

WRITE IT DOWN!

Listening to God Talk

A Firm Foundation: God's Word in a Facebook Age

2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

Sunday, July 27, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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I. What we do.

1. Inspiration (16)
2. Profitability (16)
3. Competence (17)

II. What it does.

1. In _____ (3)
2. Through _____ (2)
3. With _____ (2)
4. In light of _____ (1)

III. Why it does it.

1. Where
2. How
3. Who

IV. Why doing it's risky.

1. Preparing for _____ (10-13)
2. Enduring _____ in the Church (3-5)
3. Looking to the _____ for your _____ (6-8)

THINK IT OVER

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1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4:8. What's the situation that the Apostle Paul is speaking to? (e.g., what are his concerns? What has he experienced? Why is he concerned for Timothy and the future of his church?)
2. What does Paul want Timothy (and us!) to understand about his experiences at Antioch, Iconium & Lystra in 3:10-12? In what ways is Paul a model? Would this encourage you or discourage you if you were Timothy?
3. What does 3:15-17 teach us regarding the reliability of the Bible—especially the Old Testament? (Bonus: do you remember how we know this refers to the OT?) What do John 16:12-14 and 2 Peter 3:14-18 teach us about the New Testament?
4. An often overlooked portion of this text is Paul's reference to the appearing and judgment of Jesus and His Kingdom in 4:1, yet it forms the basis of his exhortation to preach the Word. Why does Paul reference this appearance in this context? What weight does it give to his exhortation? What does this teach about the kindness and severity of God?
5. The Bigger Picture: Can you find examples of Paul engaged in the ministry of teaching, reproof, correction, and righteousness training in Galatians? Cite some examples.

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in the text/message this week and why?
2. In what ways do you personally suffer persecution, or tension, or misunderstanding in your life because of your commitment that God speaks through His Word? How do you usually respond to those situations? Give some examples, based on 2 Tim. 3:10-4:8, of what you're doing well, and where you could improve.
3. The question often arises in 2 Timothy how much applies to pastors and how much applies to "regular" Christians? How does 3:14-15 provide insight into how the reliability of God's Word mutually impacts "regular" Christians and pastors alike?
4. What topics or issues or attitudes, etc. do you prefer to hear addressed from preachers? How can you guard against your own need to have your "ears tickled," or to ride your theological or applicational hobby-horses?
5. Paul talks about being "poured out as a drink offering" for the Gospel—a life of sacrifice and future reward in 4:6-8. Where are you or could you pour out your life in sacrifice for the Gospel, knowing there is eternal reward in your future?