

## MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, May 11 2021

### Paul's Locker Room Pep Talk

**Overview:** If you ever played organized sports, you may have had a special time before a big game where the coach is trying to give you extra inspiration. Sometimes, these pep talks are full of inspirational wisdom. Sometimes these pep talks are full of shouting aimed to get the adrenaline flowing. Sometimes these pep talks are trying to summon improbable courage. In this letter, Paul is becoming aware that his time on earth is coming to a close. Before his life is taken, he wants to give last instructions to Timothy, his good friend and spiritual mentee. He wants to give Timothy the practical wisdom, courage, and focus on Jesus Christ that Timothy needs in order to serve God and bring glory to the Savior, Christ Jesus.

**Video:** Bible Project | II Timothy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urlvnxCal00>

**Segment Questions:** (References are on back)

*Read II Timothy 1:6:*

*"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you."*

- When Paul refers to this "gift of God" given to Timothy, what gift do you think he might be referring to? What would it mean for Timothy to "fan it into flame"?
- What gift has God given you? What would it take to "fan it into flame"?

*Read II Timothy 1:8:*

*"So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News."*

- What might it look like in your shoes to "share in suffering for the gospel"?

*Read II Timothy 2:2:*

*"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."*

- This verse is a beautifully concise description of discipleship or mentorship. Who are you in a position to pass along a well rooted faith in Jesus Christ? Have you asked the Lord to reveal who you could be a mentor to?

*Read II Timothy 3:14-17:*

*"But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."*

- What does Scripture mean to Paul?
  
- What does Scripture mean to you?

*Read II Timothy 4:1-3*

*"I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear."*

- Why does Paul encourage Timothy to preach the word even when people don't respond?
  
- What does it look like for you to "preach the word" in your day-to-day life?

*Read II Timothy 4:14*

*"Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done."*

- What does this verse say about Paul's desire to get revenge on Alexander?
  
- What does this verse say about what Paul believes about being accountable before God?

#### **Closing Personal Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we live in a stressful time. Many of us feel as though we are grasping for stability in this life. Thank you for the wisdom of Paul to remind us that there is so much more certainty in Christ than in anything in this world. Paul reminds us that we are accountable, ultimately, to You. He reminds us that Your grace, your truth, and your words are full of life and everlasting. Lord, teach us through this book. Teach us to be courageous like a soldier, dedicated like an athlete, and faithful like a farmer in our service to You. Teach us how not to shrink away from Jesus Christ. Teach us how to live in His way and reflect His goodness, humility, and integrity. Amen.