

No Regrets!

Scripture and Background Information for June 20-26.

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 continue our series, **No Regrets**. This series is a study on Paul's last writing, the Epistle to Timothy. The Epistle to Timothy is Paul's encouragement for Timothy to continue pressing on, considering facing persecution and hard times, in his service toward God. Today we will be looking at **2 Timothy 2:1-13**.

Background for 2 Tim 2:1-13:

In 2 Timothy 1, Paul wrote Timothy not to be ashamed of the Gospel because God empowered him with a Spirit of boldness. Paul had two motivations for pressing on in the face of persecution: He knew whom he believed, and he knew that He, Christ, would bring him to His final goal (1:12). Paul was experiencing persecution himself, but knows that believing in Christ brings hardships. Thus, he encourages Timothy to press on in his ministry. Paul uses four imperatives to charge Timothy to be strong, commit others, and endure. The last imperative is reflective and calls Timothy to consider what Paul said (V. 7).

The second portion of our text is the motivation for the previous imperatives. Here, Paul gives the greatest example for suffering, Jesus Christ. Paul calls Timothy to remember Christ, whose power overcame death and whose power lives in us. Also, he shows that he endures suffering because of Christ's faithfulness.

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

1. Paul uses three illustrations to motivate Timothy. What are those illustrative pictures? What are the differences in those illustrations? What is the idea Paul is pressing?
2. Why does Paul call Timothy to remember Jesus Christ? How does Jesus help the believer when facing suffering?
3. How does Paul describe Jesus' faithfulness? How does Christ's faithfulness motivate you?

Note: In Paul's understanding, Christian ministry and suffering rely on the grace that is in Christ Jesus, the example of all suffering. All the following charges rest on that understanding of Christ's grace. Christ never promised to free us from suffering and opposition, but he promised to bring us through it. As believers, we strive for something greater than ourselves, and in that, there are NO regrets!

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

June 27-July 3
July 4-10

2 Timothy 3
2 Timothy 4