BEGINNING

ELEVEN WEEKS OF DAILY RECHARGE

RECHARGE IN THE WORD



AN ELEVEN WEEK STUDY IN

ACTS 21-28

AND

PAUL'S PRISON LETTERS



This book belongs to:

Introduction

"Let me see *clearly* so that I may take in the amazing things coming from Your law."

Psalm 119:18 (VOICE)

We want to thank you for choosing to invest in your spiritual development! It is God's desire for you to grow to be more like His Son each and every day. This booklet will help guide you in your daily walk with God.

"The End of the Beginning," will focus on the last eight chapters of the Book of Acts. We'll spend eleven weeks studying this section of Scripture. Acts 21 begins at the end of Paul's Third Missionary Journey. This passage almost reads like a "Captain's Log" or tour group's itinerary. Paul's final destination is Jerusalem. Pay close attention to the warnings Paul receives about his plans to go there.

Compared to the rest of the Book of Acts, this last section is less of an adventure and more like reading transcripts from a trial. Dig into these passages to see how Paul defends his faith before both friends and adversaries.

The book you hold in your hand has been designed to be your companion throughout this study. Each week contains:

- A page to take notes from each Sunday's sermons,
- A page for notes/prayer needs from your Community Group,
- And follow-up study materials for three days each week.

These study materials are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday; however, you may find that you need to spread out each study over two days, which would give you studies for Monday through Saturday. Each day includes a passage for Bible reading, questions to answer from the reading, and a section for SOAP Journaling.

Day One of the Bible reading plan will be the passage that was preached the day before. Days Two and Three will take you through most of the Prison Epistles written by Paul—Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. We are skipping the letter to the Philippians since we just did an intensive study of that book in the fall. Be sure to consider where Paul is when writing each of these letters. The historical context of a passage gives you greater understanding when you begin SOAPing the passage.

Speaking of SOAPing, many of you are already familiar with the spiritual discipline of SOAP Journaling. For those who are not, we have provided some simple instructions for SOAPing on the next page. Please don't be intimidated by "the blank page"—the goal of SOAPing is to encourage you to think more deeply about the Scripture. As a prompt for those who are unsure what to focus on, there is a suggested passage to SOAP listed for each day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Wade or Pastor John. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily recharge for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

Instructions for **SOAP Journaling**

As we read God's Word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing **daily devotions** re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!

for Scripture

Open your Bible to today's reading on your Bible Reading Plan. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

for Observation

What is God saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the truth of this verse to you. Now write a one or two sentence observation about that verse. What does the verse say? What does it mean?

for Application

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Now write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

for Prayer This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

Don't forget to give your journal entry a title and put it in the Table of Contents. This will help you find it when you want to read it again.

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Sermon Text: Acts 21:1-16

Sermon Notes:

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What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 21:1-16



Questions for Reflection:

The Bible reveals that people loved Paul. How did they show it?
Paul loved Jesus over his own life. How does this challenge me?
Have I, like Paul, received a warning from the Holy Spirit? What was my response?
If I had been there how would I have felt?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Acts 21:13)

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Bible Reading: Colossians 1



Questions for Reflection:

What are P	Paul and	Timothy	nraving	for the	neonle d	of God in	Colossae?
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What motivates this prayerfulness?

What moves you to pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ? Using this passage as a guide, pray for them.

What makes Jesus unique?

What difference does it make that Jesus has supremacy in all things (verse 18)?

Over what sin or struggle in your life do you need to depend more fully on Jesus' supremacy?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date: Bible Text: (Suggested SOAP passage: Colossians 1:9-10)

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Bible Reading: Colossians 2

Questions for Reflection:

How does Paul describe his goals and motivations? (Colossians 1:29)

What is required for someone to become fully mature in Christ?

What have been some of the markers on your road toward maturity in Christ? Thank God for the people and experiences that rooted you and built you up.

How does Paul contrast our life in Christ with a life ruled by human teachings, traditions, and spiritualities?

What happens as we grow fully mature in Christ?

Where are you still in the habit of living as though you belonged to this world? Ask God to help you grow into the full and substantial life he won for you in Christ.

