



Week 8

Sermon Series: Blueprints for Discipleship

Sermon Title: What Do Elders Actually Do?

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Group Week of: February 26, 2023

Sermon Date: March 5, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Paul/Timothy in Ephesus – Acts 19:1-22
Day 2	Elders of Ephesus – Acts 20:13-38
Day 3	Timothy's Charge – 2 Timothy 3:10-17
Day 4	Timothy's Charge – 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Day 5	Compete for the Crown – 1 Cor 9:24-27

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message that God and Paul are trying to present to Timothy (and us) through this text?
- 2) Why does Timothy need to pass on what he has learned from Paul?
- 3) What points is Paul making in the three metaphors from verses 4-6?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Paul provides a very simple recipe for discipleship in verse 2. Compare Paul's instructions to Timothy in verse 2 with the Great Commission Jesus gave to His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20. What similarities and differences do you see?

- 2) Timothy was a companion, disciple, and even coworker of Paul for many years of Paul's ministry. You can see where Timothy is brought along with Paul in Acts 16:1-4. His commission into ministry and experiences with Paul are briefly described in 2 Timothy 1:6-14. Read these passages and describe what you think the beginning of Paul and Timothy's discipling relationship might have looked like.

- 3) Read 1 Timothy 1:3-4, and you will discover that Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to serve the church by opposing and rebuking false teachers in the Ephesian church (The church there was only 2 years old when Paul left Timothy there). By that time, Timothy had seen Paul establish and strengthen churches in Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth, and Ephesus. As you consider this, describe what you think the ongoing discipleship process for Timothy might have looked like.

- 4) Timothy went from learning from Paul, to working with Paul, to being sent out by Paul. Now in 2 Timothy, Paul is preparing to die and really handing down the baton of ministry to Timothy. As you reflect on the context of this letter and your answers from questions 2 and 3, outline key elements of a *discipleship process* below.

- 5) How ready are you to engage in the process outlined in question 4? Secondly, is this a reasonable expectation for all disciples of Jesus Christ?

- 6) Timothy, now equipped by Paul, is called to continue to hand down the faith to faithful men. It is clear that this is more than just a set of doctrines. It is a lifestyle. How do the metaphors Paul provides in verses 4-6 show us that discipleship is more than simply handing down knowledge?

- 7) If any church is going to be healthy, it will not happen apart from the deep and widespread practice of discipleship. As West Side grows in this practice of discipleship, what is God calling you, specifically, to engage in? Where do you fit into the discipleship practices of West Side Church?