

GUARDING **THE GOOD DEPOSIT**

rockypc SERIES COMPANION
TERM 2, 2022



2 TIMOTHY

GUARDING THE GOOD DEPOSIT

If you knew you were going to die soon, what would be most important to you? Paul's second letter to Timothy shows what is in the forefront of his mind. Paul is in prison in Rome and knows that he will soon be executed for preaching about Jesus. His letter shows an urgency and a grief, knowing that his end is near. But this is heightened by Paul's awareness of the ultimate end, when Jesus will appear. So Paul urges Timothy in these ways:

1. To guard the good deposit of the gospel. Timothy should pass on the truth of Jesus that he has heard, to those who will faithfully pass it on to others.
2. To be equipped by the Scriptures (in the power of the Spirit) so that he may preach it, to correct, rebuke and encourage others.
3. To be aware of false teaching. Timothy needs to know how destructive it is to get caught up in foolish quarrels and the resulting depravity. But Paul wants false teachers to be instructed gently, in the hope that they will be granted repentance.
4. To suffer for the gospel. Paul has been deserted by many of his friends and co-workers in his imprisonment. So he invites Timothy to suffer with him, strengthened by Jesus' grace, confident in character and power, knowing that he needs to endure to the end as a faithful servant who will be rewarded by the Lord.

WHO WAS PAUL?

Paul was a Pharisee, a teacher of the Hebrew Scriptures, who is first mentioned in the Bible when he witnesses and approves of the killing of Stephen, a Christian martyr (Acts 7v58-8v1). Paul goes on to threaten murder and imprison other Christians, before he is confronted by the risen Jesus (Acts 9). After seeing Jesus, Paul has a complete change of heart and life as he becomes a missionary around the Roman world, starting and strengthening churches (Acts 13-28). He wrote many letters to these churches, which now form much of our New Testament. 2 Timothy is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy, while Timothy was pastoring a church in Ephesus. However, the letter also contains lots of teachings that are for the wider church.

WHO WAS TIMOTHY?

Timothy heard the gospel from his mother and grandmother (2 Tim 1v5), but Paul considered him a son in the faith (1 Tim 1v2). They first met in Lystra in Acts 16. Timothy then began to travel extensively with Paul and also to visit churches on his behalf. Many of Paul's letters are written with Timothy. The book of 2 Timothy is written from mentor to student, almost as last words on how Timothy can guard the gospel after Paul dies.

WHEN DID PAUL WRITE THIS SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY?

2 Timothy was probably written in the mid 60s AD, around 5 years after he wrote 1 Timothy. Paul is in a Roman prison at the time of writing and he hopes there's time for Timothy to see him before his execution (4v9).

WHAT WAS EPHEBUS LIKE?

Ephesus was a prominent, wealthy, Greek seaport. The predominant religion was worship of the goddess Artemis (see Acts 19). When Paul travelled there, many believed his message and honoured Jesus, while others opposed him and incited riots. Paul also made a last visit to the Ephesian elders on his way to certain imprisonment in Jerusalem (Acts 20). And he wrote this church the letter we know as 'Ephesians', during his later imprisonment in Rome (probably an earlier imprisonment than in 2 Timothy).

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—Take your time reading through the passage. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—As you talk through the questions, see how we can hold on to the true gospel in the face of opposition.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your series companion along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.

rockypc TERM 2 planner



MAY							JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	2	3	4	5	6	7				8	2	3	4
GOD'S HOUSEHOLD	9	10	11	12	13	14	GUARDING THE GOOD DEPOSIT	6	7	8	9	10	11
GOD'S HOUSEHOLD	16	17	18	19	20	21	GUARDING THE GOOD DEPOSIT	13	14	15	16	17	18
GOD'S HOUSEHOLD	23	24	25	26	27	28	GUARDING THE GOOD DEPOSIT	20	21	22	23	24	25
PRAYER & PRAISE	30	31					PRAYER & PRAISE	27	28	29	30		
JULY							AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
PRAYER & PRAISE					1	2		1	2	life	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	life	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	life	18	19	20
	18	19	life	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	life	28	29	30	PRAYER & PRAISE	29	30	31			

COME TO OUR NEXT
WELCOME LUNCH

Are you new to rockypc?
We'd love you to join us at a WELCOME LUNCH to hear more about GROWING DISCIPLES.

