

Taking it Home

- Understanding when to avoid religious imposters requires a comprehensive reading of 2 Timothy. Timothy is told in chapter 2 to persevere and teach so that some will be delivered from the snares of the devil. At the same time, we are to avoid those who are imposters defined by self-love. How do you process the tension of wanting to avoid all who do evil and those who are imposters?

- Jesus had a lot to say about love and money. The misdirected love of money produces all kinds of problems, as does love of self, and love of pleasure. Can you identify with any of these temptations? How do you battle to maintain a love for God above these misdirected loves? Mark 10:17-27 may be helpful here.

- In light of Mathew 22:37-39, what does healthy self-love look like?

- What are the voices, worldviews, philosophies that influence against the truth? What forces are influencing your friends, your spouse, your kids? Who are those who are worming your way into your home?

Verse for Memory

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Recommended Resources

- *The Search for Significance* by Robert McGee

Living the Legacy You Want to Leave
Trusting Christ in Difficult Times
2 Timothy 3:1-9

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Bethel Church
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Trusting Christ in Difficult Times

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, the At Home Study Guide, and a podcast of sermons with study guide, visit www.bethelc.com.

At Home Study Guide

For the week of November 1, 2015

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Quick Review

The apostle Paul sent this last letter to Timothy to encourage him to remain faithful. Persecution from those outside the church was increasing. Imposters in the church were creating problems for the young pastor. Paul reminds Timothy that the first and greatest commandment to love God with all that he is will be the only love that satisfies. This love for God will prove itself fruitful in time. For those who love themselves, love their money, and love pleasure more than God, this too will also be proved in time. Like the sorcerers who opposed Moses, those who stand against God in this age will be proved false. To stand against the revealed truth of God is to stand in a long line of those destined for destruction. But, love for God will be proved as we seek to rescue those ensnared by the devil and avoiding those imposters who claim Jesus but live in opposition to His love.

My Story

- What surprised you or stood out to you most from the message on Sunday?

- Is it wrong to love yourself? Why or why not?

- When you think of imposters for Christ, who comes to mind? What character qualities evidence they don't really know Jesus?

Growing Deeper

- Identify the four loves that Paul writes about in 2 Timothy 3:1-9. How do the first three compete with the fourth? What does that have to do with 1 Timothy 6:9-10?

- Contrast 2 Timothy 3:8 with 2 Timothy 2:15. What are the qualities that lead to one being approved or rejected?

- Read Psalm 73. How is Psalm 73 a comfort to those experiencing the reality of 2 Timothy 3:8-9? What about this psalm do you find particularly encouraging?

- The letter of Romans serves as a missionary letter preparing the church in Rome for a day when they would meet Paul. At the time of 2 Timothy, Paul is jailed in Rome awaiting death. How does the instruction from Romans 12:1-2 provide a solution to the misdirected loves of 2 Timothy 3:1-9?