

No Regrets!

Scripture and Background Information for June 13-19.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we launched our new series, **No Regrets**. This series is a study on Paul's second Epistle to Timothy. When we think about getting to the end of our life, all of us hope we will live in a way that we are able to say that we have no regrets. But how do we get there? As we look at this letter, we see Paul's advice to a young follower of Christ as he urges him in the way he should live so that he will experience just that. Today we will start the series by looking at **2 Timothy 1:6-12**.

Background for 2 Tim 1:6-12:

Paul wrote the letter to his friend and mentee Timothy. 2 Timothy is Paul's last letter, written in a very personal fashion. Paul's situation had changed for the worse as Paul awaits his execution, and Paul is about to give his ministry over to Timothy. 2 Timothy is a letter of charge, instruction, and motivation for Timothy's ministry. Today, our text shows Paul's charge to Timothy not to be ashamed by the Gospel but to embrace it. Paul uses four functional imperatives to charge Timothy to continue his ministry.

Paul starts his first charge at Timothy to live out the gifts he received. For that, he uses a picture of stirring up a fire. He then calls his mentee to participate in the suffering for the Gospel. Many left Paul because of shame for his imprisonment (1:15); others serve as an example in serving Paul (1:18). In the same way, Timothy ought to participate in suffering because God and His message are worth it!

Here are several insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What does the picture of stirring up a fire imply for living out the ministry God gave us? Does "living out our gifts" happen by itself?
2. What is the reason for Paul's willingness to suffer? In what or who did his hope and strength lay?
3. Note, when Paul talks about "God's calling," he is not excluding someone from faith but emphasizing the direction of salvation. God's grace, not human work, saves people.
4. How does Paul describe Jesus Christ as Savior and His work? How does that influence the hope Paul has? Especially when facing suffering? How can that motivate us?

Note: Paul's life was about to end. Nevertheless, he lived a life he believed was worth dying for. Persecution, prison, and death were jeopardies Paul had to live with. Although he faced hardships, Paul knew that losing all for Christ is a life worth living for!

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

June 20-26

2Timothy 2

June 27-July 3

2 Timothy 3