Sunday 1 May (Term 2) or Sunday 17 July (Term 3)
Talk to Margie for details — 0467 480 004

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER
meet . think . discuss

At rockypc, we want to take the big questions in life seriously, so we want to invite you and your friends to CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER. Share your stories and think about these questions with us. CTM runs on Wednesdays @ SOUTHSIDE, 7-9pm

SCAN THE CTM QR CODE TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING!

25 May	What is the meaning of life?
1 June	Does god exist?
8 June	Do all religions lead to God?
15 June	Why is there evil?
22 June	Is there life after death?

After CTM, you're invited to investigate the good life with Jesus because we want everyone to turn to him.

LIFE runs on Wednesdays @ SOUTHSIDE starting on 20 July
SCAN THE LIFE QR CODE TO REGISTER

OTHER KEY DATES/EVENTS IN TERM 2

- SERVE SIGN-UP SUNDAY — Sunday 29 May
- God's Household, 1 Timothy — begins Sunday 24 April
- Guarding The Good Deposit, 2 Timothy — begins Sunday 5 June
- EQUIP Women's Conference — Saturday 18 June
- Prayer & Praise Nights — Last Sunday each month, 6.30pm
- Lord's Supper @ GRACEMERE & SOUTHSIDE — 5 June



DON'T BE ASHAMED

2 TIMOTHY 1v1-18

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

What do you guard? Are there things you'd fight to protect?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1v1-5

1. This letter begins in a similar way to 1 Timothy. What do we learn about Paul and Timothy's relationship?
2. How did the gospel reach Timothy?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1v6-12

3. The 'laying on of hands' is a way of talking about a commissioning that someone receives. What do you think Timothy's gift/commission might be? (see also 1 Timothy 4v12-14)
4. How does God equip Timothy for this role?
5. How should Timothy treat Paul and the message of the gospel?
6. What do we learn about the gospel here?
7. How can Paul be confident and unashamed in his suffering as a prisoner?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1v13-18

8. How can Timothy guard the deposit of the gospel?

9. Why do these men provide positive and negative examples of suffering for the gospel?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

When are you tempted to be ashamed of the gospel? What do you need to remember about the good news and God's character, in these moments?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

Is God's will for us to be saved for a comfortable, easy and prosperous life? What does he promise us?

In what ways do we need to guard the good deposit we have received? How can we do this, in the power of the Spirit?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Who passed the gospel on to you? Who are you passing it on to in faith and love in Christ Jesus?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for his grace shown to us in Jesus, not through anything we have done. Thank him for bringing life and immortality to light. Pray that we'd guard this gospel with faith and love in Christ.
- Pray that we would be unashamed of the gospel of Jesus, remembering his power, love and self-discipline the Holy Spirit gives us. Ask God's help to suffer for the gospel rather than choosing what is easy and comfortable.
- Thank God for those who passed the message to us, and pray that we would be handing it on to others.



ENDURE EVERYTHING

2 TIMOTHY 2v1-13

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A Key Verse:

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GETTING STARTED

Share a time when the only thing keeping you going was that the end was in sight.

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2v1-7

1. What does the grace of Christ Jesus give Timothy strength to do, from v1-3?

2. What are the 3 metaphors that Paul uses?

3. What themes tie these metaphors together?

4. What should we learn about how to suffer for Jesus, upon reflection?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2v8-10

5. What does Timothy need to remember about the gospel and God's word in the face of suffering?

6. What motivates Paul to endure imprisonment and injustice for the gospel?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2v11-13

7. How is our fate linked with Jesus'?

8. What do we learn about Jesus' character from this poem?

growing disciples

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ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How has Jesus' grace strengthened you to endure suffering for him? Which metaphor resonates with you, to keep your eyes on the eternal glory of salvation?

What do we need to know about Jesus' character, God's word and the gospel to suffer well?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

Do you sometimes think that no one else is affected by your endurance or lack of endurance? How can we spur each other on in this?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

How have you seen the gospel flourish in times of suffering? How can we persevere in sharing Jesus in our cultural moment?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David who died for us and reigns over all. Praise him for his strength, grace and faithfulness when we stumble and are weak.
- Thank him that his word is never chained, and that he always saves those whom he has chosen. Praise him that we'll receive eternal glory when Jesus returns.
- Ask God to make us strong in Jesus' grace, to keep our eyes fixed on him and the prize of salvation. Pray that we would spur each other on, as we endure together.



