

# **The Most Excellent Way**

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

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## **“Commitment to The Word”**

### **HEART ATTITUDE: Good Stewardship of The Word**

The Bible is not a collection of stories, fables, myths or merely human ideas about God. It is not just a human book. Through the Holy Spirit, God revealed His person and plan to certain believers who wrote down God’s message for His people (2 Peter 1:20-21). This process is known as “inspiration.” The writers wrote from their own personal, historical and cultural contexts. But even though they used their own minds, talents, language and style, they wrote what God wanted them to write. God inspired the Bible’s writing—its words are entirely authoritative for our faith and lives. The Bible is “God-breathed.”

#### **2 TIMOTHY 3:10 – 4:8 (NIV)**

*You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, (10)*

*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. (11)*

*In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (12)*

*While evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (13)*

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, (14)*

*And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (15)*

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (16)*

*So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (17)*

*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: (4:1)*

*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (4:2)*

*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. (4:3)*

*They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (4:4)*

*But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (4:5)*

*For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. (4:6)*

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (4:7)*

*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. (4:8)*

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- **FOCUSING**

1. What is the importance of “sound doctrine?”

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2. If the story of your life were made into a movie, what would be its title?

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3. If you could be known for only one thing when you died, what would you want it to be?

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4. Who is someone whose reputation you admire? Why?

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- **STUDYING GOD’S WORD**

5. What did Timothy know about Paul? (3:10-11)

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6. From what did Paul say the Lord rescued him? (3:11)

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7. What will happen to everyone who wants to live a godly life? (3:12)

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8. What will evil men and impostors do? (3:13)

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Don’t expect false teachers and evil people to reform and change on their own. Left alone, they will become worse and worse.

9. What did Paul encourage Timothy to do? (3:14)

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Like Timothy, we are surrounded by false teachings, and most of us are very busy. But we must not allow our society to distort or crowd out God’s eternal truth. Spend time every day reflecting on the foundation of your Christian faith found in God’s Word, the great truths on which you build your life. And remember the devoted men and women who taught them to you.

10. How long had Timothy known the holy Scriptures? (3:15)

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Timothy became a Christian because his mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures when he was a small child. The evangelist’s work is important, but the parent’s work is equally important. We should realize that teaching small children is both an opportunity and a responsibility. Are you teaching your children God’s Word?

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11. What are the holy Scriptures able to do? (3:15)

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12. What is true of all Scripture? (3:16)

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13. For what is Scripture useful? (3:16)

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Because the Bible is inspired by God and is trustworthy, we need to read it and apply it in our lives. The Bible is our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. It is our safeguard against false teaching, and our source of guidance for how we should live. It is our source of knowledge about how we are saved. God wants to show you what is true and equip you to live for Him.

14. For what good work does the Scripture equip the person of God? (3:17)

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In our zeal for the “truth” of Scripture, we must never forget its “purpose” — to equip us to do good to others. As disciples of Christ, we must study Scripture so we will know how to do His work. Our knowledge of God’s Word is useless unless it leads us to good works.

15. Who will Jesus Christ judge? (4:1)

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16. For what did Paul want Timothy to be prepared? (4:2)

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We believe in Christ today because people like Timothy were faithful to their mission. It may be inconvenient to take a stand for Christ or tell others about His love, but preaching and teaching the Word of God is the most important responsibility we have been given. The Most Excellent Way meeting is a fertile field for planting seeds of truth. Be prepared, courageous and sensitive to God-given opportunities to tell the Good News.

*Be prepared in season and out of season* means to always be ready to preach the Gospel, whether or not it is comfortable or convenient. (It is difficult to accept correction and to be rebuked — to be told to change. But no matter how much the truth hurts, we must be willing to listen so we can more fully obey God. When correcting others, we must be patient and gentle.)

17. What time did Paul say was coming? (4:3)

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“Itching ears” means hearing only what they want to hear.

18. What will people one day do with the truth? (4:4)

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19. What did Paul instruct Timothy to do? (4:5)

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20. Why was Paul ready for his impending death? (4:6)

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21. What had Paul done? (4:7)

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22. What was in store for Paul? (4:8)

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23. To whom will God award a crown of righteousness? (4:8)

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The laurel wreath was a symbol of triumph and honor, and was the prize awarded to winning athletes in ancient Rome. This may be what Paul was referring to when he spoke of a “crown.”

Paul confidently said he had been faithful to his call — he faced death calmly; he knew he would be rewarded by Christ. Is your life preparing you for death? Are you confident about your meeting with Jesus? The Good News is that the heavenly reward is not just for the giants of the faith, but for all who eagerly await Jesus' Second Coming. No matter how difficult the fight seems — keep fighting. When we are with Jesus, we'll know that it was all worth it!

### • UNDERSTANDING

24. What sort of reputation do you desire?

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25. What sort of reputation do you have at work, at school, and in your neighborhood?

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26. When and how have you been persecuted for living a godly life?

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27. What does it mean that the Bible is God-breathed?

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28. In what ways should you use the Bible?

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29. How equipped are you to do every good work?

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30. What type of doctrines do people today like to hear?

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31. In what way are all Christians able to be evangelists?

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