology. Once you have thought about it for a while individually, feel free to talk with others and to check commentaries or references to see if you have missed any options (do not just assume that their favorite option is necessarily correct!)

1. Answer any *two* of your own interpretive questions:

a)

b)

2. What is the meaning behind the figurative language of v20 and how does it connect with v19?

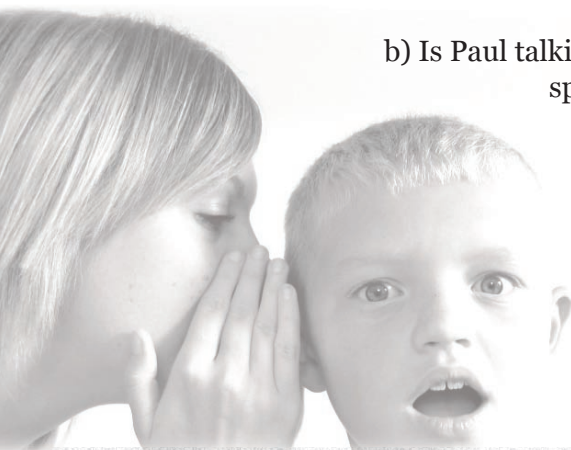
3. In verse 26, what type of person is ensnared by the devil? Following the directions above, list out the options along with pros and cons for each.

seven

4. Throughout much of vv14-26, Paul contrasts productive vs. destructive ways we can use our words (2 Tim 2:14, 16-18, 23-25).

a) Describe each way, including the consequences that result:

b) Is Paul talking about the form or content of our speech, or both?



### My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.



# how does it work?

## APPLY

seven

### instructions

As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- *Using 2 Tim 2:14-26, how would you now confront Tom about his behavior?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *What practical steps should Tom take to gradually overcome this major area of sin?*

## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 2:20-26. (Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

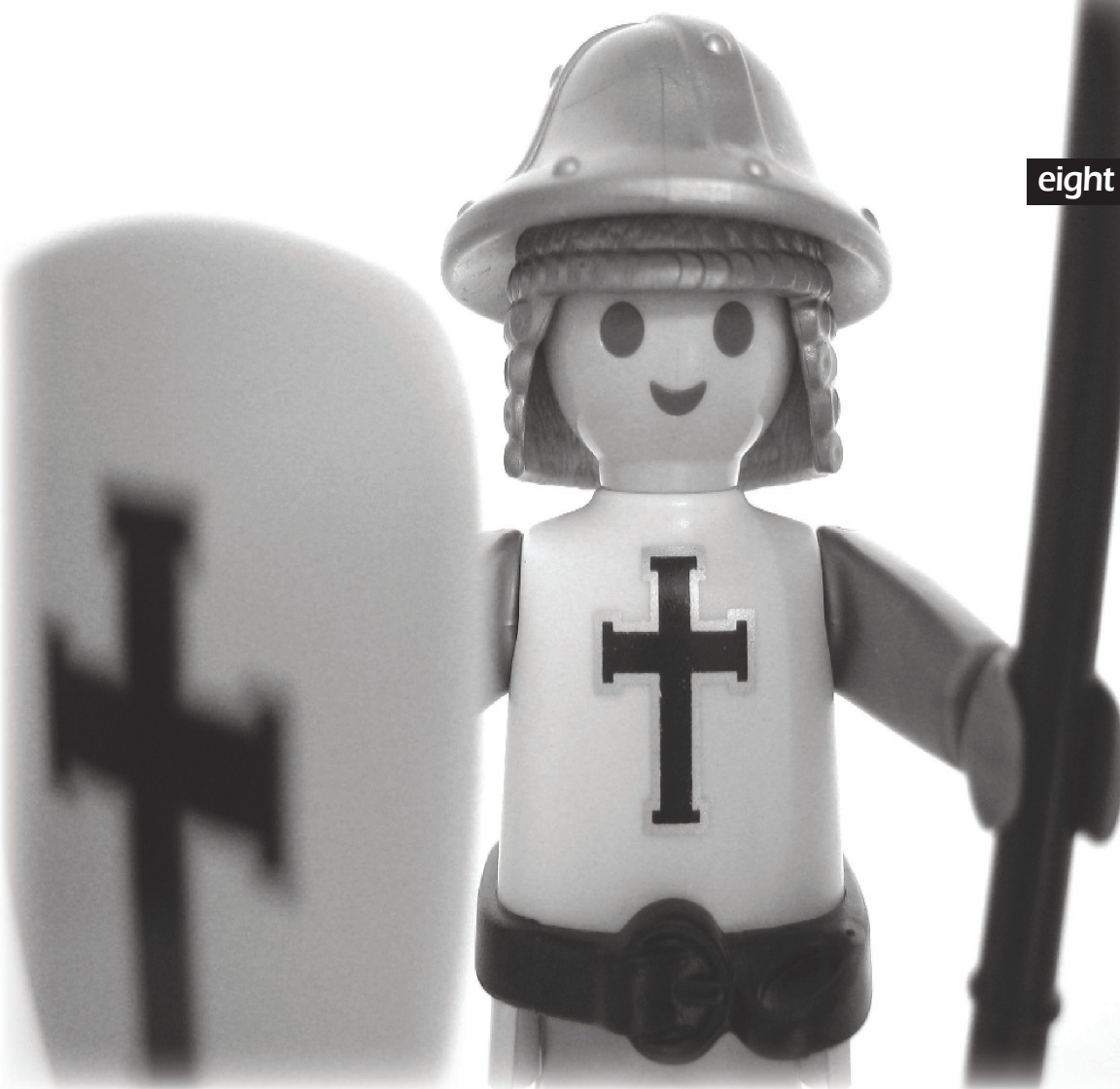
- *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*
  
