

## TEACHING SERIES | TERM 1, 2021

- 7 Feb – 2 Timothy 1:1-14
- 14 Feb – 2 Timothy 1:15 – 2:13
- 21 Feb – 2 Timothy 2:14-26
- 28 Feb – 2 Timothy 3:1-9
- 7 Mar – 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- 14 Mar – 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- 21 Mar – 2 Timothy 4:6-22

## MISSION PARTNERS NIGHT WITH WAYNE OLDFIELD + MANDY JONES

24 March - @ Engadine Anglican

# MISSION PARTNERS



**KAREN**  
**Middle East**

Karen grew up in Engadine and is now serving in the Middle East.



**MAL + CHARISSA FORREST**  
**Jordan**

Through CMS, Malcolm & Charissa serve in one of the largest churches by membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a strategic location for evangelical ministry, both nationally and internationally.



**WAYNE OLDFIELD & MANDY JONES**  
**Northern Territory**

Through CMS, Wayne (who grew up in Heathcote) & Mandy serve at the Nungalinga College in Darwin, which trains Indigenous men and women for Christian discipleship and community leadership.



**KURT & BEC LANGMEAD**  
**Lightning Ridge, NSW**

Kurt & Bec grew up in Engadine. Through Bush Church Aid (BCA), the Langmead family are serving in Lightning Ridge.

## STUDY 1

## 2 Timothy 1:1-14 *Not Ashamed Of The Gospel*

- 1) What would you answer if someone asked you: “Why did God save you?”

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-5

- 2) What information do vv. 1-2 give us about what we are reading?

*Letter from Paul to Timothy*

- 3) From vv. 1-5. What do we learn about Paul? What do we learn about Timothy? How would you describe their relationship?

- 4) Read 2 Tim 4:6-8. How does this further inform our understanding of the context of this letter?

*Paul knows that he will soon die. These are his parting words to Timothy if they are unable to see each other again.*

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:6-14

- 5) v. 6 begins with “For this reason”. What is the reason? And what does Paul know Timothy to have because of it?

*The reason is Timothy’s sincere faith. Because he has sincere faith, Paul knows that God has given him a gift.*

- 6) What exactly is the gift of God that Timothy has received? What does Paul remind Timothy to do with it? c.f. 1 Timothy 4:13-15.

*The gift is that he has been appointed a leader and teacher of the church in Ephesus (this is from 1 Tim). Timothy is to fan this gift into flame.*

- 7) From v. 7, what has Timothy already been given? Where did it come from and what three things has it given both Timothy and Paul? Discuss why you think each one has been given.

*Has already been given the Holy Spirit by God. Power = the ability to do what God has called Him to. Love = knowledge of the way to use his gifts and a desire to do so. Self-control = able to exercise his gift in a way that is wise, prudent, not in a rash way but with a balanced assessment of the situation.*

- 8) How does Paul command Timothy to fan his gift into flame? (v. 8) Why do you think Timothy might have been ashamed?

*By joining with Paul in suffering for the gospel. Paul had been imprisoned for doing so. He will be able to suffer for the gospel in the power supplied by God. God will provide what is necessary for Timothy to do it.*

- 9) In vv. 9-10, Paul gives Timothy a further reason for his commands. What is it?

*v. 9a: It is what Timothy was saved for – “He saved us and called us to a holy life”. Holy = set apart for a purpose. God saved Timothy and set him apart for a purpose. God did it for his own “purpose”. In “grace”, God saved Timothy to suffer for the gospel.*

*v. 9b-10: this was God’s plan from before the beginning of time. That’s when God gave his grace to us. Now that Christ has been revealed, destroying death, and bringing life and immortality, now is the time to suffer for the gospel. That has always been God’s plan!*

- 10) Compare what Paul has written to Timothy in vv. 6-10 with:

- a. The example of Paul’s life (vv. 11-12)

*Saved + appointed to a task. Paul’s task = to reveal the gospel of Jesus Christ. He suffers for that, but is not ashamed. Because He knows that God is at work thought it, to achieve His purposes – God is able. Paul fanned his gift into flame.*

