

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy Series

These questions are for the **July 21, 2024** message, "The Lord Rescues." Please read the sermon passage (2 Timothy 3:10-13) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE MATURE IN TRUSTING OUR SOVEREIGN GOD, NOTE . . .

1. We remember Paul's powerful example of a godly life. (10-11)
 - a. Emulate the external (teaching, conduct and 'my aim in life').
 - b. Cultivate the internal (faith, patience, love and steadfastness).
 - i. Special focus on 'patience.'
 - ii. Patience gets revealed only in difficult days, and never when things are easy.
 - iii. This internal transformation of our lives is "the power" of godliness.
 - c. Let Paul's example of endurance inspire godliness. Endurance: bear up under stress.
 - d. Tell your story like Paul: "From them all, the Lord rescued me."
 - i. Not "look at me," and not "poor me," but "look at the Lord."
 - ii. We can only tell our stories like this when we really see our stories like this.
2. We remind one another about momentary realities.
 - a. The godly will suffer faithfully.
 - i. Our suffering is temporary, meaningful and points to Jesus.
 - ii. Suffering is not an incidental detour, it is the way God intends for the godly.
 - b. The ungodly succeed in the wrong things: successes are temporary, meaningless, points to self.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul is making an intentional contrast between Timothy (godliness) and the "appearance of godliness" which "denies its power" (2 Tim 3:5). The real power of godliness is an internal re-wiring of our thoughts, values, direction and dreams. Note (12) that a godly life becomes a priority, and something we 'want.' How have your internal thoughts, values, direction and dreams changed because you want a godly life?
2. Based on #1, above: A main point of this passage is 'endurance.' The power of this internal change (godliness) gives each of us the strength to bear up under heavy burdens and continue to follow Jesus. Talk about your own current burdens and how "the Lord" (his personal example and presence) is rescuing you.
3. Based on #1, above: When Paul tells his story of sufferings, he doesn't emphasize his own pain. He doesn't say "poor me," or brag about enduring ("look at me"). Instead, he says, "look at the Lord and his faithfulness." He could TELL his story this way because that is how he really SAW it. He was mature in his understanding of God's sovereignty. Do you tell your story like Paul?
4. Based on #2, above: Suffering is temporary, suffering is meaningful and our suffering points to Jesus' suffering. Which of these statements produces the greatest inspiration and motivation for your godliness?