



## *Women's R&R Bible Study 2024-2025*

"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME THE JOY AND REJOICING OF MY HEART."

JEREMIAH 15:16

### **LIVING IN HOPE LESSON 17**

This week we will be studying 2 Timothy chapter 3. After Paul encourages Timothy that his character must be built on truth, he now warns him that there are terrible times ahead. Despite the ungodliness, he must abide in the truth. The Word of God will "equip him for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:17)

Let's examine our hearts as Paul lists some characteristics to watch out for. Let's look at them as in a mirror ... what will we see? I pray we will honestly evaluate our attitudes in the light of God's truth.

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17. How would you title this chapter? What is the main point? Are there any repeated thoughts, words, or phrases?
2. When does Paul say that this will happen? Did he believe Timothy would see this take place?

What does Paul mean by the phrase "the last days"? In the New Testament, this term refers to the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ and will continue until He returns. God is completing His purposes for His people. Homer Kent says, "Within this period of the last days, which was

already extended more than nineteen centuries, shorter ‘season’ will be set in. These will occur from time to time (even during Timothy’s lifetime), but conditions will become progressively worse.” Timothy was living in this grievous time. There will also be “times and seasons” during these last days, and as it gets closer to the return of Christ, things will get worse.

3. Do you think what Paul describes is present in our world today?
4. Is Paul describing unbelievers or those who profess to be Christians?  
How do you know?
5. What two reasons does Paul tell Timothy this, according to verses 1 and 5?
6. List the characteristics that Paul mentions in verses 2-7. How many did you find?
7. Are you surprised by any in this list? Are you convicted by any?
8. “Love” seems to be emphasized. What did men love?
9. What seems to be the root of the problem? (Let me give you a hint ... it starts with a “P”.)
10. God has a lot to say about pride. Look up the following Scriptures. What do they teach us about pride?
  - a. Psalm 12:3
  - b. Psalm 101:5
  - c. Proverbs 6:16-19

- d. Proverbs 13:10
- e. Proverbs 16:18
- f. Proverbs 29:23
- g. Proverbs 16:5
- h. 1 John 2:16
- i. 1 Peter 5:5

11. What do you think is suggested by people who are “disobedient to their parents”?
12. How can being unthankful become a form of rebellion?
13. What does Paul mean when he says, “having a form of godliness, but denying its power”?

The people that Paul was describing actually considered themselves to be religious. They probably went to worship services, sang the hymns with the congregation, and maybe even served in the church. Unfortunately, they had a religious appearance, but not a true conversion. They had “form without power, outward show without inward reality, religion without morals, and faith without works.” (John Stott)

14. Does this describe anyone you know? Maybe it describes you at one time. (It does me!) What is the danger of this?
15. Pride is the result of loving and worshipping yourself. Has pride crept into any area of your life? How can we guard against pride?
16. Whom did these ungodly men prey upon in verses 1-9? Why?

- 17.** What do you think the phrase “loaded down with sins” means?
- 18.** Do you think Paul is saying that only women can be deceived in this way?

“Gullible” was a term of contempt used for women who were idle, silly, and weak. Paul was just using a common expression of the day. These women seem to have been overwhelmed in the guilt of their sin, clutching at any promise of solution. They appeared to be confused, willing to listen to any teacher. Though they were searching for easy answers, they never arrived at the truth.

- 19.** Can you think of an example of this scenario today?
- 20.** Why is it that someone with a conscience heavily burdened with sin can be easily drawn to false teachers?
- 21.** What two men does Paul use as examples of those resisting the truth?
- 22.** According to Jewish commentaries, these men are two of the magicians that tried to defeat Moses in the court of Pharaoh. Read chapter 7 of Exodus. What did the magicians do in this story?

Satan is an imitator. He tries to imitate everything to distract us and draw us away from God. Just as these magicians tried to imitate everything Moses did, the religious leaders had a counterfeit faith, attempting to imitate the truth.

