

# Study 4

## Final Instructions

### 2 Timothy 3:10-4:22

It doesn't seem fair. People who ignore God prosper, and people who are faithful don't. In the media, false Christians are presented in a flattering light, while true Christians are mocked mercilessly. Anyone who wants to question the gospel or openly oppose Christian values – especially if they're from "within" the church – gets a hearing. Anyone who wants to defend the gospel is silenced. It was no different for Paul, and it will be no different for Timothy either. Paul, who knows his time is short, leaves final instructions...

### Read from 3:10 to 4:8.

- a) As you read 3:10-11, what mid-flight change of direction do you notice?

How do the things in verse 11 flow from verse 10?

Has this been your experience?

- b) In the light of this, why does Timothy need to be reminded by the words of verse 14? (What's the single word in the sentence that tells Timothy what he needs to do?)

- c) Verses 16 and 17 in 2 Timothy 3 are legendary. They're certainly worth remembering. Write the verses out in full in this space, and see if you can memorise them.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17:-*

### **Reflect**

- Where does all scripture come from?
- What uses does ALL SCRIPTURE have?
- Is the bible having any of these effects on YOU?
- According to verse 15, what is the ultimate PURPOSE of the Holy Scriptures?

Here's one wrong use of the scriptures! They're meant to make you wise for salvation by faith in Christ Jesus... yet often, the Old Testament scriptures are used like a rule book instead.

- d) Paul moves on in chapter 4 to give Timothy a solemn charge. In the sight of God, and in view of the fact that Jesus will return as Judge, what is Timothy told to do?
- e) What connection can you see between the words of 4:2 and 3:16?

In summary, Timothy is told to use and apply God's word to shape his listeners' lives. He's to be patient and careful as he does it. But there's a problem.

f) According to verse 4:3-4, what would people prefer?

If we don't let God's word shape us, correct us and rebuke us, we tend to shape, correct and rebuke God's word! If a teacher of God's word tells us things about ourselves that we don't want to hear, it's tempting to "shoot the messenger" and find someone who softens the truth!

g) How can we safeguard against this danger?

h) What temptation would Timothy have faced at this point?

i) What final instruction does Paul leave him with in verse 5?

j) What future does Paul foresee for himself in verses 6 to 8?

Why can he be so confident of what awaits him?

**Read the final section of the letter (4:9-22).**

k) What themes from the rest of the letter can you see illustrated by the real life situations and examples Paul mentions in these final verses?

- l) Whose hand does Paul see behind his ministry?
  
- m) What has his goal been?
  
- n) Thinking back over the **model of ministry** you've seen described in 2 Timothy, what kind of things should you be urging and encouraging your ministers and leaders to do?
  
- o) Have your expectations of your leaders been changed, (or perhaps confirmed) by what you've learned in 2 Timothy?
  
- p) If you are a teacher or a leader in any Christian context, what key points have you been challenged by?
  
- q) What kind of congregation would you expect to see growing from a ministry like Timothy's?
  
- r) As a hearer of God's word, what challenged you from 2 Timothy?