- b. The commands given to Timothy (vv. 13-14)

*Saved + appointed to a task. Tim’s task = guard the message that Paul proclaimed. It has been entrusted to him. He will suffer for it, but he need not be ashamed. God is able – by the work of the Spirit in Timothy. Timothy is to fan it into flame.*

## THINKING IT THROUGH

- 11) We are reading a personal letter from Paul to Timothy. Yet it is not just Paul and Timothy whom God saved and called to a holy life. This passage is full of principles that are true of anyone who has a “sincere faith” in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Share with the group what principles have you seen throughout this passage?

*We are saved and set apart for God – his plan from before time is that we might suffer for the gospel.*

*Sincere faith is evidence that God has given us a gift – each one is different e.g. Paul, Tim, us. Holy Spirit gives us power, love, self-control.*

*Fan it into flame!*

- 12) Can you think of a time when you were ashamed of the gospel? What made you feel that way? What would you say to yourself now, in light of 2 Tim 1:1-14?

- 13) Paul was an Apostle, Timothy a teacher. How are you involved in God’s eternal plans? List three new practical ways you could fan into flame the gifts God has given you.

## STUDY 2

## 2 Timothy 1:15 – 2:13 *Suffering For The Gospel*

- 1) Can you think of a time when you had to endure something? Was it worth it?

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:15 – 2:13

- 2) Compare and contrast what Paul writes about Phygelus and Hermogenes, with what he writes about Onesiphorus. How would you describe Onesiphorus to someone?

*P+H deserted Paul, they were ashamed of his chains.  
O was unashamed of Paul in his chains. He faithfully ministered to Paul.*

- 3) 2 Tim 2:1 begins with “You then ...” indicating that Paul is making a connection between Onesiphorus and the rest of v. 1. What do you think that connection is?

*Timothy is to be like Onesiphorus, who was strong in the grace of Christ.  
Follow up question: what does it mean to be strong in the grace of Christ?*

- 4) With the foundation of Jesus in place, what does Paul instruct Timothy to do? See if you can draw v. 2 as a diagram.

*What Paul taught, Timothy is to entrust to others, who will be able to teach it to others. Making sure that the true gospel is passed on to the next generation.*

*Paul → Timothy → faithful people who can entrust → faithful people who can entrust → ...*

- 5) According to v. 3a, what will this mean for Timothy?

*It will mean suffering.*

- 6) In vv. 3b-6 Paul illustrates the life of suffering for the gospel with three images. What does each image contribute?

*The key = each is filling out the idea of suffering for the gospel.*

- a. The soldier – *obedient, servant, works hard for the commanding officer, not under their own control. Dedicated. Single-minded.*
- b. The athlete – *the life of suffering for the gospel, it’s what every Christian is called to (c.f. 2 Tim 1:8). The victors crown comes to the one who has run the race for Christ (c.f. 2 Tim 4:6-8).*
- c. The farmer – *hard work now = reward at the harvest. There will be suffering for the gospel now, but there is delight of seeing those you shared the gospel with on the final day (c.f. 1 Cor 15:58, 1 Thess 2:19-20).*

- 7) In vv. 8-10 Paul helps Timothy “reflect” (v. 7) on what he has been saying with two examples: Jesus and himself.
- a. What example has Jesus given? *Suffering while faithfully serving, then glory.*
  - b. What example has Paul given? *Suffering for God’s Word (Jesus!) for the sake of the elect = what Timothy is being called to. But Paul has not yet received any glory ... that is still to come (c.f. 4:6-8).*

### THINKING IT THROUGH

- 8) Look over the trustworthy saying in vv. 11-13. How do you think it pulls together what Paul has been calling Timothy too?

