



## LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 3

January 17—January 23, 2011

### I. Adoration

#### (1) Invocation Prayer

“O sweet Lord Jesus, Thou art the present portion of Thy people, favor us this year with such a sense of Thy preciousness that from its first to its last day we may be glad and rejoice in Thee. Let January open with joy in the Lord and December close with gladness in Jesus.”  
Amen. (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, 1834-92)

#### (2) Adoration through Psalm 55

(We'll use this Psalm, not for today's Bible reading, but for the sake of focusing our thoughts on God)

- Read slowly this passage at least three times and each day gather one thought about this psalm that points to God's character and translate it into a prayer of adoration.

### II. Confession

Pause now and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you your sins and ask for forgiveness.

### III. Thanksgiving

List, one by one, things for which you should give thanks.

### IV. Scriptural Reflection:

As we begin a new year, we shall be focusing on the theme, “Being Remade in God's Image”, and begin our study of II Timothy. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

It is believed that Paul wrote this letter in his final days of martyrdom, being imprisoned in Rome by Nero who blamed Christians for the fire he himself probably set in Rome. He spoke of his death being at hand and he was abandoned by most of his friends (see chapter 4). It was probably the last letter Paul ever wrote. Before Nero, persecution appeared to be localized and mainly by the Jews, but with Nero, the persecution of Christians became official and wide-spread throughout the Roman Empire.

#### January 17

#### II Timothy 1: 1-7

- (1) As Paul looked back at his 30+ years of life after conversion, how did he view his calling and why?
- (2) In the beginning of a year, maybe it is fitting that you also look back, and look forward. How do you view your post-conversion life and your calling in Christ Jesus?
- (3) Why do you think, of all people, Paul chose to write his last letter to Timothy?
- (4) In time of danger and persecution, how did Paul remind Timothy of the kind of spirit given to us in v.7? How would each of these aspects of the spirit help Timothy in a time like this?
- (5) How does each of these aspects speak to you in your present situation?
- (6) Paul once again referred to the gift of God (I Timothy 4:14) and urge him to fan into flame. What was Paul referring to and what is meant by fanning (it) into flame?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

#### January 18

#### II Timothy 1: 8-18

- (1) As you read vv. 8-18, can you tell what kind of a time Christians were living in?
- (2) What is meant by being ashamed of the gospel or of testifying about our Lord? What might be the reason(s) behind it?
- (3) How true might it be in your life?
- (4) What was the reason given by Paul for his not being ashamed?

- (5) In vv.9-11, Paul described the grace we received in Jesus Christ. Spend some time to analyze each aspect of this grace as detailed by Paul. Which of these aspects touches you most? Now worship and thank God for His grace given to you.
- (6) In vv. 13-14, Paul reiterated that Timothy was to keep and guard the “good deposit”. What was it and how important was it for Timothy to do so and how?
- (7) Does Paul’s admonition have any relevance today? Why or why not?
- (8) Paul contrasted two groups of (likely prominent) believers in vv.15-18, both of Asia (where Ephesus was). But they treated Paul very differently. What might be the difference?
- (9) What is the main message to you today?

### January 19

### II Timothy 2: 1-7

As part of his last words, Paul now spoke very personally to Timothy. In a sense, he was passing the important baton of “the apostle to the gentiles” to Timothy.

- (1) If you were to receive such an important baton from a person like Paul, how would you feel?
- (2) Knowing how Timothy felt, what was Paul’s emphasis in v.1? Reflect on these three special words in v.1: “son”, “grace” and “strong.”
- (3) Paul was taking a long view of passing the baton, not only to Timothy, but to generations to come. What was his advice to Timothy in this respect in v.2? How may we learn from Paul’s advice in our days?
- (4) Paul now used three different images to admonish Timothy, each carries a different emphasis and different exhortations:
  - a. That of a soldier:
    - i. What is the significance of using the analogy of warfare?
    - ii. What are civilian affairs to a soldier and what might they be when applied to us?
    - iii. Picture how soldiers address their superior. What does it say to the attitude we should have to our commanding officer, who is Christ?
  - b. That of an athlete:
    - i. What is the significance of using the analogy of a race?
    - ii. What rules are we to adhere to as a spiritual athlete?

