



Read the entire
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

Guide #10

Weeks 37-40
Colossians Chapter 3
to 2 Corinthians 4



NEW HORIZON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #37: COLOSSIANS CHAPTERS 3-4; 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTERS 1-3

Chapter 3

1. In vs.12-14, Paul instructs Christ followers to practice these traits: *"compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and above all these, love."* Which of these come more easily for you? Which ones do you struggle with?
2. We are called to work "with all our heart" at whatever we do, as if we are working for God (vs.23). In what ways do you feel your daily work glorifies God?

Chapter 4

1. Vs.2 calls us to "devoted prayer." When do you find yourselves most & least prayerful? What steps will you take to become more intentional about daily prayer?
2. Our grace-filled and wise words are a witness of our relationship with Christ (vs.5-6). In what ways do your conversations reflect Jesus? In what ways do you need to adjust your speaking to glorify God?

I Thessalonians—After only three weeks of preaching in Thessalonica, Paul was forced to flee due to mob violence. In that brief period he taught the new church about the Second Coming of Christ, how to live in light of Christ's return, and prepared them for the coming persecution. Later, he sent Timothy to check on new converts and their progress. He wrote this letter to encourage this young church and clarify some misunderstandings.

Chapter 1

1. Paul demonstrates how believers can pray for other Christ-followers (vs.2-3). How can you pray for other believers today?
2. The new believers at Thessalonica were vocal about their faith (vs.7-8). How free and comfortable are you to speak of your faith in Christ? Do your family members and co-workers know? In what way might you make your faith known to others today?
3. From what "idols" have you turned in following Christ—money, power, possessions, etc. (vs.9)? What else might serve as an idol in your life today?

Chapter 2

1. Paul determined to please God rather than other people (v.4). When are you driven by the need to please others? When are you tempted to compromise your faith in pleasing others?
2. Paul is thankful that his audience listened to and received accepted "God's Word"—His promises, truths and leadership (vs.13). In what ways do you hear God's Word? In what ways

have you received from God's Word? What effect has God's Word had on your life?

3. In vs. 18, Paul acknowledges that Satan can be a hindrance. Have you ever sensed this kind of interference? What were the circumstances? How did God ultimately prevail for you?

Chapter 3

1. Paul tells believers that we are destined to suffer afflictions for our faith (vs.3-4). How have you experienced difficulties, trials or negativity from others because of your faith in Christ?
2. Paul prays that the God will cause his readers to "increase and overflow" in their love for one another (vs.12). As you pray, in what circumstances do you struggle to love others? In what ways might God increase His love in you?

WEEK #38: 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTERS 4-5; 2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTERS 1-3

Chapter 4

1. As Christ-followers, we have hope in a resurrection that unbelievers do not (vs.13-14). When has this truth been a comfort to you in a time of loss? When have you been able to offer others this hope during their loss?
2. Paul says that when Jesus returns, all believers, living and dead, will be gathered up and will forever be with the Lord (vs.16-17). How does the notion of Christ's return strike you? By faith in Christ, do you sense an assurance that you will be with Him upon His return?

Chapter 5

1. Christ-followers are called "children of light" and "children of the day;" we do not belong to "the night" or to "the darkness" (vs.5). Do you sense that, by faith in Christ, He has brought you out of darkness into light? What are examples of each?
1. Vs.9 teaches, *"God has not destined us to suffer His wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Do you sense that, by faith in Christ, you will be spared God's wrath in judgment? How do you demonstrate your gratitude?
2. Vs.16-18 offer a means of staying the course in Christ. Today, in what do you rejoice? For whom are you praying? For what do you give thanks?

II Thessalonians—Paul had recently written to the young church in Thessalonica (the Book of 1 Thessalonians). Due to mounting persecution and misunderstandings about Christ's return, Paul wrote this second, clarifying letter. Some had abandoned normal daily pursuits to await Christ's Second Coming. Paul outlines the events that must take place prior to Christ's return. He describes Christ's return, and calls believers to responsible Christian living as they wait for their Savior.

Chapter 1

1. As Paul begins his letter to the Thessalonians, he is boasting about their faith and perseverance (vs.4). In whom do you see tremendous faith and perseverance? In what ways might your faith and perseverance be known to others?

2. In vs.11, Paul prays that God would strengthen believers to achieve all the good they intend. What intentions do you have to serve God and others? How might God help you do so?

Chapter 2

1. Paul teaches that Jesus' return will follow an uptick in lawlessness, wickedness and deception (vs.3-8). Spooky. Do you have confidence that Jesus will prevail? Do you trust Jesus to see you through? Do you sense your need to stay close to Jesus as His coming approaches?
2. In this chapter about the evils of our world that oppose God, we are called to "stand fast" in the teachings of Christ (vs.15). What are some teachings of Christ that offer you assurance in a difficult world?

Chapter 3

1. The threat of opposition only encourages Paul to spread the Gospel (vs.1-3). For whom do you have concern as you consider Christ's return? How is God leading you to be a part of furthering the Good News of Christ today?
2. "Never tire in doing what is good" (v.13). It's easy to slack or give up in the tough times. When have you been tempted to throw in the towel? In what ways do you need to stand faithfully today?