KNOWING THE TRUTH

2 TIMOTHY 2v14-3v9

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A Key Verse:

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GETTING STARTED

Do you have family heirloom china or silverware? What occasions are special enough to use them?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2v14-26

1. What warnings does Paul give about false teaching and its consequences?

2. What kind of teacher should Timothy be, in contrast?

3. How do the two sayings in v19 provide a solid foundation?

4. What will it look like to be useful to our Master?

5. How should we deal with opponents of the truth?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3v1-9

'The last days' is a phrase often used in the Bible to talk both of a time of human depravity, but also the time of God's salvation. But it's not some future event, as though the world is heading for worsening calamity. We are in the last days now. It's the time from Jesus' appearing until his return (See for example Acts 2v17, Hebrews 1v2 and James 5v3). Paul is warning us to expect to see sinfulness and false teaching now, as we live in the last days.

6. What role do people's 'loves' play in making the last days so terrible?

7. What is the power of godliness that these people fail to understand? (see 1v7-10; 2v1, 8-9, 19)

8. How does the knowledge of the truth connect with faith and righteousness in today's passage?

Jannes and Jambres aren't mentioned by name anywhere else in the Bible. But it was well known in Paul's day that other Jewish sources name them as sorcerers who worked for Pharaoh at the time of the Exodus (eg 7v11, 22; 8v7). They copy Moses' miracles but they're using their secret arts to keep the Israelites in slavery. In a parallel way, the false teachers in 1st Century Ephesus were gaining control over others and burdening them with sin. This is in contrast with the unchained gospel of Jesus who achieves our glory and reign with him (2v9-12).

Please also note that Paul is not saying all women are gullible! But rather, it's a comment on the despicable behaviour of these particular false teachers, who are taking advantage of some women.

growing disciples

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SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How can you have a solid foundation in God's character and a knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

How does what you love demonstrate who you belong to?

How is God using you for his good purposes?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

What would you say to someone who says 'Christians should all just get along and ignore differences in theology?'

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that we have a solid foundation in his character and in the truth of the gospel which means we turn from wickedness. Pray that we would pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace with pure hearts. Pray that we would know the truth of Jesus and learn the power of godliness that flows from it.
- Pray that our lives would demonstrate that we belong to the Lord and that we'd be useful to our Master, prepared to do any good work.
- Pray for those who have departed from the truth of the gospel and love themselves or money or pleasure. That we would know when to gently instruct and when to have nothing to do with them. And that they might repent and call on the Lord.



EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

2 TIMOTHY 3v10-4v2218

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GETTING STARTED

Who is your Christian hero (someone you look up to for the way they've followed Jesus faithfully)?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3v10-17

Paul has been warning Timothy about false teachers whose gangrenous teaching doesn't handle God's word correctly and whose lives demonstrate that they don't love God.

1. How does Paul's life stand out in contrast (v10-11)?
2. What two facts can we rely on for those who are godly and those who do evil?
3. Why are the Scriptures so important? (both the Hebrew Old Testament and the apostolic New Testament - see 2 Peter 3v15-16)

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4v1-5

4. What are the primary tasks of teachers amongst God's people?

5. How are we in danger of being seduced by false teachers?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4v6-8

6. How does Paul reflect on his life of ministry?

7. How does Paul look forward to Jesus' return?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4v9-22

8. How would you describe Paul's tone in this final word to Timothy?

9. What is Paul's hope in his final days?

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ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How does Paul's example, of a faithful life and a longing for Jesus' return, inspire you to live a godly life in Christ Jesus?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

How has Scripture thoroughly equipped you for good works? Describe a time of painful rebuke or gentle encouragement in God's word.

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Does your passion for Scripture match Paul's? How can you, as an individual, and us, as **rockypc**, ensure we continue to hold fast to the truth of Scripture and not turn aside to what's more popular or easier?

What can we do to help our teachers to preach God's word in and out of season, with patience and care?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Pray that we'd be convinced of the importance of Scripture as God-breathed, as the wisdom of salvation by faith in Jesus and as useful for equipping us for good works. Ask that our leaders would preach and teach it faithfully, even when it means persecution. Pray that we wouldn't turn aside to what is more popular or easier.
- Thank God that Jesus will return one day as our judge. Ask that we'd be filled with hope in his rescue and a longing for him to return. And that we would all fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith until then. Pray that we would receive that crown of righteousness through faith in Jesus.