*Paul is calling Timothy to faithfully endure suffering as he entrusts the gospel to the next generation. There is suffering now, glory later. That’s the Christian life – following the example of Jesus.*

*If we died with him, (PAST TENSE)  
we will also live with him; (FUTURE salvation)*  
*If we endure, (PRESENT)  
we will also reign with him. (FUTURE salvation)*

*If we disown him, (PRESENT)  
he will disown us; (FUTURE judgment)*  
*If we are faithless (PRESENT)  
he remains faithful (FUTURE = judgement)  
for he cannot disown himself (REASON)*

*You might like to reflect on negatives using the illustrations Paul used earlier: a soldier who disowns and is unfaithful to his commanding officer, an athlete who cheats, a farmer who is lazy.*

- 9) On its own, the trustworthy saying could easily fill us with terror! Discuss how the example of Onesiphorus and the command of 2 Tim 2:1 help us to understand it rightly. How will we do this?

*It’s not about perfection. But standing strong in the grace of Christ.*

- 10) Paul was an Apostle, Timothy a teacher, Onesiphorus faithfully cared for Paul. How can you be involved in ensuring the gospel is faithfully entrusted to the next generation, in such a way as they can entrust it to others?

## STUDY 3

## 2 Timothy 2:14-26 *Useful To The Master*

- 1) What do you think is the greatest threat to the church today?

*False teaching. God uses suffering and persecution to grow the church.*

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

- 2) v. 14 marks the beginning of a new section in the letter. What is Paul instructing Timothy to do? Why?

- 3) Timothy receives personal instructions as well, v. 15. What are they? How might they help us understand what Paul means by “quarrelling about words”?

*Suggests the quarrels have been caused by some not correctly handling the word of truth. This doesn't mean that God's word is not being used. But the way it is being misused is leading to quarrels.*

*Timothy is to make sure he is not like that. He needs to handle God's word with care.*

- 4) What is the result of “quarrelling about words”? What example does Paul give? (vv. 16-18)

*Ruins faith, leads to ungodliness, spreads like gangrene.*

*Hymenaeus and Philetus are the examples (see also 1 Tim 1:19-20). Their false teaching is that the resurrection has taken place. We can't know for certain, but most likely they taught:*

- *the resurrection is spiritual only, not physical.*
- *therefore it has already taken place when the believer comes to Christ*
- *if the resurrection is only spiritual, it implies the body (and anything to do with the body) becomes unimportant and inferior. Therefore a focus on the body becomes sinful.*
- *an application of this would be to abstain from food, sex, etc. See also 1 Tim 4:1-5.*

- 5) In v. 19 Paul paraphrases two quotes from Numbers 16:5 and 16:26-27. How might they have been an encouragement to Timothy?

*Despite the spread and impact of false teaching, Timothy shouldn't be worried. God knows his people, and the fruit of their lives will reveal who they are. It would be helpful to look at how these truths are played out in Numbers 16, but be aware it will take significant time.*

6) Paul illustrates what he has already been writing in vv. 20-21.

a. Discuss what the following represent:

- i. the large house – *the church*
- ii. articles of gold and silver – *honourable, suitable for special purposes. Those in the church who are useful to the Master.*
- iii. articles of wood and clay – *dishonourable, for common use, disposable. Those in the church who are false teachers.*

b. What is Paul calling on Timothy to do?

*Understand the situation and make sure he is ready prepared to serve the Master.*

7) How will Timothy will make himself “useful to the Master”? (v. 22)

*Flee evil, pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. Note: given the context, evil desires of youth is probably not a reference to sexual immorality but arrogance. He is not to be a young upstart ... as this leads to quarrels!*

8) In v. 23-26 Paul gives Timothy various instructions on how to relate to false teachers.

a. What is he not to do?

b. What must he be? *Note: “able to teach”, “gently instruct”. He is to engage the false teachers, but not on their terms. He is to use and correctly handle the word of truth.*

c. What is the goal of being this way? *Repentance, knowledge of the truth, salvation.*

### THINKING IT THROUGH

9) Not all of us are teachers like Timothy. However, do you think that is important for all Christians to “correctly handle the word of truth”? Why/why not?

10) How can you make yourself “useful to the Master”?

11) Have you seen examples of false teaching? What impact did you observe?

