

## *Final Instructions*

### “Final Instructions About People”

2 Timothy 4:9-22 – December 17, 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;<br>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. 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)
- Jan. 7 (Sun) – First immersion baptisms in the new baptism fountain @ 12:30 (contact Joe Peeler at 281-646-1903 x.117 or [jpeeler@whatisgrace.org](mailto:jpeeler@whatisgrace.org) )
- Some key ways that you can help:
  - Help out with usher/greeter/parking lot - Contact Morgan Pylant at [mpylant@whatisgrace.org](mailto:mpylant@whatisgrace.org) or just show up today (Dec 17) at 12:30 p.m. in the Vista on the 2nd floor of the mansion for lunch and training. Must be 18+ to operate a golf cart.
  - Help out (volunteering) with new bookstore - Contact Douglas Caldwell at 713-202-0368
  - Help out with starting a new small group. Sign up for the New Leader Orientation on Sun., Jan. 21, thru Kristen at [kkershner@whatisgrace.org](mailto:kkershner@whatisgrace.org)

#### 2 Timothy 4:9-22 in a Nutshell: The Importance of People

- This letter was written to a specific person, Timothy (1:2), and to a group of people – the church at Ephesus (4:22 – plural “you”)
- \_\_\_% of this letter is dedicated to talking about specific people (1:15-18; 4:9-22)
- The #1 subject matter of this letter next to God and truth is people.
- Bottom-line: People are very, very important.

#### Ten Application Questions to Ask About the People in Your Life from 2 Timothy 4:9-22

- 1) **If I were on my deathbed, whom would I call to my side?** (v.9)
  - Call them to your side now! Don’t wait until your deathbed! Spend time with them now!
  - Application #1: A person that I am going to purposely spend more time with is \_\_\_\_\_. My first action step to do that is \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- 2) **Am I deserting significant people in my life out of love for the world?** (v.10)
  - Other Scriptures on Demas (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24)
  - *1 John 2:15-17* – Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.
  - *Romans 12:2* – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.
  - Application #2: A person that I have tended to desert because of my love for the world is \_\_\_\_\_. A step I want to take to move away from the world and toward that person is \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- 3) **How can I be a “Luke” to a “Paul” who is hurting and lonely right now?** (v.11a)
  - What we know about Luke: fellow worker (Philemon 24) and dear friend to Paul (Col. 4:14); joined Paul in Troas forward (Acts 16:10); was with Paul in Rome (Acts 28); doctor (Col. 4:14); human author of Luke and Acts (recording all that Paul taught him)
  - Application #3: Who is someone in my life that is hurting and lonely right now? \_\_\_\_\_ How can I be a “Luke” to that person? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4) **What broken relationship do I need to have hope for right now?** (v.11)
  - Background on Paul and Mark’s relationship (Acts 15:36-40)
    - Paul and Barnabas part ways in disagreement over John Mark
    - Paul’s position: Mark deserted us in Pamphylia (Acts 13:13). He doesn’t have what it takes for our missionary journey.
    - Barnabas’ position: We should give Mark a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance. (Barnabas = “son of encouragement”)
  - Note: It’s OK to have disagreements and even part ways in ministry (as long as living parameters of Ephesians 4:25-32). But never give up hope that that relationship can be restored or even become great!
  - Paul wants Mark to come to him (2 Timothy 4:11)

- Application #4: What broken relationship do I need to have hope for right now? \_\_\_\_\_ How can I pray about that this morning?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5) How can I use the gifts and temperament that God has given me for His glory – to serve His body and to serve “Marks”? (v.11)

- Note: There are at least 3 people whom God used in the building up and restoration of Mark. This is a beautiful picture of the body of Christ in action with each member of the body doing its part. None of these 3 is superior to the other. God used all three of these in a beautiful combination to effect positive change in Mark’s life:
  - Paul confronting Mark and dishing out consequences (Acts 15:38)
  - Barnabus encouraging Mark and giving him a second chance (Acts 15:37)
  - Mary (Mark’s mother) praying for Mark (Acts 12:12)
- Application #5: Be the you that God made you to be. Don’t envy other people’s spiritual gifts, but rather celebrate both their gifts and yours, and use the gifts/talents that God has given you for His glory and to help others in the body. How can I use the gifts and temperament that God has given me for His glory – to serve His body and to serve “Marks”? \_\_\_\_\_
- By the way: The results can be beyond what you can fathom! (Mark)

### 6) What are the things that can do? (v.12)

- What we know about Tychicus: He accompanied Paul on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey from Greece back to Judea and was most likely one of the Greek delegates delivering the offering for the needy. He was a constant help to Paul and made previous trips to Ephesus, Colossae, and Crete on Paul’s behalf (Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-9; Titus 3:12).
- Many Bible scholars believe that 2 Timothy 4:12 indicates that Paul was sending Tychicus to Ephesus to replace Timothy as pastor/elder so that Timothy could come visit Paul in prison in Rome.
- Application #6: Everyone is replaceable! This is a humbling, sobering thought, but a great perspective giver. For Jim: There are others who can pastor Grace Fellowship. But I am the only person on planet Earth who can give God my affection, who can be a husband to Lisa, and who can be a Dad to Smith, Grace, and John David. What are the things that only I can do? \_\_\_\_\_  
How am I going to prioritize those? \_\_\_\_\_

### 7) What God-given needs do I need to communicate about and take proactive steps on? (v.13)

- The 3 needs that Paul communicates about
  - Companionship (vv.9-12)
  - Physical warmth – a coat before winter (vv.13a,21)
  - God’s Word (v.13b)
- Application #7: It’s OK to want to have legitimate needs in your life met and to communicate about those needs. Spiritual food is a very real need

for your soul. Make sure you take proactive steps to meet that need. What is my game plan for regular spiritual feeding? What steps do I need to take here? \_\_\_\_\_

### 8) Who do I need to forgive? (vv.14-16)

- Forgiveness is...
  - Acknowledging the hurt that has been done to me (v.14)
  - Releasing my right to debt-collect (v.14), but rather
  - Turning justice over to God (v.14)
  - Praying God’s best for that person (v.16)
- Application #8: Whom do I need to forgive? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Will I do so this morning? \_\_\_\_\_
- Note: There is a difference between forgiving someone and trusting them. God commands us to forgive (Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:32), but He does not command us to necessarily trust everyone. Trust takes time and a track record of showing oneself trustworthy (2 Timothy 4:15).

### 9) Are there any people that I need to dethrone in my life? (vv.16-17)

- Application #9: Ultimately, God is the only One that we can fully and perfectly trust. People will let us down. God is the only 100% faithful One. Have I made anyone in my life an idol that I am expecting God-level results from? \_\_\_\_\_ What steps do I need to take to dethrone that person and enthrone God in my life? \_\_\_\_\_

### 10) What is my worldview regarding pain, suffering, sickness, and difficult circumstances? (vv.17b-18,20)

- Paul was delivered from the previous execution sentencing (v.17b) and is expectant of future deliverance (v.18).
- Yet Paul gets executed shortly after the writing of this letter, and Paul did not see Trophimus healed (v.20)
- Application #10: What will my approach be to pain, suffering, sickness, and difficult circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_
- Jim’s approach – the approach of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:16-18).
- Great memory verse – 2 Timothy 4:18

### Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 aloud.
2. Of the ten applications expounded in these notes, which 2 or 3 do you most feel led to pursue? Why? What does that application mean to you and how do you draw it from the 2 Timothy verses?

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.