



Life Group Study Notes

"We Are Family: Connected to Legacy"

Ps. Kore Bendix - August 27, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who besides your parents had an impact on you when you grew up?
- Have you ever received something special from a grandparent or parent that had belonged to them? What was what?
- Who was your favorite teacher? Why?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

2 Timothy 1:3-14 ESV *I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

This text speaks to us about leaving a Christian legacy; that is, a life rooted in the Gospel and implanted in the hearts of the next generation in such a way that it has a lasting impact on them and through them on others.

The apostle Paul is writing at the end of his life as he awaits execution for his Christian faith. He writes to a young man, Timothy, whom he has disciplined as a son in the faith. Paul is writing out of concern for the legacy he is leaving behind. He is burdened not about things, but about people, and in particular, Timothy: his heart, his character, his relationship with God, his ministry, his ability to impact others with the Gospel.

Compassion: Paul expresses great compassion for Timothy. He knew well Timothy's insecurities and fears, but looked beyond them. He also knew his heart for God and had confidence in God's ability to strengthen Timothy. Paul encouraged Timothy. He knew how Timothy had grown. He could see what Timothy could still become and achieve through God's grace.

Conflict: Paul had endured many hardships as a result of his faith and his obedience to Jesus. Now he faced the greatest trial of his life. He was in prison, facing execution, and without access to the beneficial support he had had during a prior imprisonment. The conditions were much harsher this time. Yet this great trial served to move Paul to think deeply about what was most important that he should pass on to Timothy.

Example: Paul had lived a life consistent with his convictions concerning Jesus Christ. Unto the end Paul was faithful to Christ. Paul had lived with the twin desires to be true to God and to be an inspiration and example to others. Now he was able to draw upon this testimony and impress it upon Timothy as an example to be followed.

Leaving a legacy is something that God wants us all to aspire to and deliberately labor for. God cares about each succeeding generation. He calls us to carry his heart of compassion for those younger than us. We need to keep them in our hearts, pray for them, and invest our lives in them. Even if our lives are going through great challenges and difficulties, we should still find a way to impact the next generation. Often it is through great trials that God clarifies to us the things that are truly important. These lessons need to be passed on. We can best impact the next generation by living lives that serve as examples of what it means to love God, follow Christ, and serve others by demonstrating and communicating the Gospel in our daily lives.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How are you investing in the next generation? Are you investing spiritually? How?
- What is an important lesson you've learned from going through a difficult trial?
- What is an area of strength in your life that serves as a Christian example to the next generation?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God to open our hearts and our eyes to the spiritual needs of the next generation.
- Ask God to open our hearts and our eyes to the opportunities to serve, invest in, and impact the next generation.
- Ask God to reveal to us anything in our lives that needs to be changed because it sets a poor example to others, especially to the next generation.