12) Imagine you have encountered someone who begins to contradict things that seem really basic to Christianity, like whether Jesus is the only way to God, and how ‘sin’ is not a helpful concept, because people are basically good. How might you respond to the person?



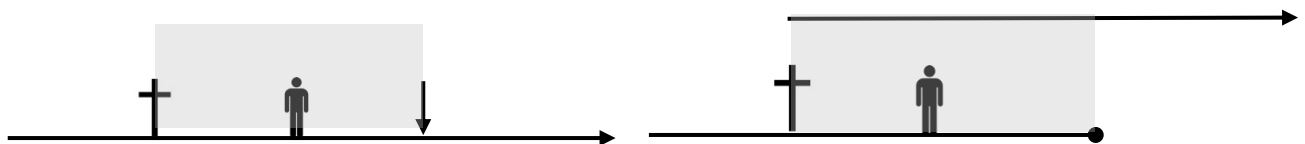
## STUDY 4

## 2 Timothy 3:1-9 *Life In The Last Days*

- 1) As Christians, we are called to live godly lives. How do you do this?
- 2) Thinking backwards, what is the context of 2 Timothy 3:1-9?  
*False teaching in the church.*

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

- 3) What are “the last days”? You might like to draw it as a diagram.  
*The time between the resurrection + return of Jesus.*



- 4) In v. 1 Paul writes that the last days will be marked by “terrible times”. What will cause them to be terrible?

*Sin.*

- 5) Take time to list out the different characteristics of people in vv. 2-4. Is there a common theme you can discern? Do you think this is an accurate depiction of the last days?

- |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| a) | g) | m) |
| b) | h) | n) |
| c) | i) | o) |
| d) | j) | p) |
| e) | k) | q) |
| f) | l) | r) |

*Love = the common theme. Note especially a) and r), the first and last.*

- 6) What does v. 5 mean when Paul writes about some “having a form of godliness but denying its power”?

*He’s not just talking about the world, but some within the church are like this. And while all*

*Christians struggle with these things, that is not who is meant. Remember the context of false teaching. There are some within the church who claim to be living a life, yet deny the very power that creates a godly life: the gospel.*

- 7) In v. 5 Timothy is instructed: "Have nothing to do with such people." How do we make sense of this in light of what we read in 2:24-26?

*He is to have nothing to do with their behaviour, he is not to be identified with them. But he needs to 'teach' and 'instruct' them.*

- 8) In vv. 6-7, how does Paul describe the actions of:

- a. the false teachers?
- b. certain women?

*Note: Paul is not saying all women, but there are certain women this was happening to. It could also happen to men, but that is not the situation being described here. They are vulnerable and continue to sin because the false teaching has denied them the power of godliness.*

- 9) What can this situation teach us about the danger of false teaching?  
*It denies the power of godliness, because it doesn't teach the gospel. Therefore people aren't changed, it continues to lead them deeper into sin.*

- 10) In vv. 8-9 Paul uses the example of Jannes and Jambres to make his point. According to ancient Jewish writings, Jannes and Jambres were the Egyptian sorcerers who opposed Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 7:11-22). What do you think Paul wants Timothy to understand?

*False teachers might look powerful and influential. But their works will show them to be frauds. They have depraved minds. Will not succeed ultimately.*

### **THINKING IT THROUGH**

- 11) As followers of Jesus, we all struggle with many (or all!) of the things listed in vv. 2-4.

- a. What distinguishes a true believer from the world and false teachers?

*We don't deny the gospel of Jesus. It's not about perfection, but allowing the gospel to do its work in us.*

- b. How do these verses help us understand how to grow in godliness?

*Read the word of God. For there you will grow in your love of God = the problem underlying the list.*

- 12) Looking over the list, what are you particularly struggling with? What are 3 practical steps you can take to grow in these areas?

*Pray. Read. Be wise, get help (someone who will point you to the love of God).*

- 13) Do you know someone under the spell of false teaching? How might you be able to help them?