SOAP Journal: Title: Date: Bible Text: (Suggested SOAP passage: Colossians 2:6-7)

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Sermon Text: Acts 21:17-36

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
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What will I do as a result of our study?

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Bible Reading: Acts 21:17-36



Questions for Reflection:

Why did the Jews hate and want to kill Paul?
How did Paul show humility to the leaders?
How did Paul show courage?
In what situations am I challenged to show courage?
How does my tradition and culture obstruct my obedience to Jesus?

SOAP Journal:

Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Acts 21:19-20a)

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Bible Reading: Colossians 3

Questions for Reflection:

What are we to put to death, take off, and put on?

How does Christ enable us to do this?

Which of these virtues and vices stand out to you today? Ask Jesus how you and your faith community can take off those vices and clothe yourselves in those virtues. Write out a prayer to Him below.

Bible Reading: Colossians 4

Questions for Reflection:

What are all the relationships Paul addresses here? (Look back to Colossians 3:18-25 to answer this question.)

How would relationships that follow these principles affect the community of God's people, and how would that community impact outsiders?

As you reflect on your relationships, where could your attitudes and actions be more Christ-like as you relate to your family? To those over or under you? To those inside or outside your faith community?

Sermon Text: Acts 21:37 - 22:24

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
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What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Memory:	Acts 21:37—22:24
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Questions for Reflection:

What was Paul's assignment from Jesus?

What is my assignment from Him?

How can I use my assignment from the Lord to share my story?

How have I treated my assignment from the Lord?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Acts 22:18)

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Bible Reading: Philemon 1



Questions for Reflection:

In what way does Paul commend Philemon in the first seven verses? Why do you think he did this?

What did Paul say to Philemon in verses 8-10 to prepare him for the forthcoming request? What affect did Paul's commendation have on Philemon's response to Paul's request?

Who is Onesimus and what did he do? What is Paul asking Philemon to do in regard to Onesimus?

Given Paul's concern and need for Onesimus, why does Paul choose to send him back to Philemon? Why do you think this is important?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Philemon 1:6)

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Bible Reading: Ephesians 1



Questions for Reflection:

In verses 1-2, Paul wants his readers to consider deeply who they are. How do you define yourself? In thirty words (the same number of words Paul used in the original Greek), try to write down your identity...

Paul starts his letter to the Ephesian Christians with a eulogy to God – he wants people to know that 'God is good!' How have you experienced 'God is good' as Paul outlines here?

Paul is in prison and can do little else for the Ephesians other than pray. How might this prayer affect the way you consider yourself, as you drive home from work, see the family, eat dinner, and wake up?

How might you use the content of this prayer to pray for three people you know this week?

Sermon Text: Acts 22:22 - 23:11

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
Location:	Date:
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What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 22:22—23:11

Questions for Reflection:

What tactics did Paul use toward the crowd and the authorities? Why?

If I had been part of the crowd, how would I have responded to Paul?

Why were Jesus' words so important and needed?

How does Paul's faith and courage strengthen me?

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2

Questions for Reflection:

What is so significant about how Christians have been changed from 'corpses' to people 'holy and blameless,' able to sit in God's presence?

We all live life vertically and horizontally, that is how our identity works. Vertically, our identity describes where we stand in relation to God. Horizontally, our identity describes where we stand in relation to other humans. Vertically in Christ, Christians are now able to dwell with God. This means, horizontally we are able to dwell uniquely with other humans; in particular, others 'in Christ'.

Think about God's people – how might we best express what this 'new humanity' looks like as we meet together?

Bible Reading: Ephesians 3

Questions for Reflection:

History is about God's plan to bring the entire world to right standing 'in Christ.' That includes people from every nation, tribe and tongue reconciled to God and each other, 'in Christ.' When this happens in the church here and in the future, what is God shown to be (vs.8-12)?

Think about the people you meet with at church – how do you display the 'multi-faceted wisdom of God'?

