

Close by reading an excerpt from this article found in the NLT Study Bible regarding the apostle Paul's words –

For Paul, the essence of good leadership was to provide an example that mirrored Christ's own example. The cross of Christ was central for Paul... The mantle of Christian leadership is the garb of a servant who suffers for those he leads (Mark 10:35-45). If leadership does not orbit faithfully around Christ as its self-giving center, it ceases to be leadership in Christ and fails to understand the Good News. But leadership that is modeled after Christ gains a reward at Christ's future coming, when those who have died with Him will live with Him and those who endure hardship will reign with Him (2:11-12).

from NLT Study Bible – Tyndale Publishers, p.2067

# DEEPER LIVING

**Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-8**

## **The Plain Truth:**

Launch \_\_\_\_\_ for deeper \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ lives!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_  
for deeper living.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is to remain  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of scripture.
3. Immediate \_\_\_\_\_ and faithful serving  
\_\_\_\_\_ lives.

### **One Year Bible Reading**

October 28: Jeremiah 51:54-52:34, Titus 3:1-15, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 26:18-19  
October 29: Lamentations 1:1-2:22, Philemon 1:1-25, Psalm 101:1-8, Prov. 26:20  
October 30: Lamentations 3:1-66, Hebrews 1:1-14, Ps. 102:1-28, Prov. 26:21-22  
October 31: Lamentations 4:1-5:22, Hebrews 2:1-18, Psalm 103:1-22, Prov. 26:23  
November 1: Ezekiel 1:1-3:15, Hebrews 3:1-19, Psalm 104:1-23, Proverbs 26:24-26  
November 2: Ezekiel 3:16-6:14, Hebrews 4:1-16, Psalm 104:24-35, Proverbs 26:27  
November 3: Ezekiel 7:1-9:11, Hebrews 5:1-14, Psalm 105:1-15, Proverbs 26:28

**October 27 & 28, 2018**

# Life Group Lesson

Week of October 28

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, chapter four opens with a deep sense of urgency that echoes for Christ-followers today. As an old man, Paul implores his son in the faith to be about deeper living. Preach the Gospel in all truth and sincerity, be prepared to share the message of Christ regardless of how you feel, and patiently correct and encourage those under your care (under your watch!) Christ is coming again and will set up His Kingdom. His appearing will bring cleansing (Malachi 3:2), accountability (1 Corinthians 3:13), and reward (Isaiah 40:10).

Just knowing what to do is not enough. Merely knowing 'why' we should fulfill our heavenly assignment is not enough. Paul says, Timothy, you must act upon what you believe. Live it out and be prepared to work hard "at telling others the Good News and fully carry out the ministry God has given you" (2 Timothy 4:5b). Life is swift. Christ's return is imminent and many people still need to hear the message of God's salvation. Time is of the essence! Only in deeper living will you find true soul-satisfaction.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Our lives are like a rocket ready to be launched. Think about it: Millions of dollars, hours of preparation, tons of scientific data, and team after team of expert minds came together in order to send every space craft into space. Every person who accepts Christ is ON MISSION. But if we never 'launch' we are like a rocket, full of mission and purpose, that never takes off.

1. Think of the time and energy that has been poured into you in order for you to know Christ personally (God's Son coming from heaven to earth to give His life, all the people who said yes to God's call—from the disciples and the apostle Paul, to your childhood Sunday School teacher or pastor, perhaps your parents or grandparents, godly mentors, friends, countless others). Are you being a good steward of these investments?

Study of God's Word (God's ways, His will) equips you and fuels you. But this is only the beginning. This holy 'Fuel' keeps us going (moving) into Christ's great commission. Read what the risen Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. Outline Christ's "take-off" orders from His words spoken here from the Mt. of Olives at His ascension (see also Acts 1:9-11, Zechariah 14:3-9)

The apostle Paul says that his death draws near and his life has been poured out as a drink offering before the Lord. This man who once persecuted believers (as Saul of Tarsus) – whose life's trajectory was recalibrated once he began orbiting the risen Christ – is about to finish his mission. "And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:8)

2. Did you know that longing with 'eager expectation' for Christ's return actually keeps you pure and clean? (see 1 John 3:3). Launch into deeper living, and you will discover a deeper desire to become more like Christ. Then when Christ appears – a date set on heaven's calendar! – you will not be ashamed. In the space below, write down a couple of thoughts regarding Christ' return and your own preparation. Be honest. Share your heart (your true thoughts) with the Lord. Ask the Lord to reveal His heart to you. What one step can you take today to move into deeper living?

Today is a good day to take Immediate action. How can we do that? Commit to "WORSHIP plus Two." Simply choosing to attend weekend worship, join a Life Group, and faithfully serving in a ministry will save lives. You do your part and God will do His part!

3. Why not commit to WORSHIP plus TWO? There is nothing to lose, but everything to gain. Don't let anything hold you back from taking immediate action today.

For 30 days, I will commit to WORSHIP plus TWO—

1. Simply attending weekend worship
2. Joining a Life Group (or if you are in a LG, stepping up my participation by praying daily for my group and leader, and perhaps bringing a friend)
3. Serving in a ministry.  
(signed) \_\_\_\_\_