- *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

seven





*Prepare for Evil*

2 Timothy 3:1-9

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 2:24** The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged...

eight

## CASE STUDY

A frustrated sigh escapes your lips as you leave the dinner you've just prepared to answer the knock at your door. That frustration only intensifies as you open the door to see two young men wearing ties and "Elder" name tags, standing on your front porch. Weren't the Jehovah Witnesses here just a week ago? And now Mormons! Yet after only a few minutes of casual conversation, your frustration gives way to genuine concern for these young men. Your heart aches for the older of the two, an awkward boy who says he grew up in a Bible church much like the one you attend, but embraced Mormonism after two similar missionaries demonstrated more kindness and compassion to him than he ever received at church. Yet for all the goodness that characterizes the lives of many Mormons, you know enough about their beliefs to wonder how any sane person could fall for such nonsense. How could this young man, obviously intelligent and sincere, abandon the biblical truths he learned as a boy in church and give his life to a cult teaching blatant heresy?

- ❖ *What would you say to this particular young man?*
- ❖ *False teaching in various forms is present even within churches today. Can you think of any examples?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

Follow the same “Observe” directions from last week (pg 71). Here are three more types of **CONNECTING WORDS** to box:

**PURPOSE:** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g. “I endure all things... **SO THAT** they also may obtain the salvation...” 2:10).

**RESULT:** very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g. “who sinned, this man or his parents, **THAT** he would be born blind?” Jn 9:2).

**CAUSE:** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since and sometimes for (e.g. “they will not make further progress **FOR** their folly will be obvious to all” 3:9).

eight

## 2 Timothy 3:1-9

<sup>1</sup>But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. <sup>6</sup>For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women



weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,  
<sup>7</sup>always learning and never able to come to the  
 knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup>Just as Jannes and Jambres  
 opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth,  
 men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.  
<sup>9</sup>But they will not make further progress; for their folly  
 will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's  
 folly was also.

## My Themes

## My Observations

**v1**

**vv2-3**

**vv4-5**

**vv6-7**

**v8**

**v9**



# what does it mean?

## INTERPRET

eight

### instructions

Really tough interpretive questions require two skills. We practiced the first last week, listing all the options with pros and cons. Having done that, we move on the second skill... **CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION AND DECIDE ON CERTAINTY.** Look back at all your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books or from Christian theology as a whole does not carry as much weight unless the solution you are looking at contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God can not contradict Himself, you know that solution will not work. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy. If the evidence for the solution you chose clearly outweighs the evidence for all other solutions, you can probably write down that you are 80-90% certain of your choice (save 100% certainty for those questions that are clearly answered by other passages or by established Christian doctrine). On the other hand, if there are some strong points of evidence against your choice, you may need to write down only 60-80% certainty. Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they chose and why.

1. In the New Testament, when are the “last days”?  
(Hint: go to [www.biblestudytools.net](http://www.biblestudytools.net), type “last days” into the “search for” box, set “in:” to “New Testament” and “using:” to “New American Standard” and press “Find.” Take a few minutes to read through the passages that appear.)

2. Who are the dangerous men in this passage? Are they the same opponents mentioned in ch 2? Are these men believers or unbelievers?

3. What exactly are these men doing?

eight


4. The women who are vulnerable to being captivated by these wicked men are described in vv6-7. From this description, what makes a person, male or female, susceptible to false teachers?

5. Who are Jannes and Jambres, and why did Paul choose to mention them in this passage?

(Hint: look up “Jannes and Jambres” in a Bible dictionary as described in the instructions on pg 63, or if you don’t own one, go to [net.bible.org/dictionary.php](http://net.bible.org/dictionary.php), click on “J” and then “Jannes And Jambres.”)

