**1. Motivate**

What is something that should come with a set of instructions but doesn’t?

* marriage license

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_vjeolfqi> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4cuxa2pa>

* raising teenagers
* getting old
* how to give instructions
* how to use the internet
* how to avoid materialism in our culture
* how to be a role model
* for whom to vote
* how to get children (or adults) to cooperate
* how to survive in a modern world
* money

**2. Transition**

The Bible reveals everything we need to live victoriously.

* Today we look at instructions Paul gave to Timothy

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Sinful Culture

Listen for societal problems.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Paul used the expression, “last days”. How do you understand the phrase “last days”?

* generally we think of the events leading up to Christ’s return
* it’s not history before Christ came
* it’s not the time of Christ’s ministry on earth, including His death and resurrection
* it is the time after Christ returned to heaven
* so the last 2000+ years are the “last days”

According to verse 2, what will people be like in the *last days* ?

* lovers of themselves
* lovers of money
* boastful
* proud
* abusive
* disobedient to parents
* ungrateful
* unholy

According to verse 3, in the last days, what will people lack?

* without love
* unforgiving
* slanderous
* no self-control
* brutal
* not lovers of the good

Why is it so tempting to be a lover of pleasure rather than a lover of God?

* loving pleasure seems to have no accountability … to God or to anyone
* it’s fun!
* does not require acknowledgment of a higher authority
* it’s easy to do

What kind of “godliness” will people have in the last days? (3:5)

* only a form of godliness
* denying the power of godliness

How *can* someone have a *form* of godliness yet *deny its power*?

* talk about being “good”
* work at being a good person
* do so in your own strength
* being “righteous” is what you aspire to, what you worship
* God is not the focus of your life

Paul says in verse 5 to avoid such people. How do we do that and live and work in today’s world?

* we cannot avoid many work relationships
* we can’t always move away from a neighbor
* we can be careful how we choose the folks we socialize with
* we can avoid places where it is obvious that folks we would associate with indulge in habits and practices that are ungodly

3.2 Wisdom in God’s Word

Listen for what will get worse.

2 Timothy 3:13-15 (NIV) while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

What is the irony stated in verse 13?

* so many people are imposters, deceiving others
* they live a lie to impress others or to get their way
* they end up deceiving one another
* the deceivers get deceived!

In what regular practice did Paul urge Timothy to engage?

* continue to live according to what you have learned
* you have been convinced of the Truth about God
* continue on in that Truth, apply it to your life
* don’t give up when the going gets hard

What could Timothy point to for confidence that what he had been taught was credible and reliable for faithful living?

* in contrast to people deceiving one another
* you can believe the Truth that you have been taught
* we know from other sources Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother
* he could believe what he was taught because it was lived and modeled for him
* The authenticity and effectiveness of his spiritual learning was influenced by the credibility of those who instructed him.
* you see it demonstrated in my (Paul’s) life
* you’ve been convinced of it … hang on to these truths and experiences

What is the relationship between studying the Scriptures and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

* God’s Word is the source of God’s Truth
* natural revelation (God’s creation) points us in the right direction
* but the elements and requirements for salvation are the basic source for how to be freed from the penalty and the power of sin

How does knowing God’s Word keep us from being deceived by the world?

* Consider John 8:32 (NIV) “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
* you read, meditate/think on the whole of God’s Truth
* you fill your mind with what God says
* you learn of God’s power, authority, and love for you
* all of which totally contradicts what we hear from the world

3.3 God, Himself, Is the Source of Scripture

Listen for the effects of studying the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul said that Scripture is “God-breathed” … how is that different from dictating to the writers?

* God’s Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds
* He gave them the ideas, the concepts
* we can see how they used their own vocabulary and their own style
* they weren’t robots or dictating machines

⇨ God still intends to communicate to all people who He is and what He requires

⇨ He has the power to do that through men and women who submit to Him

Why is Scripture powerful and authoritative?

* it is “God-breathed”, God gave the Truth to men to record
* it is dynamic – it communicates to us what we need to hear/know when we need it
* it is dependable
* it is consistent

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

What did Paul say that Scripture was useful for?

* for teaching, rebuking. correcting
* training in righteousness
* equipping a godly person for every good work

What kind of encouragements and positive influences did you have as a youngster to read and apply God's Word to your life?

* example of parents reading Bible, praying
* SS teacher who gave stickers to memorize scripture at age 4, 5
* School used to have Release Time Religious Educ – Mrs. Knittle used to faithfully teach Bible stories, give little rewards for scripture memorization
* Youth workers in summer camps, Youth for Christ leaders

How do parents and grandparents instill this attitude and usage of the scriptures in a child?

* practice it in your own lives,
* talk about it in the making of decisions and value judgments *See Deut. 6:6, 7*
* share often what God spoke to you about in a Bible passage, in a sermon, in a SS lesson
* ask young people about their opinion of a sermon or SS (be willing to listen)
* do NOT use it as a club – Mrs. Walton made the children memorize verses as punishment
* instead give positive reinforcement (Bible Memorization Association

Application

Join the band.

* Perhaps you recognize you’ve never tuned your life to the song of Jesus.
* If you’ve never trusted Christ for forgiveness and salvation, do so now.
* Talk to a trusted leader or pastor to help you take the next steps.
* You can also get help from the inside cover of this book.

Play the same song.

* Maybe you’re trying to march to the beat of two different drummers.
* If you’ve been walking in unrepentant sin, confess your sin to God.
* Make a plan to regularly read God’s Word so that you will consistently hear Him and follow His call on your life.

Lead rehearsal.

* If you regularly take in God’s Word and inherently know your need for it, share what you’ve learned this week with someone else.
* Perhaps it’s asking a friend to coffee or maybe it’s leading a small group Bible study.
* Pass God’s Word on to others.

A picture containing crossword puzzle, text, fruit

Description automatically generated

Fallen Phrases Puzzle

A person wearing a garment

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Once again, our secret message has had slippage problems. The diplomatic bag from our consulate in Xiri Slokav got soaked in the rain and letters slid off, straight down the paper. Our interpreters are off on a junior high fall church retreat. We need you to reconstruct the message. Some columns are easy with only one letter there. Then check out the two and three letter words. Figure out which letters below make reasonable words. When you are successful in finishing the message, pass it along to your Senior Pastor. Help is available at <https://tinyurl.com/4cuxa2pa>