WEEK #39: 1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 1-5

1 Timothy—Along with 2 Timothy and Titus, 1 Timothy is one of Paul's "pastoral" letters, containing principles for the care of local churches. With the deep affection of a mentor to a disciple, Paul writes to encourage and instruct Timothy, a young church leader, concerning ministry and Christian lifestyle. Paul entreats his trusted co-worker to lead the church in faithful ministry. Paul's wise, practical counsel applies to all who serve in Christ's church.

Chapter 1

1. Paul points to his own life as an example of how God can use unlikely people to serve Him (vs.12-14). In what ways are you undeserving of God's grace? In what ways does God use you in spite of these things?
2. When Paul remembers God's mercy, he erupts in praise (vs.15-17). How has God shown you mercy recently? How do you offer God praise in return?
3. Paul charges Timothy to "fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience." (vs. 18-19) What battles are you presently fighting related to your faith? What helps you hold to your faith in the face of hardships and temptations?

Chapter 2

1. Paul calls us to pray our leaders and those in positions of authority (vs.1-2). When do you pray for your leaders? How can we pray for them even when we disagree?
2. God desires everyone to be saved and know the truth of His love (vs.3-4). Do you share His desire for all to know Christ? How are you a part of helping others know Christ?

3. Paul teaches that Jesus serves as our "mediator" before God (vs.5). What does that mean for you? In what ways do you suppose Jesus is appealing to the Father on your behalf?

Chapter 3

1. In the first half of chapter 3, Paul gives guidelines for selecting church leaders and servants. What are your strengths and weaknesses for serving Christ's church? In what ways do you serve Christ's church? In what ways would you *like* to serve Christ's church? How can you pursue these interests?
2. Paul ends chapter 3 with "the mystery of Godliness" as seen in the life, death and Resurrection of Christ. In what ways does Christ remain a mystery to you? Are you able to believe on Christ, even in light of these mysteries?

Chapter 4

1. Paul acknowledges the importance of physical fitness, but calls us to give greater attention to spiritual training (vs.8). How do you care for your physical and spiritual fitness? Which receives more attention?
2. Timothy is instructed to teach by the example of his life (vs.11-12). How can you become a better example in each of the areas listed in this passage?
3. Paul calls Timothy to persevere in serving God "so that everyone may see your progress" (vs.13-16). What spiritual growth do you recognize in yourself? What evidence of spiritual growth do you suppose others see in you?

Chapter 5

1. Paul tells Timothy to encourage elders as though they were a father or mother, and younger people as if they were brothers and sisters (vs. 1-2). How have you encouraged others in their faith? Who could benefit from your encouragement right now?
2. Paul gives instructions regarding our treatment of family members (vs.4,8,16). To whom in your family do you need to offer greater love, understanding and care?
3. Both sins and good deeds are visible to others (vs.24-25). When have others witnessed your shortcomings? Your good deeds? What changes do you need to make to insure the latter rather than the former?

WEEK #40: 1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 6; 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTERS 1-4

Chapter 6

1. Paul preached the blessings of being content with what we have: "for we brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of the world" (vs.7). In what ways do you feel contentment? In what ways do you struggle with discontent?
2. Paul calls Timothy to pursue the things of God rather than worldly treasures (vs.11). What pursuits distract you in your walk with God?
3. Vs.10 teaches us, "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." What part has money played in hindering your life, relationships or walk with God? How has your relationship with God affected your relationship with money?

II Timothy—As the result of the persecution of Nero, Paul is imprisoned in Rome. Unlike his first imprisonment, he does not expect to be released and realizes his death is near. Paul's letter to Timothy, his co-worker and son in the faith, is warm and personal, yet reads somewhat like a last will and testament. As Paul passes the torch to this young leader, he encourages Timothy to hold to his faith and closely guard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 1

1. Paul tells Timothy that "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (vs.7). When are you tempted to be fearful? When have you experienced God's power in the face of fear?
2. In vs.8, Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed of the Gospel. When are you intimidated regarding your faith? When have you been bold with your faith?
3. Timothy is called to "guard" his faith (v.14). In what ways is your faith challenged by today's culture? What are ways you guard your faith?

Chapter 2

1. Christ-followers are called to pass along their faith to others, who will do the same (vs.2). Who passed faith along to you? To whom are you passing your faith?
2. Paul challenges Timothy to prepare himself for God's use (vs.15). How are you intentionally preparing yourself for God's use? When does God call upon your preparation?
3. Vs.22 calls us to "flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness..." What are examples of behaviors that God has helped you put aside? Which continue to challenge you?

Chapter 3

1. In vs.1-5, Paul warns us not to follow the ways of unbelievers. Which of these behaviors and attitudes do you see around you today? Which are challenges for you?
2. Paul reminds us that all Christ-followers will experience persecution and hardships along the way (vs.12). How have you experienced hardships because of your faith?
3. Paul teaches that "all Scripture is God-breathed" (vs.16). Are you able to trust the authority of Scripture? What are examples of how you have permitted Scripture to shape your life and values?

Chapter 4

1. Paul gives Timothy this charge: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out" (vs.2). How are you a part of furthering Christ's message? How can you better prepare yourself to do so?
2. Paul warns Timothy that some will distort Christ's message for their own purposes (vs.3-4). Can you think of examples? How can you be assured your beliefs are in keeping with Christ's message?
3. Paul is confident of Christ's faithfulness and looks forward to eternal life (vs.6-8). How confident are you regarding eternal life? What are your concerns? How can you address your concerns?