## My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.



# how does it work?

## APPLY

### instructions

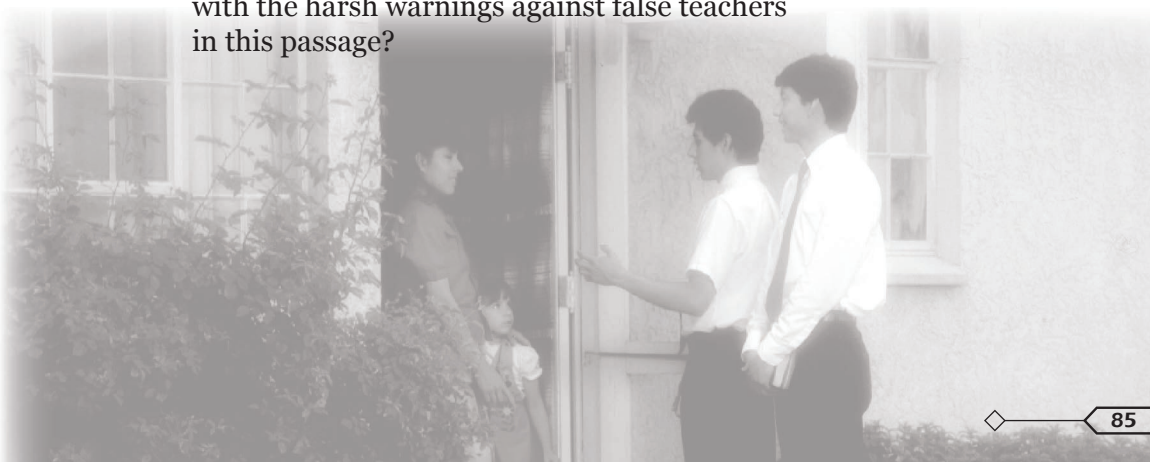
As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

eight

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Using what you have learned in this passage, how might you better prepare yourself or your loved ones to respond well to the advances of Mormon or Jehovah's Witness missionaries?
- How should we balance the command to love others well, including Mormon missionaries, with the harsh warnings against false teachers in this passage?



## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 3:1-9. (Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*
  
- *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

eight





nine

# *Cling to the Book*

2 Timothy 3:10-17



**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

nine

## CASE STUDY

Helen has never had much use for the Bible. She became a believer a few years ago and like every “good Christian” dutifully carries a Bible to church every Sunday morning. Yet outside of church, she’s never found any reason to read Scripture. When asked about her lack of desire, she jokingly asks how stories about a flood, poems about sheep, or teachings about theology can practically help her be a better mom, a better kindergarten teacher, or a better cook. Besides, she gave it a try when she first got her new Bible, opening to a random page and reading a chapter every morning for a month. Yet little of it made sense and nothing seemed to apply to her life in the modern world. She still prayed, went to church, and tried to be a loving wife and mother. She simply saw little use for a 2000 year-old book about floods, sheep, and theology.

➤ *What would you say to Helen?*

➤ *Have you ever had times like Helen when what you read in the Bible seemed confusing, impractical, or both? How did you respond?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

Follow the same “Observe” directions from last week (pg 81). Here are three more types of **CONNECTING WORDS** to box:

**EXPLANATION:** what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, or why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word **for** (e.g. “FOR the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” 4:3).

**INFERENCE:** provides a logical consequence, a conclusion, or a summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: **therefore, for this reason** (e.g. “FOR THIS REASON I remind you to kindle afresh...” 1:6).

**CONDITION:** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e. it could be hypothetical). Key word is **if** (e.g. “IF we died with Him, we will also live with Him” 2:11).

nine

## 2 Timothy 3:10-17

<sup>10</sup>Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup>persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup>But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing

from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

My Themes

My Observations

***vv10-11***

***vv12-13***

***v14***

***v15***

***v16***

***v17***

# what does it mean?

## INTERPRET

### instructions

Throughout our study of 2 Timothy we have been learning various interpretive skills. For the next three weeks, we will learn three fundamental **PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION** that help us to use those skills accurately. **Principle #1 - Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning to the original audience.** Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, "What does this passage mean to me?" While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author's intended meaning; and we must seek this out first. This involves three important steps.

1. Always **start your study with prayer**, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
2. Be very careful to **avoid reading your 21st century circumstances and theological issues** into the text as they will skew your understanding of it.
3. Work diligently to see the text **from the point of view of the original readers**. To do this: [a] dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and [b] spend a few moments thinking about the original audience's religious understanding by asking - What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? about Jesus? about salvation? etc.

nine

1. Answer *one* of your own interpretive questions:

2. How does this passage relate to the previous? Trace Paul's flow of thought through ch 3.

3. What did the persecution Paul mentions in v12 look like for 1st Century believers (see 2 Cor 11:23-28; Heb 10:32-34)?

4. Does Paul's promise in v12 apply to your life? If so, what might this persecution look like for us?

nine

5. Look at Paul's praise of Scripture in vv15-17:

- Define "inspiration" (see also 2 Pet 1:20-21).

- What are some practical implications of the doctrine of inspiration?

- What does Paul have in mind when he states "all Scripture"? Does this include his own writings (see 2 Pet 3:15-16)?

