

Final Instructions

“Final Instructions About The Last Days”

2 Timothy 3:1-9 – November 19, 2006

Overview of Our 2 Timothy Study

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS: A 12-Week Study of Second Timothy			
Charge	Message Title	Text	Date
<i>The Charge to Guard the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions	1:1-2	Oct. 1
	Final Instructions About Passing on the Faith	1:3-7	Oct. 8
	Final Instructions About Suffering	1:8-18; 2:8-13	Oct. 15
Mike Haley	Final Instructions About Homosexuality	Testimony	Oct. 22
<i>The Charge to Suffer for the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions About Living a Wartime Lifestyle	2:1-7	Oct. 29
	Final Instructions About Quarreling	2:14-26	Nov. 5
	Final Instructions About Fleeing Lust	2:20-22	Nov. 12
<i>The Charge to Continue in the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions About The Last Days	3:1-9	Nov. 19
	Final Instructions About The Bible – Part 1	3:10-17	Nov. 26
<i>The Charge to Proclaim the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions About The Bible – Part 2	4:1-5	Dec. 3
	Final Instructions About Finishing Strong	4:6-8	Dec. 10
	Final Instructions About People	4:9-22	Dec. 17

Important Dates in the Life of Grace Fellowship

- Dec. 10 (Sun) – GF Christmas Program @ 6pm (Salvation Army Harbor Lights)
- Dec. 24 (Sun) – GF Children’s Christmas Program @ 8:45 or 10:45 a.m. (in main worship center; this is church for the morning)
- Dec. 24 (Sun) – Christmas Eve in the Merrell Center @ 5pm (bring a friend)
- Jan. 5 (Fri) – Consecration of New Worship Center @ 7pm
- Jan. 7 (Sun) – Grand Opening of New Worship Center @ 8:45 or 10:45 a.m. (begin new sermon series “21 Day Journey Into The Bible”; bring a friend)

What Are “The Last Days”? (2 Timothy 3:1)

- *eschatos* = “last” (eschatology = study of last things)
- For the most part, “the last days” refers to the entire time period between Christ’s 1st Coming and His 2nd Coming
 - **Acts 2:17** – *In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.* (Peter said that this Joel Scripture was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.)
 - **Hebrews 1:2** - *But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....*
 - **1 John 2:18** - *Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.*
 - Paul was identifying his own time period as “the last days”(see 2 Tim 3:5)
- Sometimes the Bible uses different terms to refer to the time immediately before the Second Coming of Christ or the actual day of that coming. Those terms include “the end of the age” (Matthew 13:39; 24:3), “the end” (Matthew 24:6,14), “the Day” (Heb. 10:25), “that Day” (2 Tim 4:8), “the day of the

Lord” (1 Thess 5:2), “the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12), “the great Day” (Jude 6), “the day of wrath” (Rom. 2:5), “the day of judgment” (Matt. 10:15), “the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30), and “the last day” (John 6:39).

- Eschatology is the study and systematizing of Bible passages describing end times. The difference between the major end times views concerns how they interpret Revelation 20’s discussion of a 1000-year (millennial) reign of Christ:

<i>Amillennialism</i>	<i>Postmillennialism</i>	<i>Historic Premillennialism</i>	<i>Dispensational Premillennialism</i>
<i>No</i> literal millennial Kingdom related to 2 nd coming.	Christ returns <i>after</i> millennial Kingdom.	Christ returns <i>before</i> millennial Kingdom.	Christ returns <i>before</i> millennial Kingdom.
Kingdom is present in the church.	Church brings in the Kingdom by advancing Gospel.	Christ returns and sets up Kingdom in heaven.	Christ returns and sets up Kingdom on earth.
Tribulation is experienced in the present age.	Tribulation is experienced in the present age.	Post-trib rapture: Church experiences tribulation before rapture.	Pre-trib rapture: Church is raptured before tribulation.
Church is the new Israel.	Church is the new Israel.	God has specific plan for Israel.	God has specific plan for Israel.
L. Berkhof	W.G.T. Shedd	G.E. Ladd	Ryrie/LaHaye

- Bottom-line: We are definitely in the time period that Paul calls “the last days” because we are in the time period between Christ’s 1st and 2nd Coming. But, we are also closer to “that Day” of Christ’s return/judgment/redemption than anyone has ever been. The only question is “How close?”
- Jim Collin’s Good to Great – The story of Admiral Jim Stockdale

Brutal Facts That God Wants Us to Know About “The Last Days” From 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Brutal Fact #1: There will be some terrible seasons_____ (v.1)

- *chalepos* = difficult, fierce; used of dangerous wild animals or of the raging sea
- *kairos* = periods of time; seasons; eras (versus *chronos* = chronological time)
- **Luke 13:1-5**
- Jesus seems to be saying: “Because of increasing sin in the world, do not be surprised that bad things are happening.” The question we should be asking is not: “Why did something bad happen?” but rather “Why didn’t it happen to me?”
- **Application #1:** An action step for me in this area is...
 - To change my expectations about the direction the world is going
 - Change my sense of entitlement that everything is supposed to go my way
 - Say a prayer of thanks for my situation (1 Thess. 5:16-18)
 - Other: _____