## STUDY 5

## 2 Timothy 3:10-17 *Continue In What You Have Learned*

- 1) When do you find it hard to be a Christian?

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

- 2) v. 10 begins with “You, however, ...”. What contrast is Paul making? What is he trying to show Timothy?

*This question is setting context. Last week = false teachers. Their lives will show their gospel to be false. In contrast, Paul’s life shows that his gospel is the true one.*

- 3) If this is God’s world, why is it true that *everyone* who desires a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted?

*Because the world doesn’t love God. To live and proclaim God’s word means being in opposition to the world. c.f. John 15:18-20.*

- 4) Why can Timothy be certain of what he has learned (v. 14). Why does it matter who he learned it from?

*He has seen their lives – which demonstrated the authenticity of the message.*

- 5) What was the source of Timothy’s learning?

*The Holy Scriptures (taught by his mother, grandmother and Paul).*

- 6) In v. 15 Paul uses the phrase: “Holy Scriptures”. In v. 16 he writes: “All Scripture”. Do you think there is a difference? If so, what is it?

*Most likely:*

*Holy Scriptures = the Old Testament. Jesus recognised the Old Testament as scripture. Note too – the Old Testament is sufficient for salvation, because it’s about Jesus.*

*All Scripture = other writings understood to be the Word of God. We call it the New Testament, but we need to remember it was still being written (e.g. Paul is still writing this letter to Timothy!). Yet, there appears to have been a clear understanding that what the Apostles wrote was Scripture (e.g. 2 Peter 3:15-16).*

- 7) What does it mean that “all Scripture is God-breathed”? (v. 16) What, if anything, would be lost if Paul left this phrase out?

*When you speak you breathe out. The Scriptures are God’s word. Without this, the Scriptures become the writing of man. No authority.*

- 8) Verse 16 tells us what God’s Word is useful for. Complete the table putting these terms in your own words and giving a bit of detail (e.g. teaching what?).

<b><i>‘Teaching’</i></b>	<i>Through the Bible we learn the gospel.</i>
<b><i>‘Rebuking’</i></b>	<i>The Bible exposes and challenges our lives.</i>
<b><i>‘Correcting’</i></b>	<i>The Bible corrects out thinking about God, which in turn corrects our lives.</i>
<b><i>‘Training in righteousness’</i></b>	<i>The Bible trains us to be godly and live God’s way.</i>

- 9) According to v. 17, what is the purpose of Timothy continuing in the Scriptures? (Note: “servant of God” echoes a common Old Testament expression referring to God’s appointed leader.)  
*The Scriptures are what will enable Timothy to fulfill his ministry. You might like to think back throughout the letter: e.g. this is what he is to guard and entrust, what he is to teach and correct false teachers, it will produce in him the godly life that will make him useful to the Master.*

- 10) As the Scriptures shape his life and ministry, what should Timothy expect?

*Persecution. But he mustn’t give up because it’s the true word of God.*

### **THINKING IT THROUGH**

- 11) What does persecution of Christians look like in our society? Since the Lord rescued Paul from his persecutions (3:12), should we expect the same? Why/why not?

- 12) v. 14 says: “... continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of ...”.

a. Why would you do this if it leads to persecution?

b. How do you do this? *Read the Bible. Worth talking about planning, prioritising. Encourage people to make a concrete plan they can take away. Or work out as a group how you will help each other in this.*

- 13) A friend of yours complains that they are bored with the Bible, and don’t learn anything new from it anymore. How can you help your friend?

## STUDY 6

## 2 Timothy 4:1-5 *Preach The Word!*

- 1) What in the Bible do you find hard to accept? Why do find these things hard?

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

- 2) In v. 1, Paul prefaces his charge to Timothy with three truths of God/Jesus. What are they and what impression does this give you about what is to follow?

*It's serious! Not to be taken lightly.*

- 3) The charge, in v.2, has three aspects to it. What are the three aspects of the charge? What is the common theme?