### My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.

# how does it work?

## APPLY

### instructions

As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

nine

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Using 2 Tim 3:10-17, how would you encourage Helen to give the Bible a second chance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What practical tips would you give Helen to help her better understand and apply what she reads in the Word?

## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 3:10-17. (Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*

- *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

nine







ten

*Finish your Race*

2 Timothy 4:1-8


**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 4:8** ...in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

ten

## CASE STUDY



How can one simple word be so devastating? “Cancer,” the last word Ben wanted to hear his doctor say, had shown up clearly in his test results, and the prognosis was not good. The doctor hoped that treatment might extend Ben’s life by many years, yet there was no guarantee given how far the disease had already spread. As he sought solitude in his study later that day, Ben turned to the Lord in heart-felt prayer. “Father, I am so afraid. I’m not ready to die, Lord. Please heal my body and remove this cancer. Yet, Lord, whether that is your will or not, I know that I want to be ready for death whenever it comes. Please make me ready, Father. Show me how to live well during the remaining time I have. Through your Spirit, help me to truly obey you by loving others sincerely and using my time in ways that are eternally significant.”

➤ *If Ben called you to share this difficult news, what would you say to comfort him?*

➤ *Why do human beings fear death? Should we?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

As in previous weeks, read the passage, underlining the verbs, circling the key words, and boxing any connecting words. Then write 2-3 themes and at least 2 observations per verse in the boxes that follow, and write at least 8 interpretive questions in the margins. This week, we also want to begin to **HIGHLIGHT REPEATED WORDS OR PHRASES**. Also **include words and phrases that are closely related** even if not exact duplicates (such as “suffer hardship” and “endure suffering”). You will also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as “truth” in v4 repeated from 2:15,18,25; 3:7,8).

**Why do this?** Because whenever an author repeats something, it is usually important to him and worth observing. For example, notice in 2 Tim 4:1-8 below how Paul uses the word “judge” at both the beginning and end of the passage. He uses the word like book ends to emphasize the Lord’s future judgment of His servants so that Timothy would be motivated to persevere.

ten

## 2 Timothy 4:1-8

<sup>1</sup>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:  
<sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;  
reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and  
instruction. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away  
their ears from the **truth** and will turn aside to myths.  
<sup>5</sup>But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do

the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. <sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup>in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

**My Themes**

**My Observations**

**vv1-2**

**vv3-4**

**vv5-6**

**vv7-8**

# what does it mean?

## INTERPRET

### instructions

This week we will learn our second of three **PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION**. **Principle #2 - Assume a “normal” use of language.** The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for “hidden” meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the “normal” techniques we use to understand any literature:

1. ***Study the grammar.*** Yes, most of us hated grammar in junior high, but it really is helpful for understanding Scripture! So pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.
2. ***Remember that chapters came later.*** When Paul wrote 2 Timothy or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions that were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. So always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

ten

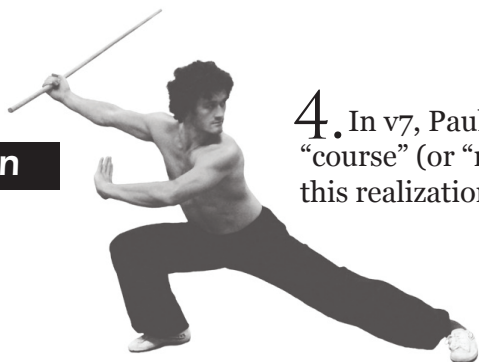
1. Answer any *two* of your own interpretive questions:
  - a)

b)

2. Describe in your own words each of the four commands in v5. What exactly is Paul telling Timothy to do?

3. Why would people prefer “ear-tickling teaching” to “sound doctrine” (hint: Hebrews 4:12)?

ten



4. In v7, Paul compares his life to a “fight” and a “course” (or “race”). What practical implications did this realization have in Paul’s life?

5. Will all believers “keep the faith”? What are the consequences for falling short of verse 7 (see 1 Cor 3:1-15 and 9:24-27; Col 1:21-23; 2 Tim 2:5-6,12)?

## My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.



# how does it work?

## APPLY

### instructions

As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

ten

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- How might 2 Tim 4:1-8 encourage Ben as he faces the possibility of his own death in the near future?
- Using the whole book of 2 Tim as a guide, what activities or pursuits should Ben dedicate his remaining time to in order to glorify the Lord?



## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 4:1-8.  
(Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*

- *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask for His help to apply one of the specific principles above to your life, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

*My Notes...*

ten





eleven

*Trust your Deliverer*

2 Timothy 4:9-22

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**2 Timothy 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## CASE STUDY

Minutes passed as Derek and Denise sat on their couch in silence, reflecting on the day's events. As strong believers, they had both agreed that Derek should follow the letter of the law in his business practice regardless of the consequences. This meant avoiding the many illegal yet seemingly minor "shortcuts" that were commonly used by others in his profession to avoid certain tax penalties and costly inspection delays. Yet as a result of this choice, Derek's most recent project had proven far less profitable to the company than similar projects managed by his less scrupulous peers. Despite his best efforts to honor the Lord at work, even putting in overtime whenever possible, Derek had returned from lunch to find a pink slip on his desk. Now he and his wife faced the prospect of a mortgage, college tuition for two kids, and a car payment without income or any certain prospects for a new job. They both wondered how the Lord could have allowed this to happen. They had sought to obey Him, yet earned only anxiety and instability as a result. Had they made the right decision? What in the world would they do now?

