

2 Timothy: What Matters Most

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2 Timothy 2:8-13

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Discussion and Reflection Guide

Last week Jonathan ended with a question about a vision for our spiritual life in 5-10 years

And a challenge to determine how we would need to live differently to have that life.

*Did you have a chance to reflect on this question? What did your vision look like?

*Which metaphor helped you to identify what kind of work would be helpful for getting there?

Paul is someone who ACTUALLY believed the best news in history was Jesus Christ

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 8-10 (NIV)

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

*What do these verses say about the gospel?

*What can we understand about the important intersection of the gospel and people finding their life in a relationship with him?

Death and rebirth to new life is how we practically live the Christian life

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,

we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure,

we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,

he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless,

he remains faithful,

for he cannot disown himself.

*How have you seen the death/rebirth cycle to be true in your walk with Jesus?

*How has endurance allowed you to experience the Kingdom of God life?

He remains faithful to himself if we deny him

He will faithfully carry out all of his promises even if they feel like threats.

*How do we reconcile these verses with our picture of Jesus radically loving people who are sinful, confused, and lost?

We can trust a God whose defining attribute is love and whose solution to human brokenness is grace

Coercive control can never be part of real love.

*Why are loving relationships voluntary and consensual? How does that fact help us understand some hard Scriptures like these?

*How is this encouraging instead of causing fear about missing out on restored relationship?

Growth is about orienting your life around relationship with the living God

It is not about orienting your life around Christianity or Christian things.

*What makes your relationship with Jesus relational work?

*How is the Spirit leading you to opt into this relationship?

*What reorientation of your life needs to happen around this relationship with Him?