

2 Timothy
Two Voices, Two Paths, Two Destinies
2 Timothy 3:1-17, Part 1

Home Group Questions

- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and make observations. Now read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Discuss the contrasts.
- Who are some of your favorite Christian pastors/preachers, authors, and artists? How does listening to these voices help you live a gospel saturated and cruciform life?
- Which of the sins in verses 1-5 does our world affirm and/or encourage? Why must we resist the siren call of the world? How can we do it?
- Next week we will think more directly about the difficulty for Christians who are living in the last days, as was Timothy and as are we (2 Timothy 3:12). This week we will focus on the anticipation of Jesus' Second Coming.
 - Our anticipation of Jesus' return is a faith issue. When we received Christ as our Savior, we accepted the truth of Jesus' return. Is it wrong to make our expectation a spiritual discipline? What might that look like?
 - Over-realized eschatology infects many of us. This is an expectation of blessings promised to us in eternity (free from sickness, pain, want, sin) to be ours in this present life. Our primary defense is to listen to the right voice(s). Participating in this home group helps. What else?
- First-century home churches were primarily known as "learning communities." Is that a fair description for GCC? Here are five ways we should interact with Scripture, both corporately and individually:
 - Read – Revelation 1:3
 - Study – 2 Timothy 2:15
 - Memorize – Psalm 119:11
 - Meditate – Joshua 1:8
 - Obey – James 1:22-25
- Pray for your group's missionary!

Application Points from the Sermon

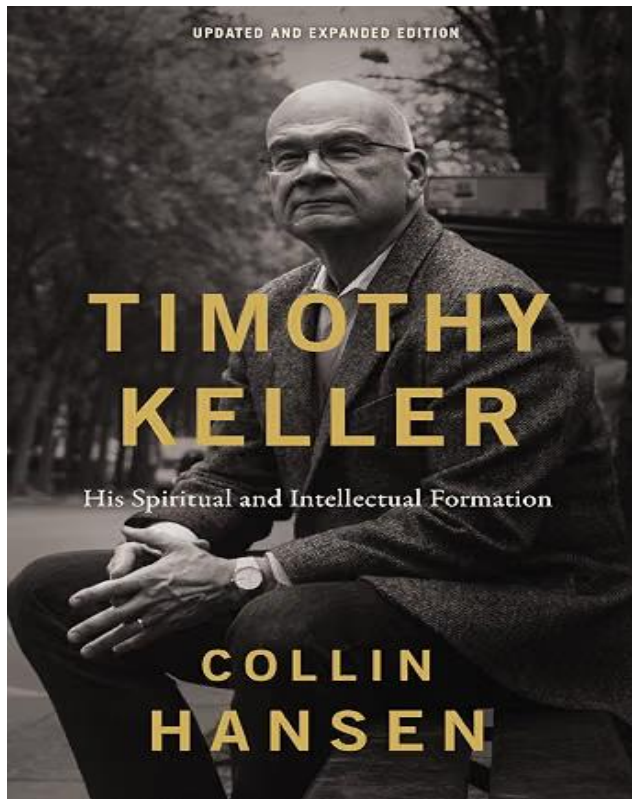
1. The last days are already here – live as though Jesus will return at any moment
2. Protect the unity of our church by protecting the purity of gospel truth, which, when believed, generates personal purity
3. If your faith increases as you grow in your understanding of Scripture, then stay close to God's Word; ask the Lord for a deeper understanding of the Bible

Sermon Notes

The next session of our Grace Connection Class begins next Sunday morning, September 13, at 9:30. If you are considering whether Grace Community Church is the place you should settle or not, Grace Connection is for you. You will learn about what we believe, how our leadership is structured, and what the opportunities for service are.

- Most ministry service opportunities require membership.
- If you regularly attend here, then God has made you a part of our church family, a part of the body. Every part and joint needs to work together for the health of the body. Ephesians 4:11-16
- The classes will run for five consecutive Sundays. The time is 9:30-10:30 so that you can worship in the second service. Childcare is provided.
- If you are a high school student and you have been here all your life, attend Grace Connection when you are 15 years old or older and enjoy full membership status.
- If you are a college student and you determine that this is the church family in which you are supposed to be, it would be far better for you to become a member and participate in family here than simply attend on Sunday mornings.
- Please sign up for Grace Connection classes online.
- One last thing: If you have completed Grace Connection and have not sent in a membership application, we would love it if you would! We will be taking testimonies this coming Wednesday night for those who have completed Grace Connection and have filled out a membership application.

Sign up for Grace Connection Class, September 13-October 11
<https://graceccnc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3696868>



Australian author Claire Smith states that there is a growing body of evidence to confirm that early church congregations were primarily learning communities. They were known, not only for their love for Jesus and others, but as learners. Some, no doubt, were attracted to that feature of the church as many today want to learn English as a second language and are being taught by committed believers. What were these early believers doing? They were exalting the Lord, establishing believers, and engaging the world with the gospel.

Jannes and Jambres are not mentioned in the OT, but they were known in Jewish literature as the magicians who opposed Moses in Pharaoh's Court. They were able to turn what were likely wooden staffs into snakes, turn water into blood, and produce frogs, but by the plague of gnats, they were out of tricks. Paul compared the false teachers in Ephesus to those two men, confidently asserting that they would not go far.

Thomas Oden The threat of apostasy was not attributable externally to "the times" but rather to the distorted wills that were shaping those times. The envioning (surrounding) world was not incapacitating the church; the church was being incapacitated from within by its own unfaithfulness.

Scripture Associated with the Message

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 John 2:18 Children, **it is the last hour**, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, **so now many antichrists have come**. Therefore we know that **it is the last hour**.

2 Timothy 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Corinthians 15:32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? **If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."** 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Ephesians 2:8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.