- ❖ *What would you say to Derek and Denise to encourage them?*
  
- ❖ *Have you ever faced a similar situation where you suffered as a result of obeying the Lord?*

# what do I see?

## OBSERVE

### instructions

We have no new observation skill this week. As in previous weeks, read the passage, underlining the verbs, circling the key words, boxing any connecting words, and highlighting repeated words or phrases. Then write 2-3 themes and at least 2 observations per verse in the boxes that follow, and write at least 8 interpretive questions in the margins.

Now that you have practiced all the basic skills, feel free to add your own techniques. Some people prefer to work on a computer. This makes mapping a passage much easier (see pg 130 in the appendix for this powerful but challenging skill). Others like to use colored highlighters or pencils to mark key words, verbs, and connecting words. Many find it helpful to add arrows connecting related ideas or symbols to highlight important names (such as a cross any place that Jesus is mentioned).

eleven

## 2 Timothy 4:9-22

<sup>9</sup>Make every effort to come to me soon; <sup>10</sup>for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. <sup>12</sup>But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup>When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. <sup>14</sup>Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>15</sup>Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.



<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

<sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>19</sup>Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup>Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. <sup>21</sup>Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren. <sup>22</sup>The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.



## My Themes

## My Observations

***vv9-10***

v17

***wv11-12***

v18

***wv13-14***

***vv19-20***

***wv15-16***

***vv21-22***

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# what does it mean?

## INTERPRET

### instructions

This week we will learn our last of three **PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION**. **Principle #3 - Let Scripture interpret Scripture.** Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (Jn 17:17; Heb 3:6; James 1:17), we can and should expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. **Check your conclusions.** Always compare your interpretive conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you find that your interpretation of a particular passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. **Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages.** Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation. For example, we used clear passages such as 1 Cor 3:10-15 to help us better understand the challenging saying in 2 Tim 2:11-13.

One last word of caution - remember that Scripture was revealed by God progressively. For example, do not be surprised by differences between how people were to obey God in the Old Testament (by following the Mosaic Law) and how we are to obey today (by following Jesus' teaching).

1. Answer *one* of your own interpretive questions:

2. How does this passage fit into the book of 2 Timothy? In other words, why did Paul include these last 14 verses?

3. Here at the end, Paul reiterates God's deliverance (v17; see 2 Tim 3:11). However, from 4:6, we know that Paul realized that his death was imminent. Is this a contradiction? Why or why not?

4. What things does God promise to deliver believers from? Look up these cross references to start your list (John 5:24; 10:27-29; Rom 5:9; 7:21-25; 8:29-30, 38-39; Phil 3:20-21), and then add anymore you can think of with Scriptural support.

5. Looking back at your list, which of these forms of "deliverance" is unconditional and which depend on our proper response?

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### My Summary

In one sentence of your own words, describe the main point that Paul communicates in this passage.

# how does it work?

## APPLY

### instructions

As always, **reflect back on the case study, list at least six principles from the passage, and choose one to apply this week.** Here is that helpful list of application questions to aid you in the second and third steps:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

### Reflect Back on the Case Study:

- Having studied this passage, how might you now encourage Derek and Denise after the loss of Derek's job?
- In what areas of your life (relationships, job, school, finances, etc) have you struggled to trust God to provide for your needs?

## List out Principles:

List out at least six principles from 2 Tim 4:9-22.  
(Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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## Apply One this Week:

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

➤ *What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life (be specific)?*

➤ *Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?*

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you've chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.





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*Put it Back Together*

2 Timothy Synthesis

**PRAY** Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## MEMORIZE

**Review your memory verses for each of the previous lessons.**

- |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| • 1:7  | • 2:15 | • 4:8  |
| • 1:8  | • 2:22 | • 4:18 |
| • 2:2  | • 2:24 |        |
| • 2:10 | • 3:16 |        |

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In the case study of lesson one (pg 12) we met Chase, a middle-aged father of three whose oldest son, Brian, was about to leave home to start college. Like most parents facing such a transition, Chase wondered if he had adequately prepared his son for adulthood. Had he instilled in him the values and priorities that would guide Brian to a God-honoring life? At the end of the case study, we asked,

*“If you were in Chase’s shoes three years before the day described above, what values and priorities would you make sure to pass on to Brian to help him become a God-honoring man?”*

Now that you have studied the book of 2 Timothy in detail, how would answer that question? Using just its guidance, what character traits, life priorities, and activities would you help your child to develop?

