

Subject: *Bright Light for Dark Days*

Scripture: *2 Timothy 3:10-15*

In the first part of this chapter Paul describes what it is going to be like in the last days. The last days will be a time of serious danger, selfish desires, sinful defiance, and spiritual deception. We are living in the last days. These are dark and difficult times, but we have God's light to guide us. Paul speaks of three sources of bright light:

WE NEED THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF GODLY EXAMPLES (vs. 10-12)

Paul reminded Timothy of the example he set for him. Timothy had his Paul, and we need to have people like that in our life. Every Christian needs to have a Timothy and a Paul. We need someone who we are mentoring and discipling and someone who is mentoring and discipling us.

WE NEED THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF A GOOD FAMILY (vs. 14-15)

See 2 Timothy 1:5. Paul knew Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice and refers to them by name. Timothy was blessed to have a Christian family that included a godly grandmother and mother. They were women who had "unfeigned faith" (sincere, unhypocritical). They believed in Christ and taught Timothy to believe in Christ (3:15). From a child (infant, baby) they taught him the Scriptures. Parents and grandparents should teach God's Word to their children from the earliest days. ***Proverbs 22:6*** *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* There is only one way for a child to go and that is God's way.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ⁴ *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:* ⁵ *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.* ⁶ *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:* ⁷ *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.* ⁸ *And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.* ⁹ *And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

- We should teach our children convincingly (they must know we believe what we're teaching them).
- We should teach our children consistently (every day and everywhere we go).
- We should teach our children conspicuously (the Scriptures should be visible in our homes).
- We should teach our children confidently (believe that God will use His Word to accomplish His will in their lives).

Some parents feel like they should let their children make up their own minds about what they will believe. The Bible says otherwise. It is the duty and privilege of parents and grandparents to teach them what they ought to believe. ***Joshua 24:15*** *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your*

fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

WE NEED THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD (vs. 15-17)

The first two lights come from the light of God's Word. We would have no godly examples and no good homes if it were not for the bright light of God's Word. **Psalms 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* **Psalms 119:130** *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.* **Proverbs 6:23** *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.*

- The Scriptures hold a special place

They are the holy scriptures (sacred writings), set apart from all others. The Scriptures are the sacred writings of the Old Testament.

- The Scriptures have a special power

They are able to make us wise unto salvation. God's Word shows us that we need salvation because we are sinners. God's Law is a mirror to reveal our sin. **Romans 3:20** *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.* **Romans 7:7** *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.* **Galatians 3:24** *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

- The Scriptures reveal a special person

John 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

APPLYING THIS MESSAGE TO YOUR LIFE

- The darker the days, the more we need the light
- Are you following the light God has given you?
- Are you sharing the light with others who are living in darkness?