Paul's prayer is for the Ephesians to grasp the magnitude of God's love; the very same love that moved them from corpse to Christian (vs.17-19). The whole point of this prayer is so that God's mob can display God to the world (vs.19). The prayer is so big that we need to be reminded of the bigness of God – he can do so much more than anything we can imagine (vs.20-21). Take a moment to just read, and re-read, this prayer a few times. Compare it with so many prayers we offer and hear. Consider again how immense it is!

Sermon Text: Acts 23:12-35

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
Location:	Date:
Prayer Requests:	
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Scripture References:	
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What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 23:12-35

Questions for Reflection:

How did the Lord use others to protect Paul? How does this make me feel about the Lord's care for me?

If I had been in Paul's situation, how would I have felt?

Where have I been persecuted in the past? How did I respond?

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4

Questions for Reflection:

Each of us has a unique walk. Our walk reveals a lot about who we are: think of a shearer, a fencer, a stockman. It is no mistake when Paul starts to apply our identity as God's people in practical terms, that he chooses the word 'walk' (4:1; 4:17; 5:2; 5:8; 5:15). In fact, the whole focus of Ephesians 4-6 is to apply to our daily walk all that we are—our identity—as we have learned in Ephesians 1-3.

We are often not conscious of how we walk. This day, try to be self-conscious and self-reflective about your walk. How is it displaying your unique identity as one of Jesus' followers?

Look through the eleven commands in verses 25-32. Pick one that is particularly relevant to you. Using the lens of verses 22-24, unpack what this new walk might look like.

What was the old way? How has God's Word renewed your mind in this area? What is the new way of walking?

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5

Questions for Reflection:

Why, when God's love is so significant in our lives, do you think we chase after counterfeit and perverted loves? How might we walk better in thankfulness for that love?

What is the difference between 'walking' as children of light or being obnoxious? What is the point of the walk of the children of light?

Take one of those '-ing' words of verses 19-20, and spend some time writing down what that might look like for you as you spend time with God this week.

SOAP Journal: Title: Date: Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Ephesians 5:15-16)

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Sermon Text: Acts 24:1-27

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
Location:	Date:
Prayer Requests:	
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Scripture References:	
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What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 24:1-27

Questions for Reflection:

Why did Paul say he was on trial?

How did Paul combine his defense and his witness for Jesus?

Why was Felix afraid?

How does Paul's message to Felix challenge me?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date: Bible Text: (Suggested SOAP passage: Acts 24:20-21)

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Bible Reading: Ephesians 6

Questions for Reflection:

Pick one of those three relationships described in the passage and write down three ways in which mutual love and submission could be displayed by you.

There are seven tools mentioned here: belt, armor, sandals, shield, helmet, sword, and prayer. In the next seven days, read the reference to each and write down one way you will use that tool on that today.

SOAP Journal: Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Ephesians 6:10-11)

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Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 1



Questions for Reflection:

What problems are plaguing the church Timothy pastors in Ephesus? (see also 4:1-3; 6:3-5)

Considering this situation, what does Paul ask Timothy to do? How is Timothy's goal different than the goal of the false teachers?

How does Paul establish his spiritual authority without coming across as being proud?

What does Paul say about who he was before Christ and how God has changed him since encountering Christ?

How would you describe your life before you followed Christ? How has your life changed since then?

Sermon Text: Acts 25:1-27

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
Location:	Date:
Prayer Requests:	
Lesson Topic:	
Scripture References:	
Lesson Notes	
Lesson Notes:	

What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 25:1-27

Questions for Reflection:

What did Paul's appeal to Caesar accomplish?

What did Felix say the charges against Paul were?

Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date: Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Acts 25:11-12)

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Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 2

Questions for Reflection:

For whom—specifically—did Paul encourage Timothy to pray? What was he to pray for them?

What is Jesus' role in our prayer lives? Why is that important?

What do verses 8-10 teach about the proper attitude toward worship?

