

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy 2:22 – 3:9

QUESTION 1

Begin this time by reading these verses out loud as a group. **2 Timothy 2:22-3:9 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

²³ **Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.**

²⁴ **And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.**

²⁵ **Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,** ²⁶ **and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**

3 ¹ **But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.** ² **People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,** ³ **without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,** ⁴ **treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—** ⁵ **having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.** ⁶ **They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,** ⁷ **always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.** ⁸ **Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.** ⁹ **But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.** Each member of the group, please share one thing that stands out to you from the scripture.

QUESTION 2

Paul begins this section with some very specific instructions for Timothy. I see at least seven direct commands in this verse. Please take a moment to identify them and then discuss them. Which of these direct commands is especially relevant to your life right now? **2 Timothy 2:22-24 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.** ²³ **Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.** ²⁴ **And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.**

QUESTION 3

Paul gets very specific about how we should interact with people whom we might consider opponents. These could include people that we disagree with or even people who oppose us because of our faith in Christ. **2 Timothy 2:25-26**

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. What experience do you have with gently instructing people that you disagree with? How successful do you think gentle instruction is versus ignoring opponents or harshly addressing them? Christians seem to talk a lot about God's will; verse 26 lets us know that the devil is actively working so that his will might be done. What are your thoughts on that specifically? Tell the story of a time when you observed the will of the devil being done by yourself or someone else.

QUESTION 4

Chapter three begins with some disturbing thoughts. **2 Timothy 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.** Take a moment to process these five verses as a group. Do you think these descriptions of the terrible times in the last days could be describing our time? Which of these descriptions is a personal temptation for you?