

LESSON 2

SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE

2 TIMOTHY 3:1—4:22



1 Think of a time in your life that tested your physical or emotional endurance. What was it that kept you going?

2 When did you last have to increase your level of physical fitness for a sport or an activity? Why was physical endurance important for this?



Read 2 Timothy 3:1—4:22 and the following notes:

☐ 3:1ff ☐ 3:5 ☐ 3:9 ☐ 3:12 ☐ 3:14 ☐ 4:2 ☐ 4:5 ☐ 4:5–8 ☐ 4:18 ☐ 4:22

3 Why will all who live a godly life suffer persecution (3:12)? What did Paul know about the times and the hearts of people? In what ways do we face persecution today?

4 Summarize the charge that Paul gave to Timothy (4:2). How can Christians be prepared whether the time is favorable or not?

5 What will receiving a “crown of righteousness” signify (4:8)?

Life was not becoming easier or more comfortable for Paul as he grew older. He was facing death, and believers in the cities to which he had brought the gospel were facing increased persecution. As he looked ahead, he clearly saw the importance of endurance. Paul wanted Timothy to remain faithful to what he had been taught (3:14), stick to the authority of the Scripture (3:16), encourage others with good teaching (4:2), not fear suffering (4:5), and complete his ministry (4:5). During difficult times, faith demands stick-to-itiveness. Faith that falls apart in tough times is of little use. Faith that fades over time will not help you in life, not to mention death. A steady flame is more useful for cooking than a flame that quickly ignites and then sputters. Will the flame of your faith flicker or burn brighter over time? Like Paul and Timothy, we may encounter more difficulties in living for Christ as we grow older. Each year we will face new challenges to our faith that require endurance. Ask God for endurance during the difficult days ahead.



6 How does our society make it difficult for us to live out our faith?

7 What is difficult about remaining true to Christ as we grow older? What makes it easier to continue in our faith?

8 What role can the Bible play in developing our spiritual endurance?



9 Comparing your faith to a campfire, would you say your faith has just ignited, is burning brightly, is slowing down, or is smoldering?

10 How might living a Christian life be easier for you ten years from now? How might it be more difficult?

11 What do you need to remove from your life that may drain your strength and weaken your ability to endure?

12 How can the Bible help you to be thoroughly equipped for a lifetime of service to Christ? What kind of study program would be most beneficial for you?

13 How can you improve your spiritual endurance? What steps do you need to take to get your faith in shape?



A Look at the list of sins in 3:2–5. Which of these describes your community? your society? What has been on the news recently that illustrates what Paul is saying?

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B What does 4:1 tell us about the authority of Jesus? How should his authority motivate us to live?

C Why was Paul warning that some will no longer listen to right teaching? Why do some people today find it so easy to reject right teaching?

D What was Paul's purpose for living? How did it affect the way he lived? Compare this to your purpose and lifestyle.

E What kinds of persecutions did Paul endure in his lifetime? What are some of the persecutions that believers are facing throughout the world at this time? How do you endure persecution?

F What does it mean that all Scripture is inspired by God? What difference does this make in your own study and interpretation of the Bible?