➤ *Character Traits:*

➤ *Life Priorities:*

➤ *Activities:*

# how does it all fit together?

## SYNTHESIS

During the past ten lessons, we have observed, interpreted, and applied the entire book of 2 Timothy. That is no small task! Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as ***synthesis***. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of 2 Timothy that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

But first, please realize how much we have developed as students of the Word during this study! Though you have focused on 2 Timothy, you have actually learned and practiced a method of Bible study that will help you understand and apply to your life any passage of Scripture! Observe, interpret, and apply. These are the three fundamental steps of all Bible study, and they will serve you well for a lifetime. As we draw 2 Timothy to a close, please continue to practice and refine these skills so that you will be, “a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth.”



twelve

### instructions

The first step of this synthesis is to ***CREATE YOUR OWN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK***. Review the work you have done each week, especially the summary sentences you have written for each passage in the “My Summary” section. Then create your own brief outline on the next page. You are free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start:

1. Greetings from Paul to his “son” Timothy (1:1-2)
2. Remembering Timothy’s lineage of faith (1:3-5)
3. Opening challenge: Be bold (1:6-18)
  - a. Boldly use your spiritual gifts (1:6-7)
  - b. Boldly suffer for the gospel (1:8-12)
  - c. Examples of other bold believers (1:16-18)



## My 2 Timothy Outline...

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The second step of this synthesis is to **RECORD WHAT YOU LEARNED OR WERE REMINDED OF**. This is more personal than your outline. You want to create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time or been reminded of from your study of 2 Timothy. As an example of a theological truth, you might write:

I was reminded that every book of the Bible was given to us by God and is therefore completely reliable and authoritative (3:16).

An example of a life lesson would be:

This book taught me about the importance and honor of suffering for the gospel (1:8; 2:3; 3:12; 4:7-8).

List at least ten theological truths on this page and ten life lessons on the next page that you learned from your study of 2 Timothy, and record the specific verses where each is addressed.

## Theological Truths I've learned...

# Life Lessons I've learned...

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The final step of this synthesis is to **PRAYERFULLY CHOOSE TWO BROAD APPLICATIONS TO PRACTICE**. These can be applications that you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, or you can create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

1. Both applications should touch on **areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth**. Do not choose “*be kind to others*” if this is already something you do very well.
2. Both should **be specific**, with a clear plan for how you will grow and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. So, “*study the Word more*” is not sufficiently detailed. Instead, develop a specific plan such as “*I will read through the book of Romans this next month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal - Steve will hold me accountable weekly.*”

## Application #1:

*Principle from 2 Timothy:*

*Verses where it is discussed:*

*Plan of Action:* I will...

## Application #2:


*Principle from 2 Timothy:*

*Verses where it is discussed:*

*Plan of Action:* I will...

**PRAY** End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week and ask Him to help you apply the two principles you have chosen.





# Appendix

1. In-depth Word Studies - p128
2. Mapping a Passage - p130
3. Creating Lists - p132
4. Discipleship Resources - p133

## 2) BONUS SKILL: IN-DEPTH GREEK WORD STUDY

Follow this method to take your understanding of key words to the next level.

### 1) CHOOSE A WORD TO STUDY

### 2) FIND ALL THE NEW TESTAMENT USES OF THAT WORD

Go to [www.biblestudytools.net](http://www.biblestudytools.net). In the “search for:” box, type the verse that contains the word you are interested in, such as “Colossians 3:6” if you were studying the key word “wrath.” Then, in the box titled “using:” select the translation “NAS with Strong’s Numbers.” Finally, click the “Find” button.

After a moment, a new page will appear showing the verse you have selected with key words highlighted in blue. Click on the word you are interested in studying (“wrath” in this example). Now a new page appears that gives you information about the original Greek word that you are interested in (“ὀργή” for the English “wrath”). Towards the right of the page, there is a title “NAS Verse Count.” Below is a list of the number of times the Greek word appears in each NT book.

Click on the first book in the list. This allows you to look at each verse of that book that contains your key word. By repeating this procedure for each NT book that contains your key word, you will be able to look at every use of your word in the NT, enabling you to determine the word’s range of meaning.

### 3) DISCOVER THE RANGE OF MEANING

You are now ready to do a word study! Go to the first NT book under “NAS Verse Count” and click on that book. Once the new screen loads, look at the first verse using your key word, and create a concise definition for how your key word is used in that verse. Then write the reference after your definition. If you need to, open to the verse in your Bible and study the surrounding verses to help clarify the meaning.

Now, move to the second verse using your key word. If this verse uses the word in exactly the same way (so that you could use exactly the same definition you just wrote), add its reference behind the first definition. If it uses it in a different way, create a new, concise definition for this new use, and add the reference for this second verse behind your new definition.

Continue to do this for all NT uses of your word. This should create a list of a few definitions, each with one or more references listed with it (see the example below). This list of definitions has defined your key word’s “range of meaning” – the range of possible options for what it could mean in your verse.

