

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy 4:1-8

QUESTION 1

Begin this time by reading these verses out loud as a group. **2 Timothy 4:1-8 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. ⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.** Each member of the group, please share one thing that stands out to you from the scripture.

QUESTION 2

While we know we're reading a letter from Paul to Timothy, we also understand that the teaching contained in this letter relates to everyone who follows Christ. As a group, talk through verses one and two. **2 Timothy 4:1-2 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.** How do you personalize the command to preach the word? What does it mean to you to be prepared in season and out of season? What do you see in the relationship between correcting, rebuking, and encouraging? Do you see value in receiving instruction carefully given with great patience?

QUESTION 3

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. Take a moment to process these two verses.

QUESTION 4

2 Timothy 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. This verse contains four direct commands. Discuss as a group the importance of maintaining composure in all situations. Discuss briefly the situations that are most challenging for you to remain calm and composed. The second command is to endure hardship. What hardships are you currently enduring? The third command is to do the work of an evangelist. All who are in Christ are called through our words and actions to share our faith in Christ with those who do not know him. Are you? If so, how?

QUESTION 5

Paul believes he will soon die. Here are his thoughts on death: **2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.** These verses divide into two sections. The first section is how Paul processes his life in ministry. This is seen primarily in verse seven. I find these words very inspiring. What do you think?

The second section outlines Paul's expectation of what will happen when his life ends: he will receive an eternal reward, specifically the crown of righteousness. This is the only instance in the New Testament that refers to this specific type of crown. Other crowns include the imperishable crown (**1 Corinthians 9:24–25**), crown of rejoicing (**1 Thessalonians**), crown of life (**James 1:12; Revelation 2:10**), and crown of glory (**1 Peter 5:4**). This crown of righteousness would come from the "righteous judge" (also **Psalms 7:11**). Paul adds that the crown of righteousness is for him and also "**all who have longed for his appearing.**" Any faithful believer has the potential to receive this particular crown. How does verse eight impact you?