

2 Timothy 4

1. How do we correctly handle the Word of God?
 - First, the Bible is written by God through people, and all that is in the Bible is true.
 - Secondly, because God cannot lie, there is nothing in the Bible that can disagree with itself.
 - Thirdly, the most simple understanding of the Bible is what God intended unless the Bible itself says differently.
 - Fourthly, the Bible must be understood in the context or the setting in which it is written.
2. What is godless chatter?
 - These are thoughts and teachings that are not from God, but rather from people.
3. What will happen if we indulge in godless chatter?
 - We will become more and more ungodly.
4. What happens when false teachers do not teach the truth?
 - The faith of some could be destroyed.
5. Can the faith of a true believer in Christ be destroyed?
 - No, because those who the Lord Jesus saves cannot be taken away from Satan.
 - Yet, false teachers can discourage the faith of Christians as well as destroy the faith of someone who is not a believer in Christ.

Let's read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1-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 such people.
- When are the last days?
 - In the Bible, the last days began with the birth of the Church (Acts 2:16-17).
 - We can say that the last days are now.
 - Some people say that the world is getting better, but this is not true.
 - In Matthew 24 & 25, Jesus talked about all of the evil that will happen in the last days.
 - In the last days, even those who call themselves Christians will turn away from the faith.
 - In Matthew 24, here is what Jesus said:

10-“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

11-And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

12-Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”

-In the last days, people will be lovers of themselves.

-What is the foundation of sin?

-The love of self.

-As true Christians, we must deny ourselves so that Christ will become everything to us.

-In Matthew 16:24, Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

-When people are lovers of themselves, then the sins in verses 2-5 are also a part of their lives.

-Who are the people with whom we should have nothing to do with?

-These are people who say that they believe in God, but do not.

-Why should we have nothing to do with them?

-Because even though they say that they believe in God,

they have rejected Him, and their lives may hurt us.

Let's read 2 Timothy 3:6-7

6-They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,

7-always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

-Satan deceived Eve and there are teachers and leaders today who continue to deceive women.

-Eve listened to Satan, and there are women today who continue to listen to false teachers and leaders.

-Does simply listening to the truth mean that we will understand it and believe it?

-No.

-The scribes and the Pharisees listened to Jesus, but they did not understand Him nor believe in Him.

-We need God's help to understand and believe the truth.

-Without the help of God, no one can understand and believe the truth.

Let's read 2 Timothy 3:8-9

8-Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

9-But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

-Who are Jannes and Jambres?

-We cannot be sure as this is the only verse in the Bible where their names are written.

-We do know that they opposed Moses.

-Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, and just as teachers in Paul's day opposed the truth, are there teachers today who oppose the truth?

-Yes.

-Although these people are teachers and leaders, they have no true faith in Christ.

-Even though these teachers and leaders oppose the truth, the truths of Christ will one day show that they are fools.

-The Lord Jesus will protect His Church.

-Here is what our Lord said in Matthew 16:18:

-“I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it.”

Let's read 2 Timothy 3:10-11

10-You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

11-persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

-Just like the Lord Jesus taught His disciples, Paul taught Timothy.

-Just like the Lord Jesus taught His disciples with both His words and with His life, Paul taught Timothy with both his words and with His life.

-This is what all Christians should do, that is, to have at least one disciple whom we would teach with both our words and with our lives.

-Even though Paul suffered a lot, the Lord rescued him.

Let's read 2 Timothy 3:12

12-In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

-There are false teachers who say that true Christians will never be persecuted.

-This is not true, as the Word of God is clear that

Christians will be persecuted.

-In John 16:33, The Lord Jesus promised that we would have persecution in our lives.

-1 John 3:13 says this: “Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.”

-Why are Christians persecuted?

-Because Satan and his demons and many non Christians hate us.

Let’s read 2 Timothy 3:13-15

13-While evildoers 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.

-As evil people become more evil, we Christians must continue to study and learn the Word of God.

-Only God and His Word are more powerful than evil.

Let’s read 2 Timothy 3:16

16-All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

-This verse is a very important verse in the Bible.

-This verse teaches us that all that is written in the Bible is from God.

-In the original languages of the Bible, the Hebrew and Greek languages, all that is written is from God alone.

-As is written in 2 Peter 1:21:

-“For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

-The truths of God in the Bible teach us, rebuke us, correct us, and train us in righteousness.

Let’s read 2 Timothy 3:17

17-So that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

-It is the Word of God that equips us for every good work.

-God has given us His Word to equip us, yet we must study it and learn from it