*1) Preach the word; 2) be prepared in season and out of season; 3) correct, rebuke and encourage.*

*The common theme is: Preach the word. That is what he is to always be prepared to do. It is how you correct, rebuke, encourage (2 Tim 3:16-17).*

- 4) How do these verses help us understand what preaching is?

*From the Bible. It is meant to correct, rebuke, encourage. It's not to pander to what people want to hear, but what they need to hear.*

- 5) Paul writes that Timothy will need to preach "with great patience and careful instruction". Why is this? (vv. 3-4)

- 6) In v. 5 Timothy is given four commands in order to carry out his charge. What are they and what do they tell us about the life Timothy is facing ahead of him?

- 7) In light of vv. 2-5, why do you think Paul issued such a serious charge to Timothy in v. 1?

*It's hard but essential work.*

## THINKING IT THROUGH

- 8) Remembering that Timothy is a leader of God's people (2 Tim 1:6-8), what do you think makes the 'ideal' minister?

*Preach the word faithfully – to build up and reach out – no matter what the season. Not just sermons, but in every setting.*

- 9) Most of us are not like Timothy. What does this passage say to us if we aren't a preacher or leader of a church?

*e.g. what to look for in a preacher; how to support your minister; warning about what we listen to; preach the word to each other; etc.*

- 10) What are some popular myths you have heard regarding Christianity. What makes them so attractive? Where do you see people turning to get their ears itched?

- 11) How should we approach the bits of the Bible we find hard to accept? What should we not do?

## STUDY 7

## 2 Timothy 4:6-22 *Finish The Race*

- 1) What do you want your final words to be?

### READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-22

- 2) V. 6 begins with the word 'for'. What is the connection between this section and the previous?

*Paul has been instructing Timothy in how to conduct his ministry, because Paul knows that he is very close to death.*

- 3) What does Paul mean by the phrase: "I am already being poured out like a drink offering"?

*A drink offering was a type of sacrifice that Israel was to make to God, as we see in the Old Testament. Viewing his life as one of sacrifice to God, Paul pours out his whole life in service to him. He is spent – and now it is time for him to go.*

- 4) As Paul looks back in v. 7, how does he describe his life? Where have we seen this before? What does it mean for us?

*Note the similarities with 2:4-7, 11-13. This isn't just what Paul was called to – it is the Christian life.*

- 5) As Paul looks forward in v. 8, what is he looking forward to? How can he be so confident?

*The crown of righteousness – Jesus is the righteous one, this is His crown. Yet Paul knows it will soon be his crown, and ours too. He is confident because Jesus is the judge. And Paul knows that he has endured in Christ, therefore he will reign with him (2:12).*

- 6) Not many Christians could claim their lives matched up to Paul's. How can we all share the same crown if our deeds are not equally impressive?

*Because it is not based on our merit, but Christ's righteousness.*

- 7) In vv. 9-22 Paul gives Timothy a final list of instructions, warnings, and encouragements, so that Timothy will be prepared for life without Paul. For each section of the passage, discuss the ways in which Paul is preparing Timothy.

- a. vv. 9-13

*It appears that Paul is putting things in place to have the gospels of Mark and Luke written – get Mark, Luke, the scrolls and parchments. Paul has emphasised the importance of Scriptures to Timothy's ministry. Paul is entrusting the gospel to the next*

*generation.*

b. vv. 14-15

*A reminder that ministry will be hard and often there will be persecution.*

c. vv. 16-18

*It's not popular to stand firm in and stand up for the gospel. It's a battle against the devil. But God is powerful and can be trusted.*

d. vv. 19-22

*There is a great fellowship of faithful Christians, enduring and suffering together for the gospel that Timothy can rely on, as Paul has.*

8) How do v. 9-22 demonstrate the truth of what Paul has said of himself in vv. 6-8?

*Paul is about to depart in death, and yet right to the end his concern is to prepare Timothy to continue the ministry.*

### **THINKING IT THROUGH**

9) Imagine your Christian life is a marathon. How is the race going at the moment? What measures can you take to make sure you finish the race?

10) What are 3 practical ways you can help others finish the race?