

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How long do you want to walk with God?
2. Do you have FEED 5000 on your calendar? What day or days will you be serving? Have you registered on feed5000.gives?
3. How long do you plan to walk with God? Describe what that walk looks like to those in your group? Are you ever tempted to quit trying to walk by faith?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. According to Mark 10:43-45, what was the purpose of Jesus and how does He define greatness? Keep these verses in the back of your mind as you move forward in this study.
4. **A little history...**Paul the apostle was radically converted to christianity. He became one of our greatest missionaries to ever live. One of his last known letters before his death was 2 Timothy. It was written AD 64 - AD 67. Chapter four is known to potentially be the last time he inked his journey. Most bible scholars believe Paul wrote this epistle from Macedonia, following his first imprisonment in Rome (cf. Ac 28:16, 30-31). Paul was released and allowed to travel for several years before being executed by the Roman Emperor Nero in AD 67. It's believed Paul was 33 yrs old when he was executed. Eusebius, an early church historian, claimed that Paul was beheaded at the order of the Roman emperor Nero or one of his subordinates. Paul's martyrdom occurred shortly after much of Rome burned in a fire—an event that Nero blamed on the Christians. The tradition is that Peter was crucified upside down and that Paul was beheaded due to the fact that Paul was a Roman citizen (Acts 22:28), and Roman citizens were normally exempt from crucifixion. The purpose of this letter is addressed to a young evangelist, named Timothy who is charged with the responsibility of working with a congregation and guiding them in the right way. Everything that is written is designed to aid both him and the congregation in doctrine and conduct. Paul understood that the ministry would only become more difficult for Timothy with the apostle's impending death. Second Timothy is very personal. It is a final letter to a close friend and coworker. Paul encourages Timothy to continue in faithfulness and offers his own life as an example for Timothy to follow. What he calls on Timothy to do, he himself has done already.
5. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8.
 - a. What are your initial thoughts? What is God telling you?

- b. What does Paul compare himself with in verse six?
 - c. Compare with Genesis 35:14; Exodus 29:40-41; and Leviticus 23:13.
 - d. How does this apply to your life?
 - e. Has it ever dawned on you that God can smell your life?
 - f. Does this change your perspective of your life?
 - g. According to verse seven, what three things does Paul compare his life with Christ to? Talk about each one. Compare "fight" with Hebrews 12:12-13, Ephesians 6:10-13; "Race" with Galatians 5:7; Hebrews 12:1; and "Faith" with Hebrews 4:14, Romans 1:17, and Romans 4:1-22.
 - h. What does verse eight promise?
6. So...Are you going to walk with God forever? What will that life look like in the church? Outside the church?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Loving God and loving people...go together.
- If you want to walk with God for life...It's going to be a fight.
- If you want to walk with God for life...It's going to be a race.
- If you want to walk with God for life...It's going to require a strong grip on your faith.