



Don't Go With the Flow | Doug Wekenman | 6.18.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Pastor Doug lovingly challenged us to look inward at our own lives as we apply the lessons found in 2 Timothy Chapter 3. As our world grows increasingly difficult to navigate, scripture calls us to stand up against the strong currents of worldly influence and commit to training ourselves up in righteousness, living with poise, integrity and courage. God never promised a stormless life but if we fix our eyes on Jesus we can walk through each season of life being led by His presence. What are you doing to train yourself up in righteousness as the day draws near?

GROW

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Despite the fact that Paul wrote 2 Timothy 3 around 2,000 years ago, reading verses 1-5 should appear shockingly similar to what we're witnessing in our culture today. Doug highlighted the difficulty we experience as Christians living in the world and trying to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus while floating in the strong currents of cultural norms. While some individuals have intentionally walked away from faith in pursuit of acceptance from the world, we're all at risk of inadvertently being swept away from the good plans God has for us when distractions and our desire to fit in with the world draw our attention away from Him. This conviction isn't intended to shame or condemn anyone, it's a loving attempt to pull us out of the noise that grabbed our attention and give us the opportunity to re-engage with the source that gives us life.

What attributes from verses 2-5 do you struggle with? Are there others that aren't listed?

With your group list the antonyms of the attributes Paul lists in verses 2-5. How would the world look different if those were more prevalent in our world?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

While the first half of 2 Timothy 3 is filled with the shortcomings of humanity, Paul provides hope and guidance to us during difficult times in the second half, commending Timothy for his faithfulness. Taken at face value, each individual trait is positive on its own, but when utilized together they empower disciples of Jesus to become powerful agents of change for the kingdom of God. Timothy utilized the “teachings” of Paul (knowledge) to influence his “conduct” in a specific “direction” (vision) through his “faith” which was the blueprint that Paul followed that allowed him to endure every obstacle he faced.

What “good work” is the Lord calling you to this season? How is He equipping you? What else do you need to feel equipped for your calling?

When was the last time you had to “endure” something? What was the driving force that kept you going?

M O V E

Take a moment and think about the culture and environment you live in. What aspect of culture has you drifting away from where God wants you to be? How long were you drifting away before you noticed?

How can you incorporate poise, integrity and courage into your faith?

What do you need to do to stop living with one foot in culture and one foot in the kingdom?

P R A Y

Pray for God to help shape the foundation of your faith by showing you how to use knowledge, wisdom and discernment to influence how you conduct yourself. Pray for vision and direction in which your faith and conduct can be intentionally practiced with poise, integrity and courage. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal which areas of culture are pulling you away from the kingdom and pray for guidance and direction as you realign your heart with God.