2 Timothy
Last Words, Lasting Words
Community Blessings and Challenges
2 Timothy 4:9-22

Home Group Questions

- Our text is 2 Timothy 4:9-22. Most people skip over these sections in NT letters. Remember, this is God's Word! The end of 2 Timothy is different, say, than Colossians 4:7-18. There is much more discouraging news than normal in 2 Timothy, but God's grace is greater than the discouragement! Read the Ten Principles about Church/Kingdom Life in the sermon notes below before reading 2 Timothy 4:9-22.

- Were you more encouraged or discouraged reading the text and the list? Why? Name one principle/truth that encourages you. Name one that challenges you.

- Paul's relationship with Mark over the years should be an encouragement to us. Paul was "disappointed" with Mark's lack of endurance on the first mission trip and refused to allow Mark to go with him on the second trip. Somewhere, though, the rift was healed, and they reestablished their partnership for the gospel. Do you have an example of such a rift that was healed? If you can do so without revealing the person with whom you had conflict, would you share what happened and how God healed your relationship?

- Spend time discussing the application points:

    - Commit to a life-long posture of learning about God and his ways, and of serving Jesus
    - Ask God for the discernment to know when to gently instruct, when to challenge, and when to avoid enemies of the gospel
    - Whatever you do, find Christian community!

- In preparation for our next series, *Echoes of Exodus*, read Psalm 23 and identify Exodus themes in this beautiful and comforting Psalm.

- Pray for your group's missionary.

Sermon Notes

Ten Principles About Church/Kingdom Life

1. In the darkest of our moments, Christian community is vital to our wellbeing
2. Even when our ministry has been interrupted, the Lord's work continues through other believers
3. When you shrink from Christian duty in your life, it does not mean that God is through using you
4. Broken relationships can be healed
5. Keep reading and studying until your final breath
6. Engage some unbelievers with gentleness, challenge others, and avoid some altogether
7. When no one else stands with you, the Lord will stand with you
8. In the darkest of circumstances, recognize the opportunity for gospel ministry
9. Deliverance from evil does not guarantee physical protection
10. God often extends grace to us through Christian community

Scripture Associated with the Message

Acts 13:13 – Mark (who is John Mark – called John, here) leaves early in Paul's first missionary journey.

Acts 15:36-41 – Paul and Barnabas split before Paul's second missionary journey because Barnabas wanted to bring Mark, but Paul considered him a quitter and refused to allow him to go with them on the trip. Barnabas took Mark and went his way, and Paul took Silas and went his way. Good came out of this.

Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11 – Paul speaks favorably about Mark, so the rift was healed.