#### 4) DECIDE ON YOUR USAGE

Look back to the original verse you are studying. Which of the possible definitions best fits? Here are a couple hints to keep in mind: [a] Give more weight to possible definitions that are used elsewhere by your author. In this case, possible definitions that Paul used in other passages are more likely to fit your verse in question than definitions that only Luke used. [b] It is possible that in your verse Paul uses the word in a unique way that is never used elsewhere in the NT. This is pretty unlikely, but it could happen. If so, try to define exactly what Paul has in mind in your verse and justify why none of the other potential definitions work.

#### 5) SUMMARIZE AND COMPARE (optional)

Create a very short summary definition for the word. This should encapsulate the basic idea of the word in every verse. For example, “death” appears often in the NT in many varied ways. Yet in every case, the basic idea is “lifeless or powerless,” and this would form your basic definition. Compare your categories of meaning to a Greek Lexicon. If you look back at [www.biblestudytools.net](http://www.biblestudytools.net), you will see a lexicon entry for your word on the same page that contained the “NAS Verse List” box. This entry will be under the title “Definition.”

### EXAMPLE WORD STUDY: “fruit” in Philippians 1:11

#### *Define the range of meaning:*

1. Literal “fruit” off of a tree or vine - Mt. 21:34; 1 Cor. 9:7; James 5:18
2. Figurative for Children - Luke 1:42; Acts 2:30
3. Figurative for Godly behavior/character - Mt. 3:8,10; 21:43; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9; Col. 1:10; Heb. 12:11; Js. 3:17,18
4. Figurative for True teaching - Mt. 7:16-21
5. Figurative for Responsiveness to the Gospel - Mt. 13:23
6. Figurative for Converts - Jn. 4:36; 12:24; Rom. 1:13; Phil. 1:22 (results of ministry)
7. Figurative for advantage, gain, profit, benefit - Rom. 6:21,22 (eternal life); Phil. 4:17; Js. 5:7,8 (spiritual benefit)
8. Figurative for Money given as a gift - Rom. 15:28
9. Figurative for Praise to God - Heb. 13:15

#### *Determine the meaning in your verse (Phil 1:11):*

Though Paul uses many of the potential definitions above (even in other verses of Philippians), the third option fits best since this “fruit” consists of righteousness and enables us to be “blameless” when Christ returns.



### 3) BONUS SKILL: MAPPING A PASSAGE

Mapping a passage (or what is often called creating a mechanical layout) is a fantastic way to discover the author's intended meaning and flow of thought. It also will help you answer many of your interpretive questions. The first rule of mapping a passage is: There is not one "right" way! However you create your map, your goal should be to discover the author's flow of thought by graphically laying out the passage. Here are some general rules to follow with examples from Ephesians 1:3-5:

**1)** First, identify the main subject and verb of the first sentence (These form the main clause of your sentence). Write the main clause at the top left of your paper. Think of your map as an outline: This would be your Roman numeral I.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
This is the main clause of Eph. 1:3

**2)** Continue writing out the first sentence, placing any modifying phrases or words directly under the words they modify. A modifying phrase describes something in the main clause – how, why, when, to whom, etc. In an outline, this would be your first subheading.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
↑  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing  
"who" modifies, or is talking about, God in this sentence

**3)** If there are multiple modifiers (several phrases or words all talking about the same thing), line them up underneath each other, under the word or phrase they are modifying.

1:3 ...who has blessed us...  
4 just as He chose us...  
5 ...He predestined us...

Both of the phrases in vv4-5 will have modifiers in your final map, but the phrases themselves should be lined up since they both modify God's act of blessing. This is like the a., b., c. in your outline.

4) Continue writing out the phrases in your sentence, each under whatever word(s) they modify, until you reach the end of the sentence or idea being discussed.

5) Your map will continue moving to the right of your paper until the author begins a new idea. At that point, you would put the next main clause back to the far left of your paper and begin at step one again. Ideally, you should be able to glance down the left side of your paper and see the main ideas of the passage you are mapping.

6) As you work, box all connecting words, and note how they are being used.

1:4 just as He chose us... {AS implies comparison}

### EXAMPLE PASSAGE MAP: Titus 3:3-7

For we also once were foolish ourselves {"for" indicates REASON for 3:1-2}  
disobedient  
deceived  
enslaved to various lusts and pleasures  
spending our life in malice and envy  
hateful  
hating one another  
But He saved us {CONTRAST to our former condition}  
when appeared  
the kindness of God our Savior  
and His love for mankind  
not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness  
but according to His mercy {CONTRAST presents true basis of salvation}  
by the washing of regeneration {HOW he saved us}  
and renewing by the Holy Spirit  
whom He poured out upon us richly  
through Jesus Christ our Savior  
so that we would be made heirs {PURPOSE for His saving us}  
being justified by His grace  
according to the hope of eternal life