The word translated as "quietly" in verse 11 and as "quiet" in verse 12 does not mean complete silence or no talking. It is clearly used elsewhere (Acts 22:2; 2 Thess. 3:12) to mean "settled down, undisturbed, not unruly." There is a different Greek word that means "to be silent." Why is it important for women to adhere to this teaching? (cf. Ephesians 5:22-28 where Paul was writing to the same church)

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 3

Questions for Reflection:

In this section, Paul explains two levels of leadership within the church. In verses 1-7, he is speaking about the requirements to become a pastor or overseer. In verses 8-13, he is speaking about the requirements of a deacon. How would you compare and contrast the requirements of those who are pastors/overseers to those who are deacons?

Bearing in mind the problem the church in Ephesus had with false teachers, why is Timothy given a list of qualifications for leadership in the church? What, if anything, is distinctly Christian about this list?

Although applied specifically to church leaders, why are these qualities important for all believers?

What truths do we learn about Jesus in verse 16?

Sermon Text: Acts 26:1-32

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
Location:	Date:
Prayer Requests:	
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Scripture References:	
Lesson Notes:	

What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 26

Questions for Reflection:

What was Paul charged with and how did he respond to the charges?

How did Paul combine his defense with his testimony?

What was Paul's prayer for the King and all who were listening to him?

How does Paul's response challenge me?

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4

Questions for Reflection:

What does the Spirit say will happen "in later times"? How do you see this happening in today's world?

In verse 7, Paul encouraged Timothy to train himself for godliness. He then explains how he is to train himself for godliness in verses 11-16. List as many "spiritual disciplines/exercises" that Timothy was told to do to become more godly in his day-to-day life. (There are more than 10 here.)

If you were to design a "spiritual fitness" program comparable to a physical fitness program, what would it consist of?

What are you doing each day to train yourself to be more like Christ? How will you incorporate some of the disciplines listed here into your daily routine?

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 5

Questions for Reflection:

Who does Paul mention in verses 1-3? How are we to treat the different ones that he mentioned?

What seems to be the problem with different groups of widows in the church at Ephesus (consider verses 4-8, 9-10, & 11-15)? What does Paul teach them to do in order to avoid abuses in their benevolent care? What responsibility do family members have toward the widows in their family?

How would you evaluate what our church is doing to help those in need? Who can we identify as people who are in need? How should we help them?

What blessing is to be given to church leaders who serve the church well (verses 17-19)? What action is to be taken toward church leaders who do NOT serve the church well (verse 20)?

SOAP Journal:

Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: 1 Timothy 5:20)

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Sermon Text: Acts 27:1-44

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Scripture References:	
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What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 27:1-44

Questions for Reflection:

What do I think Luke was	feeling while	on the journe	ey with Paul?

If I were with Paul, how would I feel about the journey?

Paul spoke and acted with confidence. Why?

How would I have received Paul's word if I was a sailor on that ship?

How can I encourage others in dire situations?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: Acts 27:31)

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Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 6

Questions for Reflection:

Why does Paul warn Timothy about false teachings? How does Paul describe the character and goals of false teachers?

What is the "great gain" that Paul refers to when someone has "godliness with contentment"? How does the "love of money" affect people?

What is Timothy told to run away from? What is he to pursue? What does it mean to pursue these qualities?

What does Paul's "fight" imagery tell you about the nature of the Christian life?

Who is functioning as a "Paul" in your life, someone who serves as a spiritual guide and authority in your life? Who is a "Timothy" in your life, someone for whom you can be a "Paul"?

Bible Reading: Titus 1:1—2:8



Questions for Reflection:

Paul spent much of his time writing to younger leaders to encourage, equip, correct, and impart wisdom. He tasked Titus to raise up church leaders in each town on the island of Crete, and he gave him clear guidelines about the kind of leaders he needed to look for. How are these guidelines similar and different from the list given to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:1-7)?

Are these qualities focused more on "being" or "doing"? Why do you think that is so?

Of the qualities listed in verses 7-9, which do you want to develop in yourself? How will you do that?

What qualities is Titus to teach to various groups (2:1-6)? What teaching methods is he instructed to use to implant these attitudes and actions (2:7-8)?

How many times is "self-control" mentioned in Titus 2:1-8? Why is this significant?

