

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

Family and Culture

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: 2 Timothy 3:1 - 4:5

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What traits will characterize culture in the 'last days?' Which of these are related to the breaking of family? In what ways is this descriptive of our culture?
- What does this passage teach about stopping the breakdown of our families? How can we stem the tide and pass on our faith in a way that will produce a generation strong in the Lord?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Deuteronomy 6:1-25 Titus 2:1-15

Family and Culture

In our day we have witnessed a tremendous breakdown of the family. The divorce rate is sky high, and scores of children are growing up in unstable homes and without either their father or mother. In addition to this, a majority of children who grow up in Christian homes are wandering away from church and their faith as young adults. It is easy to lose heart.

Paul describes a similarly bleak picture of 'last days' culture to Timothy. He does this not to discourage his beloved apprentice, but to give him due warning so that he can be prepared - And now we benefit from his warning and advice. It is easy to see similarities between Paul's dire prediction and our current reality. And so it is good for us to heed his instructions and exhortations as he prepares Timothy to face off against the deceptions of an ungodly culture. What does he tell Timothy to do?

Beginning in 3:14, and extending all the way to 4:5, Paul points to God's Word as the answer, and exhorts Timothy to immerse himself in it and to faithfully pass it on to others. He is to study it, live it, and teach it. He reminds Timothy that he has known the scriptures from a young age. We know that Timothy grew up in an atmosphere soaked in God's Word, as his mother and grandmother (Eunice and Lois) passed on the faith to him (2 Tim 1:5). The Bible is clearly the key to equipping us to withstand the onslaught of a wicked and perverse culture. This culture will seek to turn us and our families away from the simple faith of Jesus. As a matter of survival we are to love, meditate on, and obey the Bible, and we are to pass it on to our children and to others as a matter of first importance. Paul exhorts Timothy,

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. (4:2).

He goes on to warn of the time when people will not want to hear the truth of God's Word. Instead, they will follow teachers who say what they want to hear. Although this is certainly a message to the Church at large, it has definite ramifications for families. Like Eunice and Lois, we need to intentionally and faithfully pass on the great truths of scripture to the next generation, lest they give in to the overwhelming temptations and deceptions that they must face.