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**THE BOOK OF**

# **2ND TIMOTHY**

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**TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS**

## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 1:1-7

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **2nd Timothy 1:1-7 (NIV)**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those who are on the road, that they will see themselves in the same position that God sees them. Pray for God's spirit of power to be fully displayed in each one's heart, and that they will be a shining example to those they encounter this week.

### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...but a spirit of power..."

### MESSAGE

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Paul's follow-up letter to Timothy is by no means a quiet and timid affair. Right from the start Paul reminds Timothy about the power of God and the position we have in life. As ever, Paul reminds us that our life is fully in Christ's hands. In verse one, he states that his position (an apostle of Christ Jesus) is, "...by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus." As believers we need to remind ourselves that we too have the same assurance of our position in Christ as we serve Him here on earth.

It is because of God that we are who we are. This was important to Timothy because of the plans God had for him. It is important to us for the very same reason. We are on GOD's mission, and we are to use GOD's power to accomplish it. Paul describes it in verse seven as, "...a spirit of power, of love..." This week let's live our lives by God's Spirit!

## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 1: 8-12

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **2nd Timothy 1: 8-12 (NIV)**

8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that you and those traveling remember that it is to God Almighty you have entrusted your very being, the entirety of your life!

### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“...I know whom I have believed...”

### MESSAGE

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What gave Paul such confidence in his relationship with Christ Jesus? What was it that allowed him to carry the burden of jail? How could he endure the ridicule and shame of the crowds who laughed at him? Why was he not ashamed? For Paul it was quite simple and a concept he wanted Timothy to fully comprehend. It is the concept that underscores our faith and becomes the foundation of how we live our life despite the ugliness of this world. Verse 12 is one of the most promising and rewarding verses in the whole Bible.

I leave it with you today for your meditation, foundation, and prayer for this week [emphases mine]: “That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”

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# MATTHEW 25:21

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### **Matthew 25:21 (NIV)**

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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Pray for others you know who have lost a loved one in these recent weeks.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"Well done, my good and faithful servant."

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## MESSAGE

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### A Special Tribute to Ron Marks

Through each of our lives comes that rare person who makes a great impression in our lives, a person who exhibits the character of Christ in every situation and environment they are in. They wear no masks to cover the excellent witness they have for our Lord and Savior. Ron Marks was such a Christian. I had the opportunity to work with Ron while he was employed at Comerica Bank. Ron was a Christian with a witness to the world and fellow believers that was inspiring to all. While he held important positions in the business world, he maintained both humility and a passion for the Lord that was evident to all he encountered. For reasons hidden by God himself, Ron spent the last two-plus years of his life in a hospital and care facility after having suffered a brain injury. His witness continued not only through his hospitalization, but through his wife and daughters who faithfully held him before our Lord and Savior and cared for him with the love of Christ he knew so well. The way many felt about Ron is expressed by a former colleague at the bank who said, "Although my association with Ron was brief, I consider it one of the most rewarding experiences in my life and career.

He was not only brilliant, but a wonderful human being." And as his family quoted from Matthew, we are confident as he sees Jesus face to face that the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant," will be the first heard by Ron in heaven. II Corinthians 5:1-4 "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life."

On April 2, 2008, Ron Marks was swallowed up by LIFE !

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 1:13-18

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### **2nd Timothy 1:13-18 (NIV)**

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. 18 May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that God's sound teaching will be heard throughout your home and workplace. Pray that those traveling will not be trapped by the evil and unsound teaching of this world.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you..."

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## MESSAGE

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In the beginning of 2nd Timothy, Paul reminds Timothy that Paul's reason for NOT being ashamed of the gospel was that he trusted that God was able to guard what Paul had entrusted to God: his very life, both then and for eternity. Paul now goes on to remind Timothy about what he (Timothy) needs to guard. With God guarding our very eternal life what should we need to guard? According to Paul, we need to guard "...the pattern of sound teaching..." And how is it done? The answer here is, "...with faith and love in Christ Jesus...and with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us." This is a valuable model for our lives today. While we have entrusted our very lives to Christ, it is important that we remember that it is only through the sound teaching of Christ Jesus that our faith grows.

Without sound teaching we begin to falter and lose balance in our daily life. Our eternal security is firmly in place, but the day to day can become very difficult without sound teaching and resting our life in Christ's teachings. Sound teaching is also a method God uses to bring others to Him. We know when others are wrong, when their teaching is not sound and not according to God's word. Thanks be to God for His Good News!

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 2:1-7

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **2nd Timothy 2:1-7 (NIV)**

1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those traveling, that physical exhaustion will not cause them to become spiritually exhausted. Ask for God's special grace in their lives to be evident and for them to be aware of His power.