23. Were the magicians' tricks revealed to all? Read Exodus 8:18-19 and 9:11. Will the truth be revealed concerning these false teachers?
24. Read 1 Corinthians 4:5. How is this a comfort?
25. Are you carrying around a burden of guilt, looking for anything to relieve the weight? Look no further. Romans 8:1 tells us that there is "now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." When you confess your sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive you (1 John 1:9). "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." (Isaiah 1:18) **Will you give Him your guilt today?**
26. What does Paul commend Timothy for?
27. Why do you think Paul brings up the persecution he suffered?
28. How would hearing about Paul's persecutions be an encouragement to Timothy?
29. Has the lifestyle of another, especially during hardships, been an encouragement or an example to you? Who, and how?
30. Do you think your manner of life has been an example to someone else? Would you want them to follow your example?

- 31.** Why does he stick verse 12 out there in the middle of the discussion of evil men?
- 32.** Why will all the godly suffer persecution? Read John 15:18-25, James 1:2-4, and 1 Peter 1:6-7 to help with your answer.

The life Paul lived was a testimony for the Lord. The suffering he endured proved his sincerity. The man definitely lived what he preached. He knew that it was only by God's grace and mercy that he could do what he did and endure what he endured. Paul was simply giving the glory to God. Paul had most likely met Timothy on his first missionary journey in Acts 14. These memories were probably very dear to both Paul and Timothy's heart. Again, they could look back and see the faithfulness of God.

- 33.** Can you think of a specific time when you were being persecuted, or going through a heavy trial, and God was incredibly faithful to you? (Was there ever a time He wasn't?) How does that encourage you today?

Paul commended Timothy for what he was doing and urges him to continue.

- 34.** What does Paul exhort Timothy to do in verse 14?
- 35.** Timothy's mom and grandmother taught him Scripture from his childhood (2 Timothy 1:5). What are the Scriptures able to do?

Timothy knew the Bible. He made his confession of faith when he met Paul. His family had laid a great foundation for him. How about you?

**36.** Are you, or have you been, teaching your children the Bible? Have you made the commitment to do that? What are some practical ways you can teach small children the Word? Should we stop when they get older?

**37.** Answer the following questions:

**a.** Where did Scripture come from?

**b.** What is it profitable for?

“Given by inspiration of God” comes from the Greek word “theopneustia,” which means “God-breathed.” The Bible does not **contain** the Word of God, or **become** the Word of God, but it **is** the Word of God. I want you to read this paragraph by John Stott on this section of Scripture: “The Greek single word ‘theopneustos’ would be literally translated ‘God breathed’ and indicates not that Scripture itself or its human authors were breathed into by God, but that Scripture was breathed or breathed out by God. ‘Inspiration’ is doubtless a convenient term to use, but ‘spiration’ or even ‘expiration’ would convey the meaning of the Greek adjective more accurately. Scripture is not to be thought of as already in existence when subsequently God breathed into it, but as itself brought into existence by the breath or Spirit of God. There is no theory or explanation of inspiration here, for no reference is made to the human authors, who (Peter says) ‘moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God’ (2 Peter 1:21). Nevertheless, it is clear from many passages that inspiration, however the process operated, did not destroy the individuality or the active cooperation of the human writers. All that is stated here is the fact of inspiration, that all Scripture is God-breathed. It originated in God’s mind and was communicated from God’s mouth by God’s breath or Spirit. It is therefore rightly termed ‘the Word of God’ for God spoke it.”

- 38.** Do you believe that the Bible is God-breathed? If so, do you seriously take the time to read it, study it, meditate on it, and memorize it?
- 39.** How is the Bible profitable for:
- a. doctrine?
  - b. reproof?
  - c. correction?
  - d. instruction in righteousness?
- 40.** How has God's Word equipped you specifically for good work?
- 41.** The Bible has been called **"the heart of God in the words of God."** (Isn't that a pretty saying?) What exactly does it mean?
- 42.** How can the Word of God equip you for:
- a. marriage?
  - b. motherhood?
  - c. friendships?
  - d. suffering?
  - e. life, in general?

God loves us so much that He wrote a love letter to us. He wants to speak to us daily, minute by minute. Are you spending time listening to Him? He has so much to say. I pray that we would fall in love with His Word, which contains His heart for us.