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

Home Group Questions

- Following the same pattern as last week, read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and make observations. Now read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Discuss ways to make sure you are listening to the proper voices. This discussion might be combined with the next one.

- Who have been the primary spiritual voices/mentors in your life? How did they help you to learn about the Bible and to walk in the ways of the Lord? Is there anyone you are mentoring? Talk about all these relationships. Every believer should have at least one person who is more mature than he is, and one or more people that she is discipling.

    - Pray that God will put people in both categories in your life.
    - Determine to thank those who have had an important role in your spiritual development

- Read the C.S. Lewis quotes below. Discuss the implications of his thoughts about good people and bad people.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 is an important passage for our understanding of the divine nature of Scripture, as is 2 Peter 1:19-21 (see below). How do you think God's perfect Word can come through sinful human beings? The Lord characterizes his Word as "God-breathed." While this is true whether we believe it or not, discuss how you have found the Bible to be different (better, of course) than any other book ever written.

- Read the three stages of the believer's relationship with Scripture as suggested below. Do you agree, or would you characterize this in another way? Where are you, and how has the Lord led you to a deeper understanding, not only of his Word, but also of his ways?

Three Stages in the Believer's Relationship with Scripture

1. Look at what this amazing God has done for me! I can do all things through Christ!

2. Wait – I need to know how the Bible works. There is context for Philippians 4:13.
3. Everything is for God's glory. He has graciously called me into his family, and I am blessed to play a role in *his* story.

Sermon Notes

C.S. Lewis When a man is getting better, he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse, he understands his own badness less and less.

C.S. Lewis Good people know about both good and evil: bad people do not know about either.

Tim Lahaye The Word-filled life ***is*** the Spirit-filled life.

Scripture Associated with the Message

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of **God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,** 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Galatians 1:11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those

who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. 20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." 24 And they glorified God because of me.

Read Acts 9:1-19 to read about Paul's conversion, his blindness, and his healing.

John 9:39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" **41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."**

Acts 14:19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that **through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.** 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!
21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
and shrewd in their own sight!

2 Peter 1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**