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### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

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### MESSAGE

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In the last two passages Paul has used the term "guard" many times. We guard something because it is of great value, and we want the best guards on things we value the most. Paul now goes on to say we need to take what we have to be strong in (God's grace) and entrust what we have heard (The Gospel) to those qualified to teach others. Here we begin to see a reason for the sound teaching in the last chapter: discipling others! Paul goes on to show the importance of this by using two common examples, the soldier and the athlete. Both of whom are VERY focused on victory as the end result. In our lives as well, we need to have focus; a focus on what God has directed us to and NOT on what this world has to offer.

Sometimes this can be confusing and hard, which is why there is such an emphasis on guarding what we have and resting in CHRIST's power alone, nothing else, including ourselves. The rewards are there for us, just like Paul says for the soldier, the athlete, and even the farmer. This week allow God's grace and power to be your sole source of energy. Allow Him to focus you and your time.

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 2: 8-13

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### **2nd Timothy 2: 8-13 (NIV)**

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. 11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those struggling with their faith. Ask God to help them to see His provision and His power in their life.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...if we are faithless, He will remain faithful..."

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## MESSAGE

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In the next few verses, Paul takes a step back in history to once again remind Timothy (and us!) just who our faith is entrusted to. We suffer for and have faith in Christ who is from the line of David and has been raised from the dead! Wow! Do you believe that? And, if so, how does it impact your daily life? For Paul, it meant "...being chained like a criminal." God has a different plan for each one of us, and each one of us will suffer or endure different tribulations. Paul reminds us that the rewards are not always seen today, but some will be seen in eternal glory. One of my favorite passages is here; I have read it many times when I begin to feel my own lack of faith. Paul reminds us that it is not about our faith, but about the faithfulness of God Himself.

Verse 13 screams this reality to us when it says, "...if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself." Once we have made a commitment to Him and entrusted our life to Him alone, we are His, and it is HE who gives us the faith to endure all that this world has to dish out.

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 2:14-26

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 2nd Timothy 2:14-26 (NIV)

14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. 22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week ask that God give you and those around you a heart of love and compassion. Ask God to show you how to listen and gently instruct those whom you will encounter.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace..."

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## MESSAGE

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Paul continues his words of encouragement to his young disciple, Timothy, as he reminds and re-focuses us in these verses. In this section we see Paul continue to remind us what NOT to do, in addition to adding a major "To Do" list to our agenda. (See above in the weekly quote.) A major emphasis of this passage is on not quarreling, which seems to be a major need in our society. Today we have debates that turn into fights, and "reality shows" that are nothing more than arguments on TV. We live and work in a society that puts more value on winning and being right, than on listening and understanding. One way to avoid arguments is to listen.

Listening does not necessarily mean "agreeing with", it only means that you are willing to understand and hear what the other person has to say. How much better could we talk and discuss the Gospel with someone, than if we were to actually know what they thought and how they felt? Quarreling has become an issue in the church as well. It has become an issue of "being right", not pursuit of God's truth or saving a soul. Just to be "right". Paul says we are not to quarrel and we must also "gently instruct". Do you know the difference? The person you are quarreling with does. This week pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.



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# 2ND TIMOTHY 3:1-9

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 2nd Timothy 3:1-9 (NIV)

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...”

6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those traveling that they will see the power of God's scripture and His wisdom as they make decisions in their daily life. Ask God to give insight and wisdom to those on the road as they are away from family.

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## MESSAGE

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In these few verses, Paul sharply contrasts the focus of those who love God and those who do not. While the passage talks of “the last days”, the message is clearly for us today. We need to be on the alert and aware of what people are teaching us to see the window into their soul. If the message of someone's teaching is self-centered and can be summarized as, “...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...”, Scripture has a very decisive and important command for us: “Have nothing to do with them.” Not a lot of room for interpretation.

God is a very jealous God, and desires our focus to be on Him alone. As you evaluate what teachers and those of influence are saying, if it does not focus on God, or if it is in any way a focus on self-pleasure, there is only one answer: Have nothing to do with them. Who are you listening to this week? Take a strong look at those you respect and trust, and put them to the test of Scripture.

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## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 3:10-17

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **2nd Timothy 3:10-17 (NIV)**

10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived

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### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful...”

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week, read God's Word and let His Spirit direct you in praying.

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## MESSAGE

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We find two very powerful applications in these eight short verses. First is one that is carried throughout Scripture and summarized powerfully here in verses 16 and 17, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” So much theology in so few words. The basics of why we are to be in God's word are all right here:

- It is GOD-BREATHED.
- It is for training in righteousness.
- It is to equip us for EVERY good work.

