

DEAR TIMOTHY: This is the last time I will write to you.

Pastor Chad Ellenburg

Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-18 (pages 995-996)

A friend who sticks closer than a brother (2 Timothy 1:1-5)

Don't forget to say something. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Misunderstanding, Shame, and Honor (2 Timothy 1:8-12a)

Guard what He is Guarding. (2 Timothy 1:12b-18)

Food for Thought for the week of August 20, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Knowing that he would soon be executed for following Jesus, Paul is writing his last letter to Timothy. If it was you, what would you say to those you loved?

2. Paul and Timothy share a brotherhood and relationship that might seem foreign to us. Talk about the model of relationships the Bible sometimes presents and how this can be difficult to achieve in our culture.

3. Why does the idea of living a life that is a good moral example appeal more to us than actually sharing the Gospel?

4. Talk about how our culture has tried to soften the message of the Gospel. Why is it that working for justice or equal rights is more palatable than telling someone they will spend an eternity without Jesus without His sacrifice?

5. What is the Bible's understanding of shame and honor? How is that different from ours?

6. How does Jesus' commitment to upholding the honor of His Father change the way you think about your salvation?

7. Talk about suffering for the Gospel. What does that mean? How is this partaking in Christ's glory and why does Paul keep bringing it up?

8. Talk about the tension between God guarding us and commanding us to guard our own hearts. Why do we tend to swing to the latter?

9. Paul names some Names here. Was he too harsh? Why is calling out sin in someone's life something we would rather not do?

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