

# THE CHARGE

A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

## Week 5 - 2 Timothy 2:22-26

### TEXT –

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

### INTRODUCTION –

Last week we talked about the idea of being careful with our words and our actions, in order to make sure they align in purity with our faith in Jesus. In 2 Tim 2:22-26, we continue that idea as we read Paul's advice to flee from evil and pursue righteousness. But what does that mean?

Paul says to stay away from anything that tempts you away from God's plan. That could mean a multitude of things for each one of us. For some, perhaps that looks like a friend who tempts us to do things that we know we shouldn't be doing. For others, it may mean keeping our eyes from evil in what we watch on tv, or what we search on our phones.

Paul continues by saying again not to engage in silly fights or debate with people who just want to fight. Instead, he tells us to be kind above all, to be patient with those who are difficult to love, and to speak the truth in love. Not bashing people over the head with the Bible, but instead showing them the love of Christ in a way that is true and also kind. After all, it is God's job to change a person's heart, not ours. We are merely those who begin to plant the seed and God will be the one to guide the watering and growing of it.

Paul also talks about spending time with "those who call on the Lord with pure hearts". Here he references the importance of having a strong community around you who believe in the same power of God that you do. 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) tells us "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" Having others who believe the same truths about God around you can help you to stand strong in your faith and encourage you when things get tough. In return, you can be there for your fellow brothers and sisters as well. It's important to both have friends who think like you, and friends who think differently than you. When it comes to Christianity, you need those who can encourage and push you towards God, and also those with whom you can tell about God.

Paul finishes by saying that those who have not yet come to know Jesus as their savior are still trapped by the devil, and do not have freedom. That's why it's so important that we share of the freedom we find in Jesus! We get to partner with God to show others that there is a better way out there with less pain and more love, purity, and freedom.

### **QUESTIONS:**

Q1 - Sometimes it's hard to share our faith with our friends. At the end of the day, we are to plant the seed, and God will bring the rest. As we tell others about Christ, we get to do so with love and kindness. Have you ever shared the Gospel with a friend or a stranger? How did it feel? Were they receptive or did they reject it? If you haven't yet, what's stopping you from doing it?

Q2 - How can you break through the barriers that keep you from sharing the gospel with those around you? What will you do to take a step forward towards that this week?

### **APPLICATION/ACTION -**

Though it can be hard to break out of our comfort zone to tell others about Jesus, it's so important that we feel the fear, and do it anyway! No one is exempt from needing Jesus, so why would we be exempt from sharing about Him? God has given each of us a testimony to share, even from right in the middle of the story that He's currently writing. Each of us have something unique to contribute in sharing about Jesus that someone else needs to hear.

This week, search for one person to share your faith. Whether it be a full on Gospel presentation or just simply sharing that *you* have faith in God - begin the steps to becoming comfortable talking about your faith. If you want to take the next step, consider posting about your faith on your social media! We have far greater influence than we realize in this digital age. Repost a post about Jesus, make your own, or even share a worship song. You've got this!!

### **PRAYER -**

*God, send me! Thank you for giving me faith in you and the air in my lungs to talk more about you with those you've put around me. God, would you give me the assurance and confidence needed to share more about you with someone this week. Would you make it obvious who I am supposed to share with, or in what moment I should say something. Lead me, God! Give me a sign, like butterflies in my stomach, when you want me to follow your lead. Lead me in what to say, and how to say it. Help me to trust you. Thank you, God, for the opportunities you'll bring this week! Be over me, calm my nerves, and help me to be excited about this mission! Thank you for how you lead and speak to us, Holy Spirit. Help me to hear you loud and clear. Amen.*

# **Worship**

**THIS WEEK, CONSIDER LISTENING TO:**

**Send Me by Bethel Music**

**Forever the One by Bethel Music**

**First Love by Hillsong, Young and Free**