What more do we want? No wonder it is called the bread of life. All we need to feed on and grow is in Scripture. The more we are focused on the Word of God, the more we become lovers of God. God's Word is straight to the point and powerful. This week take some extra time in God's word and see how much more you will love Him. Next week, we will look at the other powerful application in these verses.

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## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 3:10-17

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived

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### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“...everyone who wants to live a godly life...will be persecuted...”

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that God reveals His joy amidst the persecution.

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## MESSAGE

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This week we see the difficult side of Christianity as well as one of the most misused principles in Scripture. Paul has often discussed his persecution and sufferings and every time reflects on God's power alone as the power that brought him through. That is the first point to be made: God alone will bring us through persecution and suffering. It is His righteous right hand that provides the energy, emotion, and power for us to get through anything we encounter on this earth. The concept of godly works or godly living and its connection to persecution has been twisted and mixed up for centuries. Scripture clearly states that, “...everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...” Scripture does NOT say that everyone who is suffering persecution is living a godly life.

This can often be the claim for both Christians trying to justify their wrong behavior (also known as SIN) and by many ungodly people (see definition from last week- lovers of pleasure rather than God) who feel they are “godly” simply because they are being persecuted by society for their unacceptable or “religious” behavior. So, as you look at your own life, remember the facts:

- Godly living will invite persecution.
- Persecution does not prove godly behavior.

This week keep God's word close to your heart, and whatever persecution comes your way will be felt through His loving arms.

## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 4:1-5

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **2nd Timothy 4:1-5 (NIV)**

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those at home who are without their loved ones. Ask God to give them His comfort and His joy as they miss their loved ones.

### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“...keep your head in all situations...”

### MESSAGE

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Paul is getting close to the final instructions for his protégé, Timothy. The deep and powerful words to finalize his thoughts are right at hand. First he tells Timothy what to do:

- Preach the Word
- Be prepared (AT ALL TIMES!)
- Correct
- Rebuke
- Encourage

After a few comments about the enemy we are fighting, Paul reminds Timothy about the context of his responsibilities:

- The work of an evangelist
- Duties of your ministry

Timothy was given the ministry of evangelism. What ministry did God gift you with? The answer to that question allows you to focus on the “what to do’s”, and Paul’s list above will fit nicely into whatever ministry God has chosen for you. This week remind yourself of where God is leading and equipping you, and make strides to seek His wisdom and power in that ministry.

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TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 4:6-8

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 2nd Timothy 4:6-8 (NIV)

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those traveling, that they will feel the power of love from those they have left at home. Ask God to show them His love poured out like a drink offering.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“...I have kept the FAITH.”

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## MESSAGE

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These two verses provide so much power and impact I have elected to show the DEEP relationship Paul has created with Timothy by summarizing them. Drink in the words of Paul the Apostle, mentor to Timothy the protégé! Feel the powerful relationship between the two of them and even more so between them and God Almighty. [Please note: summary and emphasis mine.]

- I am being poured out like a drink offering
- The time has come for my departure
- I have fought the good fight
- I have finished the race

- I have kept the FAITH
- In store for me is the Crown of righteousness given by the Lord, the righteous Judge
- The same crown can be YOURS!
- I long for HIS appearing

What a story of friendship, mentoring, companionship, and, best of all, eternal life! This week reflect on what God has done for you, and what you would like to be saying when your time to leave this earth arrives.

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TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 2ND TIMOTHY 4:9-22

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 2nd Timothy 4:9-22 (NIV)

9 Do your best to come to me quickly, 10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...the Lord stood at my side..."

16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Final Greetings

19 Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. 21 Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that God will reveal to you and to those traveling His power and love in a special and focused way.

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## MESSAGE

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As Paul is ending this great book of faith, companionship, and mentoring, he concludes with two important thoughts. First is a plea to Timothy to join him. This is very reflective of the relationship they have built. It is also important for us to see that relationships here on earth are vitally important. It is through our relationships that we are able to see God's strength and love in our lives. While relationships are not perfect examples of God's love, they are the path He uses every day to encourage and strengthen us. We need to focus on being that friend, mentor and encourager to others, so that they are pleading to have us by their side in times of need. Second is to see God as the ultimate source of our strength. While Timothy is VERY important to Paul as a friend and encourager, Paul understands the ultimate strength

is found in God. He sees this both as he remembers and acknowledges what has kept him safe and sound, but also uses that history to remind and confirm to himself that the future is also secure. Beginning at verse 17 he emphasizes the power God was in his life [emphasis mine], "But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength...I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom." And what was this all for? Paul's pleasure and delight? Of course not. Paul knew it was "...so that through [him] the [Gospel] message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it." This week determine what God has done to protect and secure you, and then thank Him for His power and love.