

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on June 11, 2017

Combat Manual for the Christian Life - 2

2 Timothy 1:8-14

Questions for PERSONAL GROWTH

Monday: *Shame, shame, shame...* Please read 2 Timothy 1 for context. Now let's focus on verse 8. What two things does Paul exhort Timothy not to be ashamed of? What does it look like when someone is ashamed of the gospel ("testimony of our Lord")? What is the fruit of that? What causes someone to be ashamed of the Lord and His message? And, conversely, what compels someone to overcome that? (See verse 12) And, finally, how would you evaluate your level of bravery / courage in the Lord these days?

Tuesday: *The greatest story...* Our passage this week focuses on the "gospel". Take time out to read Luke 23-24 and get refreshed on the original account of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Using these chapters in Luke, how would you summarize the gospel ("good news") in your own words?

Wednesday: *He saved me...* In the Church, we use the word "saved" often to describe our spiritual condition. But what does it mean? Maybe the closest English word is "rescued". So, from what were we rescued? Please read John 8:24, Ephesians 2:1-4, Colossians 1:13-14, and Romans 8:1 and identify our spiritual condition before we respond to God's grace through Jesus. Can you genuinely say that you have asked God in faith to rescue you from all this?

Thursday: *He called me...* In verse 9, Paul also said that God has "called us with a holy calling". Not just him, but "us" – all of us who believe. Also, from the text, how and why were we called by God? What might be God's purpose for calling you? (see Romans 8:28-30) And, how would you explain God's grace to a friend who is unfamiliar with the concept? (see Ephesians 2:4-9 and Titus 3:3-7)

Friday: *On guard!...* In verses 13 and 14, Paul gives Timothy two commands: "retain" and "guard". Like a treasure, when we are given something of great value, we have a duty to keep and protect it. That's how Paul exhorts us to treat the sound teaching which we have received in the Scriptures. So, how are you doing this in your life? (see 1 Timothy 4:16, Titus 2:1-8, 1 John 1:4) What action steps can you take this week to retain or guard God's holy Word in your life and in your circle of influence?

Questions for GROUP DISCUSSION

- Share a time when you felt embarrassed. Your first car? A grade you received? The prom dress you wore?
- What does being "ashamed" of Jesus look like for today's Christian?
- What is the significance of us, as followers of Jesus, spreading, following, and guarding the gospel?