2 Tim 1.3-14 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike’s Sermon

**Intro**

* Story of Gene Demby’s trip to Ghana and the Door of No Return
	+ Family isn’t mere lineage, but lived experience.
* Table of Contents
	+ You are tethered to a rich heritage of faith
	+ Your trust in the Gospel will be tested by suffering and opposition
	+ Paul gives Timothy two reminders

**Tethered to rich heritage (v.3-7)**

* Philippians 3.4-9

**Tested by Suffering and Opposition (v. 8-12)**

* Romans 8.28-30

**Two Reminders (v.13-14)**

* Follow sound doctrine
* Guard the good deposit

**Implications**

* The call to be a multigenerational, gift affirming, faith sharing people
* Suffering doesn't obscure the beauty, power and majesty of Christ, it clarifies it
	+ Revelation 5.1-6

Discussion Questions

*Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture, learn how to better read the Bible for themselves, and faithfully apply it to their lives.*

Read 2 Tim 1:3-14

1. In vv. 3-7 Paul mentions both his ancestors in the faith as well as Timothy’s.

a. Who do you trace your spiritual lineage back to? Who are those people that have been most instrumental in your spiritual life?

b. Do you often think of yourself as connected to this legacy of faith, or is it more just you and God? Why do you tend to think about your faith this way?

c. For thousands of years people have been walking with God in this world, facing the same kinds of struggles and temptations. In other words, you are not alone. You are not the only one and you are not the first. How does or should this fact help or encourage you?

2. The Christian faith is passed down from one generation to another by the Holy Spirit using people to share the gospel and to explain what it means to live it out.

a. How does this fact reveal the importance of multigenerational ministry?

 *Since Christianity is passed down from one generation to another, each successive generation needs to be intentional about learning from the previous one.*

b. What are forms of multigenerational ministry that you have experienced or been blessed by? What are some forms that you believe you should engage in?

*Learning from older and wiser Christians that have gone before you or investing in those with less Christian life experience can take many forms.*

* *One-on-one mentoring*
* *Small group discipleship or bible studies with those in a different life stage*
* *Serving alongside those who are at a different live stage*
* *Reading books by godly men and women*
* *Reading books about the lives of wise and godly people*

3. In v. 6 we see Paul referring to Timothy’s gift and his responsibility to utilize and develop it. We see two important things here. First, while Scripture clearly teaches that God is the one who gives us gifts (e.g. 1 Cor 12:4-11), God also seems to use people in the process of recognizing and conferring these gifts (1 Tim 4:14; Rom 1:11). While it is not clear how this works, what is clear is that we are not meant to operate on our own.

 a. What gifts do you believe God has given you?

 b. How are you utilizing and developing them for the sake of Christ?

 c. How has this gift been affirmed by the church?

4. Pastor Mike pointed out that one of the basis of “family” is shared experience, meaning when you share certain experiences with other people it bonds you to them in a special, family-like way. This is part of what it means to follow Jesus. We share his experience by following after him. God the Father becomes our father. On the flip side, Jesus’ mission and suffering becomes ours. For this reason, suffering becomes part of the shared experience of all Christians. This is what Paul is emphasizing in vv. 8-12.

a. Paul beings by encouraging Timothy to “not being ashamed” of Christ or Paul, but instead to “share in the suffering for the gospel” (v. 8). Why does he then start talking about his own suffering (vv. 11-12)?

*Paul is attempting to encourage and instruct Timothy through his own example.*

b. Timothy already has Jesus’ example. Why would Paul use his?

*Jesus is the perfect example. At the same time, he also lived in a specific place and time, and so his example can feel distant or foreign the farther we are removed from his time and place. However, when we see people that we know in our time and place live out Jesus’ example before us it brings Jesus’ example to life in a whole new way. We discover what it looks like to follow Jesus’ example today.*

*Also, we can easily feel like Jesus is perfect of course he can suffer well. But when we see another imperfect person—like us—being strengthened by the power of God to do amazing things, then we are reassured by their example that we can do it to by the grace of God.*

c. In v. 12 Paul explains why he is not ashamed of the gospel and his mission to proclaim it. What is his reason?

*“ . . . for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me”*

c. What does it mean to “know” Christ? How well do you “know” him? How do you grow in your knowledge of him?

*Knowledge here refers to personal knowledge, the way we know other people in our lives. And so, knowing Christ means having a personal relationship with Christ.*

d. How does Paul’s knowledge of Christ provide him with assurance in the midst of his suffering?

*Because Paul knows Christ, he is convinced that Jesus is able to carry him to the end.*

e. What does being ashamed of Christ say about what we believe about him?

f. What does our hopelessness in the face of our suffering reveal about what we believe about Jesus?

5. All Christians struggle at some point with being ashamed of Christ or feeling hopeless in the face of challenges. What does this passage teach us about how we overcome these tendencies?

6. Paul ends this passage with two specific exhortations (vv. 13-14). What are they?

*1. Follow the pattern of sounds words. “Sound words” refer to the sound teaching that comes from Christ. When this teaching is followed and lived out it creates a certain kind of lifestyle, a pattern of living. Paul is saying don’t just know sound teaching, but follow the example of living out this sound teaching that you have seen in my life.*

*2. Guard the good deposit. This is just another way of referring to same thing, but instead of following the example of Jesus’ teaching lived out, Timothy is also supposed to protect it. This is because false teachers threaten to corrupt both the teaching and example, and so Timothy must keep it pure. Later on he is supposed to pass this along to others like Paul has passed it on to him.*

a. What specific part of Jesus’ and Paul’s example is God currently challenging you with?

b. Where do you see the “good deposit” of sound doctrine being threatened in your life and in the lives around you? What can you do to guard it?