

TRUTHS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

EXCELLENCE: A LIFE LIVED FOR JESUS

2 TIMOTHY 3-4

Memory Verse: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

II Timothy 3:16



2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Man asks "How impressive is your life?", while God asks "How faithful is your life?"
 - 2 Timothy 4:7
 - Paul would be executed a few months after penning this second letter to Timothy. Don't wait until your "last days" to set the example for others to follow or for your life to count for Christ!
- 1. Excellence recognizes counterfeit living: **Character** over **content****
- 2 Timothy 3:2-5
 - What/Who you love determines the excellence or existence of your life. Actions **ALWAYS** reveal heart!
 - Matthew 22:37
 - You must know the transforming power of Jesus Christ, not just the Christian lingo
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - 2 Timothy 3:8
 - Counterfeit faith is one that pursues what people think of us rather than what they know of Jesus!
- 2. Excellence requires consistency between **belief** and **behavior****
- 2 Timothy 3:10
 - Paul set the model for Timothy to follow: Do as I say AND as I do!
 - 2 Timothy 3:14-15
 - Excellence takes the teaching and training from others, and it is adopted as life by the person. Excellence is personal!
 - 2 Timothy 4:2-5
 - Excellence stays true to the Word, even when it goes against the culture of the World
 - **Preach** is the Greek word **keryxon** which means to proclaim as a herald. The Word must be proclaimed as it came from the King, not as if it originated with you!
- 3. Excellence is measured by how we finish: eternity must always be in view**
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

- Excellence is not easily achieved, but it requires a struggle/fight; not against humanity, but against the forces of evil
 - Ephesians 6:12
- Paul fought, finished, and kept the faith! Then it was Timothy's turn. Now, **it's your turn!**
- Here are five steps to take to live a life of excellence for Jesus:
 1. Examine your heart
 2. Establish a daily Word routine
 3. Identify one area of compromise
 4. Invest in one other person
 5. Live today with Eternity in mind

Questions:

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:2-4; Matthew 6:19-21; 22:37-38; 1 John 2:15-17; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Psalm 63:1-8. What does your life reveal that you truly love? What is the difference between enjoying something God has given you (because every good gift is from Him) and loving that thing more than God? How do your calendar, checkbook, entertainment choices reveal your priorities? What would you change if loving Jesus became the ultimate priority in your life?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-14; James 2:14-18; John 15:1-8. What is the difference between religious activity and genuine spiritual transformation? How can someone be around Christianity for years without actually surrendering to Jesus? What evidence should be visible in the life of someone genuinely transformed by Jesus? Where do you need to experience deeper transformation rather than merely greater activity?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:9-11,105; Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:22-25; John 17:17. How does Scripture equip you for excellence? Which of the four functions of Scripture (teaching, reproof, correction, and training) is most needed in your life right now? Why? What is the difference between knowing Scripture and allowing Scripture to govern your life? For the next seven days, write down one truth to believe, one sin to avoid, one command to obey, one person to encourage, and one prayer to pray.
4. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-14; Acts 20:24; Matthew 25:21; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Revelation 2:10. If you were near the end of your life, could you say what Paul said? What does it mean practically to "fight the good fight"? Where are you currently tempted to quit, compromise, or become spiritually complacent? What would Jesus confirm in your life today and what would He call you to change? Write 2 Timothy 4:7 in your own words for your own life.