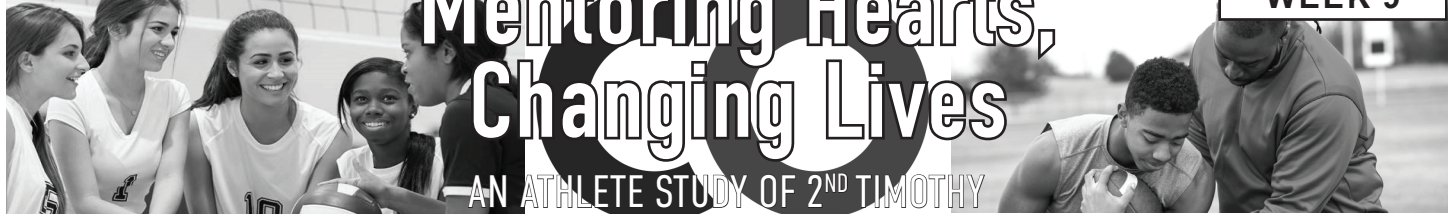



Mentoring Hearts, Changing Lives

—AN ATHLETE STUDY OF 2ND TIMOTHY



RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

“Don’t go blaming the toolbox. We need the right tools for the job.” 

You may or may not be familiar with Bob the Builder and his hit song, *Right tool for the job*. It dispenses solid, valuable construction wisdom such as *“you can’t put a square peg in a round hole.”* Or, *“You can’t have a hole if they don’t want a hole.”* Both statements are solid advice.

In the last few Weeks, we’ve considered having a gospel perspective—a responsibility to obey Christ and to resist fear, temptation, and outside forces. This Week, Paul shifts to discuss the resources available for both obedience and victory.

To identify and appreciate God’s resources, Paul reviews his life with Timothy. It stands in direct contrast to the life and character of the false teachers. Timothy began this partnership with Paul as a young man, not much older than a high school senior. Now, at about forty years old, Timothy has spent much of his entire adult life with the apostle. This kind of discipleship, Paul exhorts, provides both the model and the fuel for Timothy’s mission to mentor others.

Paul concludes this passage with one of the greatest statements regarding God’s primary resource available for believers of every generation—his Word. It’s a great tool, if we’re prepared to use it. As Bob the Builder sings, *“Preparing the tools for the situation, we’ve got to get on with the job. There’s no time for excuses or explanations, it’s up to you now, we’ve got to move.”*


2 TIMOTHY 3:10–17

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We know that many of you in this study have probably grown up in and around church. You’re familiar with many Bible stories and God’s plan of redemption revealed from *Genesis* to *Revelation*.

However, we know that many people come to studies just like this and didn’t grow up in church. You’re exploring. And, maybe you didn’t want to embarrass yourself by asking questions you think everyone already knows. Questions, like “What is the Bible?” Scan the QR code to find out. 

DISCUSSION

What is something God has taught you recently through your time in his Word?

1. Underline all the personal references in this passage (you, me, my) and count each.
2. What 2 words connect this passage with the previous one? (10)
3. What 2 experiences should a believer expect to occur? (12-13)
4. Where does Paul say Scripture comes from, and how is it beneficial? (16)

5. Summarize the resources God gives believers for obedience to follow Christ and victory to deal with suffering and persecution.

6. In what ways are you taking advantage of the promise God gives you regarding his Word? What might be lacking?

Throughout this study, we repeatedly talk about you as leaders—leaders at school, on your team, at work. You have influence. Don’t believe us, talk to your Coach today!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



Mentoring Hearts, Changing Lives

—AN ATHLETE STUDY OF 2ND TIMOTHY



STUDY NOTES PASSING THE BATON



During an international qualifying event for the Olympics in 2019, China’s women’s 4x100 had a disastrous baton hand-off. Like the snap of a football, the baton hand-off is done so perfectly, so often, that when it goes awry it seems shocking. Frankly, these hand-offs are done at such a speed with so much pressure on the runners that it’s amazing these kinds of mistakes don’t happen more often. It’s a great reminder that a good hand-off is hard and requires intentionality and maximal effort. Just because both parties *should* know what to do and how to do it, doesn’t mean you can take anything for granted.

Today’s passage executes a sharp turn as Paul opens saying, **“You, however...”** Paul does an about-face, *away* from false teachers and *toward* what Paul affirmed. In so many words, Paul is going to tell Timothy, “You’ve seen me sprinting. Now you need to get up to speed, because I’m passing the baton to you.”

MENTORING HEARTS REQUIRES GODLY EMPOWERMENT

Leadership means that someone is following. Timothy **followed** Paul. This term encapsulates the mentor-disciple relationship. It means to follow *physically*, sticking by his side through ups and downs. It also means to follow *mentally*, diligently adhering to his teaching, and understanding the meaning and significance of what he says. It means to follow *spiritually*, not only to understand what he has taught, but to live it.

Notice the repetition of how Timothy had followed Paul, **my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings**. Paul made it clear, his situation was no exception; **indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived**. Timothy had followed Paul through all these things and in all these ways. Now, it was time to focus on Timothy.

Paul switched gears to shine the spotlight on Timothy, **but as for you**. As we’ll see next Week, Paul’s race is quickly coming to an end. He’s in the final step or two after handing off the baton.

Paul empowered Timothy by charging him to **continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it**. Again, Paul points to Timothy’s spiritual heritage, **how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**.

Note that Paul wasn’t referring to the New Testament here. The “sacred writings” were the Old Testament scriptures. And yet, even these **are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**. Most of us probably can’t argue salvation in Jesus Christ using only the Old Testament. However, it’s possible. The resurrected Jesus did so with the men on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:27 says, *“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”* If Timothy was going to be effective, he had to know and use these “sacred writings.” But, why?

God’s Word, the “sacred writings,” are the primary resource God has given to humanity to know him, come to faith, and grow spiritually. **All Scripture is literally breathed out by God**. From *Genesis* to *Revelation*, God used human authors, guided by the Holy Spirit, to record his words. It’s this same Spirit that convicts people of sin, draws people to salvation in Christ, and brings understanding to believers reading the Bible. That’s why Paul says the Bible is **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work**.

GOD EMPOWERS US THROUGH HIS WORD

Paul wanted to pass the baton to Timothy, but the greatest resource that Paul could provide was God’s very Word. Paul had no power in and of himself—neither did Timothy—neither do you. It’s *the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword* (Hebrews 4:12). James 4:25 says, *“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”* David wrote in Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the whole Bible dedicated to God’s Word, *“Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.”*

This is just a sampling of what God says he will do if we spend time using, learning, and acting on his Word. My late pastor often said, “How big a fool would I have to be to not take advantage of all that God is offering just by being in his Word?”

We believe that the power of this study rests in God’s Word *alone*. We want to illustrate it, explain it, and help you apply it, but it’s not our words that ultimately matter. It’s God’s word that brings power to our ministry. And, it’s God’s Word that will bring power to yours.

