

No Regrets!

Scripture and Background Information for July 04-10.

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.

Today we finish up our series, **No Regrets**. In this series, we saw how Paul gave Timothy, his protégé, advice to live a life for God and His kingdom. Again and again, we see Paul encouraging Timothy to press on in his ministry even though he would face persecution and opposition. In summary, Paul shows Timothy that a life lived for God includes No Regret because Christ is worth it. Today we will be looking at **2 Timothy 4:1-8**.

Background for 2 Tim 4:1-8:

Paul encouraged Timothy to press on in his faith because he is involved in a ministry of salvation. Working with the Word of God, Timothy has everything necessary to press on in his ministry. Now, Paul charges Timothy with five imperatives to make use of that Word of God. Again, as already in 3:1-9, Paul shows that people will turn away from God and live after their desires.

Contrary to those people, Timothy ought to be sober and endure the hardship, to fulfill his ministry. Paul finishes his charge by giving Timothy an example of a life that gave everything for Christ's sake, his own. Here, Paul is not proud of himself; rather, his example should encourage Timothy to press on, even though others leave (4:10). Paul shows that his "pouring out" will bring a reward that makes all suffering worthy.

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

1. When Paul charges Timothy to use the Word of God for his ministry, what are the commands for that? How should Timothy fulfill these five commands? Why in that posture?
2. Although not all are called to be preachers, how does this passage apply to all church members? Remember, last week, we learned that ALL Scripture is inspired and profitable (3:16). How do we have to live out this final charge?
3. How does Paul describe the people who turn away from the truth? Note the identical phrases he uses in 2:16-18; 3:1-9. Paul truly summarizes his message in this passage. His conclusion: Oppositions will come but losing your life for Christ is gain!
4. What is it that motivated Paul to pour out his life for the sake of Christ? How does Paul's example motivate us to press on in our ministry?

Note: It seems almost counterproductive to say that people will turn away from God and that Timothy will face opposition (4:3-4), but Paul instructs Timothy to give everything for the ministry. For Paul, life is not about us but for God. Thus, all who live for Him will be awarded by God (4:8,18). Eternal glory makes timely suffering diminish. Giving all for Him diminishes ALL REGRETS! The eternal perspective helps us continue serving God, even when facing opposition.