### 3) BONUS SKILL: CREATING LISTS

This skill involves identifying a key word, subject, person, place, or event in the passage and then listing every fact given about that word. For example, if you made a list on “God” from 2 Timothy 1, it might look like this:

*God...*

- 1. made Paul an apostle by His will (v1)*
- 2. gives grace, mercy and peace (v2)*
- 3. is the Father (v2)*
- 4. is thanked and served (v3)*
- 5. gives gifts (v6)*
- 6. doesn't give spirit of timidity (v7)*
- 7. gives spirit of power, love, and sound mind (v7)*
- 8. gives power for suffering (v9)*
- 9. saved us (v9)*
- 10. called us (v9)*

As you read this list, what jumps out at you? Perhaps you see that “God gives” is mentioned five times in this list. What a gracious and loving God we serve! You have discovered one of the characteristics of God: His generous grace toward men. By creating these lists, you will begin to see patterns of truth that you will want to study further. For example, this list on God may lead you to do a word study on “give” or find all the other references in Paul’s epistles to God’s giving nature. Furthermore, this list can now be used for meditation, to praise and worship God, to encourage others and to proclaim the character of God to the lost.

One word of caution about lists, however. Just because you are able to create a list centered on a key word, such as “God” in 2 Timothy 1, does not mean that Paul’s main point in the passage is to talk about that key word. Paul’s emphasis in 2 Timothy 1, in fact, is not to discuss attributes about God; it is to encourage Timothy to press on in the ministry of the gospel. So make sure that before you create any lists you complete the initial processes of observation: list themes, mark up the text, and record your most significant observations. However, after these initial tasks, creating lists is a great way to deepen your study of a passage!

## 4) DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

One of the predominant themes throughout the book of 2 Timothy is the priority of spiritual multiplication. This process is often called “discipleship,” and refers to an intentional relationship between a mature believer and a younger believer where the former trains the latter towards the goal of spiritual maturity. Paul’s discipleship of Timothy is one the greatest examples we have of this process in all of Scripture. And like Paul, we too can make a lasting impact for God’s kingdom by spiritually reproducing ourselves in the lives of others.

Going through this Bible study was one of the best steps you could take to prepare you to disciple someone else because now you know how to explain and defend key biblical truths like the gospel, the purpose of suffering, and the hope of eternal reward. Just as important, you have now learned and practiced the basic method of Bible study - survey, observe, interpret, apply, synthesize. These are key steps towards spiritual maturity that you can now pass on to others!

But where can you go from here to learn more about spiritual multiplication? Here are a few helpful resources:

### ❖ ***The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman**

This is a highly motivational analysis of Jesus’ own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

### ❖ ***The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by Leroy Eims**

This very practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

### ❖ ***A Survey of Bible Doctrine* by Charles Ryrie**

This is not a book about discipleship. It is, instead, an easy to read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

### ❖ ***Essentials of the Faith* by Grace Bible Church, CS TX**

This small group Bible study packet walks a new believer through the fundamental truths and practices of the Christian faith in ten self-paced lessons.







Few books communicate the fundamental values and priorities of life with the clarity, power, and conviction of 2 Timothy, the last known letter of the apostle Paul. In this instant classic, one of history's most influential authors teaches us from his own experience about

**the power of the gospel,  
the priority of discipleship,  
and the future reward of faithfulness.**

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### **Rave reviews for Paul's writings:**

"Our beloved brother Paul has illuminated to us God's way of salvation and direction for our lives. His letters are so rich in divine wisdom that one reading will simply not suffice. But persevere in your study of his words, for in them we find God's Word revealed to us."

**THE APOSTLE PETER** (died ca. 64-67), (paraphrase from 2 Peter 3)

"For neither I, nor any other such one, can come up to the wisdom of the blessed and glorified Paul... when absent from you, he wrote you a letter, which, if you carefully study, you will find to be the means of building you up in that faith which has been given you..."

**POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA** (ca. 69- ca. 155), disciple of the apostle John, mentor to Irenaeus, and an important leader of the early church; martyred by fire and sword at the age of 86 (from Epistle to the Philippians ch3)

"For half a century and more I have been a student and teacher of ancient literature, and to no other writer of antiquity have I devoted so much time and attention as to Paul. Nor can I think of any writer, ancient or modern, whose study is so richly rewarding as his."

**F.F. BRUCE** (1910-1990), world-renowned Biblical scholar and author of more than forty commentaries and other widely used books (from Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free p15)

### **The Apostle Paul:**



Named Saul at birth, Paul was a devout Jew and foremost persecutor of the early church until an encounter with the risen Jesus altered his life forever. After becoming a follower of Jesus, he was divinely appointed as God's Apostle to the Gentiles. In this role, he planted numerous churches throughout the Roman empire, carried the gospel as far as Spain, and wrote thirteen enduring letters of our New Testament. Early in his ministry he received the coveted "Right Hand of Fellowship" of the Jerusalem Apostolic Board, and upon death, won the Crown of Life for outstanding faithfulness to one's God-appointed ministry.