Brutal Fact #2: Things will get progressively worse – not better – as Christ’s return approaches (v.13)

- **Matthew 24:3-29**
- **Romans 8:24-25** – *Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

Brutal Fact #3: People's behavior will get progressively worse

(vv.2-9)

- Application #2: Before we try to help anyone else take the sawdust out of their eyes, we must first take the 2x4 out of our own eyes (Matthew 7:1-5). Which of the following characteristics are true of my life and what action steps do I need to take to rid my life of that vice?

	<i>Vice</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Action Step</i>
1	Lover of myself	Having great affection for self	
2	Lover of money	Materialistic; craving earthly possessions; covetous	
3	Boastful	Braggart; overstating the truth	
4	Proud	Arrogant; self-exalting; feeling superior	
5	Abusive	Reviler; blasphemous; contemptuous; inner disdain	
6	Disobedient to parents	Not obeying parents; rebelling against parents	
7	Ungrateful	Feels that he deserves everything good he receives; not grateful	
8	Unholy	Gross indecency; driven by self-love to gratify lusts and passions	
9	Without love	Without affection for family and those closest to us; heartless	
10	Unforgiving	Irreconcilable; refuse to change; unwilling to forgive	
11	Slandorous	Malicious gossip; accuser (same word used for satan)	
12	Without self-control	Without moral control; self-indulgent	
13	Brutal	Savage; attacks others and tears them to pieces	
14	Not lover of the good	Hating what should be loved and loving what should be hated	
15	Treacherous	Turning against loved ones	
16	Rash	Reckless; careless; negligent	
17	Conceited	Much too high view of self	
18	Lover of pleasure rather than lover of God	Hedonist; loves pleasure rather than God	
19	Having a form of godliness but denying its power	Charlatan of religion; like the Pharisees who have outward religion but are dead inside	
20	Take advantage of weak-willed people	Seducing others who are vulnerable	
21	Always learning but never acknowledging the truth	PhD's in religion but do not believe or have faith	

- What does v.5b mean?
- Application #3: Have nothing to do with these false teachers who are trying to infiltrate the church with their false teaching and ungodly behavior. Stay away from cults and do not let false teaching into the church.

- Application #4: Have nothing to do with these habits of the world.
- Application #5: Reach out to people who are without Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). Invite them to Christmas Eve at the Merrell Center or to Grand Opening on Jan. 7th. Someone I can reach out to is _____.

Brutal Fact #4: Make sure you read to the end of the Book: We Win! (vv.8-9)

- Jannes and Jambres were the Egyptian court magicians who opposed Moses in Exodus 7-12:

<i>Exodus</i>	<i>Plague</i>	<i>Jannes and Jambres</i>
Ex 7:10-13	Staff to snakes	Egyptian magicians duplicate, but Aaron's snake swallows theirs
Ex 7:20-24	Water to blood	Egyptian magicians duplicate, but people had no water and had to dig wells
Ex 8:6-15	Plague of frogs	Egyptian magicians duplicate, but cannot make the frogs go away
Ex 8:16-19	Plague of gnats	Egyptian magicians could <i>not</i> duplicate. They said, "This is the finger of God."
Ex 8:20-32	Plague of flies	
Ex 9:1-7	Plague on livestock	
Ex 9:8-12	Plague of boils	The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them
Ex 9:13-35	Plague of hail	
Ex 10:1-20	Plague of locusts	
Ex 10:21-29	Plague of darkness	
Ex 11-12	Plague of death	Firstborn son of magicians' die

- Playing out the analogy:
 - The Jewish people were tempted to....
 - As believers in 2006, we might be tempted to....
- Application #6: Don't give up hope. We win in the end! Significantly more so than Moses won over Jannes and Jambres, Jesus Christ will come back and deliver His people! Satan and death have already been defeated! The consummation of Jesus' full victory awaits His Second Coming. And the only reason He waits to come back is so that more people can have a chance to hear about Him, invite Him into their lives, and go to heaven. My application is:
 - To not give up hope. I will memorize Hebrews 12:1-3 and have hope!
 - To share my faith with _____.

Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

- What comes to mind when you hear the term "the last days"?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 aloud. What strikes you in this Scripture?
- What are the "brutal facts" that God wants us to know about the last days?
- What are your applications?

If interested in being in "Someone I Love is Gay" (SILIG) small group that starts in January, drop an email to jim@whatisgrace.org. This small group experience is a prerequisite for serving in the AIDS ministry small group. You are welcome to be

in this SILIG group even if you do not have a loved one who is gay but you want to pursue the prerequisite for the AIDS ministry.