Sermon Text: Acts 28:1-10

Sermon Notes:

Community Group: Location:	Date:	
Prayer Requests:		
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Lesson Notes:		

What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: Acts 28:1-10

Questions for Reflection:

What happened to Paul when he was bitten by a poisonous snake? What affect did this have on the islanders?

Paul had a heart to help the islanders. How did he help them and what were the results?

Why did Paul call the leaders of the Jews together when he arrived in Rome? What was Paul's message to the Jews?

What did Paul preach and teach for two years?

What impact has Paul's life made on me?

Bible Reading: Titus 2:9—3:15

Questions for Reflection:

According to verses 11-13, what is the result of salvation in the present-day life of the believer?

In what ways do you see this in your life? How are you failing in this area?

At the end of chapter 2, Paul says "These, then, are the things you should teach." To what is he referring? (Hint: you might have to look back through the whole letter.)

In the politically charged society in which we live, how should we carry out the instructions given in Titus 3:1-2? How will this affect our daily conversations? How will this affect our social media accounts?

Why do we need to be reminded about who we were before trusting in Jesus as Savior?

In Titus 3:4-7, what can you learn about God's work in us and His purpose for us? What should we stress in our lives and what should we avoid?

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 1



Questions for Reflection:

What do Paul's emotions, in verses 3-4, reveal about his relationship with Timothy?

What is Paul telling Timothy to do and why is he telling him this?

- 1:6 -
- 1:8 -
- 1:13-14-

What does the example with Onesiphorus teach us?

Have you ever felt like everyone deserted you like Paul described in verse 15? Was there someone who "refreshed" you by being there or doing something for You? Who?

To whom could you be an encouragement to—be an "Onesiphorus"?

Sermon Text: Acts 28:11-31

Sermon Notes:

Community Group:	
Location:	Date:
Prayer Requests:	
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Scripture References:	
Lesson Notes:	

What will I do as a result of our study?

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 2

Questions for Reflection:

What does Paul mean in verse 1 when he says, "be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus"? What does this way of living have in common with a soldier? ...an athlete? ...a farmer?

What principle of lasting effective disciple-making does verse 2 convey? How are you putting this into practice in your life?

What does the image of an approved "worker" (v. 15) add to the way Timothy should live? How about the image of "gold and silver" articles (v. 20-21)?

Once again (cf. 1 Timothy 6), Timothy is told to run away from some things and run to others. What is he told to flee? ... to pursue?

How well are you doing in running away from bad things and running toward that which is good?

SOAP Journal: Title: Date: Bible Text: (Suggested SOAP passage: 2 Timothy 2:22-23)

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March 24, 2021

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3

Questions for Reflection:

How does Paul describe people living in the "last days"?

Which of these vices do you struggle with personally? Do you want to change this in your life?

Who are "Jannes and Jambres" that are mentioned here? (cf. Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:7, 18). How do they reveal what Paul means by "having a form of godliness"? Why are they so dangerous?

Who was your best teacher ever? How have you tried to imitate them?

In verse 10, how does Paul describe his relationship with Timothy? Do you think Timothy tried to imitate Paul?

Is persecution the result of living a godly life? What did Jesus say about this in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:10-12)? Do you find this truth to be difficult to accept?

How does verse 16 describe the Word of God? For what is it profitable?

SOAP Journal:

Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: 2 Timothy 3:12)

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Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 4

Questions for Reflection:

What is Timothy told to do in verses 1-2? Describe each one.

Why is the temptation to tell people what they want to hear (rather than what they need to hear) especially strong for those who preach the Word? What "myths" about Jesus are prevalent in so-called churches today?

What is Paul's practical advice in verse 5? What is Paul's attitude toward death? What does he look forward to? What is Timothy's motivation for following Paul's advice in verses 6-8?

How does Paul describe the situation he was facing as a prisoner in Rome? When you consider your situation in comparison to Paul's, how does it make you feel knowing how discontent people seem to be in today's world? How will this understanding change the way you act and think?

SOAP Journal:

Title: Date:

Bible Text:

(Suggested SOAP passage: 2 Timothy 4:3-4)

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Notes...