- c. That of a farmer:
  - i. What is the significance of using the analogy of a farmer?
  - ii. Was this admonition directed to Timothy? Why or why not?
- (5) Meditate on v.7 and see how you can apply to your daily reflection on God’s word through this Devotion Guide.
- (6) What is the main message to you today?

### January 20

### II Timothy 2: 8-18

- (1) The gospel can obviously be described in greater details than Paul did in v.8, but he was emphasizing on the aspects because of which he was in chain. What were these aspects and why was he suffering as a result?
- (2) As Paul was nearing the end of his life, perhaps, it is fitting that we reflect on what he had endured for the sake of us, the elect, that we “too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.” Read II Corinthians 11:23-28, and give thanks to God for Paul.
- (3) It appears that vv.11-13 form the trustworthy saying in the form of promises and a warning as well:
  - a. How might this saying be an encouragement to Timothy?
  - b. How might this saying be an encouragement to you, especially v. 13?
- (4) What is meant by quarreling about words? Can you think of any examples of quarreling about words that carry no significance about the truth of the gospel? What did Paul say about such quarrels? (What about the debate over if baptism should be by immersion or by sprinkling? Would it affect the salvation of the one being baptized?)
- (5) Godless chatter is quite another matter. Based on the example given in v.18, explain what constitutes “godless chatter”.
- (6) Paul urged Timothy to “correctly” handle the word of truth. What do you think might be the key to the correct handling of the word of truth? (What about: interpreting only within the context of the passage and making sure it is in harmony with other teachings of the Scriptures?)
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

### January 21

### II Timothy 2: 19-26

- (1) As we live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, heresies have multiplied many

times over Paul's time. How does Paul's reminder in v.19 give us comfort and confidence in our times?

- (2) Do you desire to be used for noble purposes in God's household? What constitutes noble purposes, in your opinion?
- (3) What is the one key factor that "will" enable you to be used for such purposes? Reflect on how you can thus "cleanse" yourself of the ignoble, and commit it to prayer right now.
- (4) Paul cited one example (and most likely the most common one) of the ignoble in v. 22. What is it? Why is it?
- (5) In teaching us how to cleanse ourselves of it, Paul gave us one negative and one positive advice each. Why are both necessary?
- (6) What is the importance of pursuing "along with" others? Can we not pursue all by ourselves?
- (7) Paul, when talking about those who oppose, also mentioned both the negative and the positive aspects of them. What are they?
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

**January 22**

**II Timothy 3: 1-5**

- (1) The last days, in general, refer to the time inaugurated by the first coming of Jesus Christ, and in a more narrow sense, may refer to the time that immediately precedes His second coming. To which do you think did Paul refer in v.1? Why?
- (2) Let's reflect carefully on this long list one at a time:

Last Days' Sins	How true is it today?	How true of you?
Lovers of themselves		
Lovers of money		
Boastful		
Proud		
Abusive		
Disobedient to parents		
Ungrateful		
Unholy		
Without love		
Unforgiving		
Slandorous		
Without self-control		
Brutal		

Not lovers of the good		
Treacherous		
Rash		
Conceited		
Lover of pleasure, not God		
Outward godliness without power		

- (3) Which ones should you repent from?
- (4) Why would Paul advise us to have "nothing to do with them" (meaning the people)?
- (5) What is the main message to you today?

**January 23**

**II Timothy 3: 6-17**

- (1) Paul highlighted the tactics of these false teachers of the last days as targeting weak-willed women in the church. What are the marks of these weak-willed women? Are they really confined to women in the church? Why or why not?
- (2) Paul likened these false teachers to the magicians who opposed Moses in Exodus 7:11ff (and scholars differ in their opinions as to where Paul got their names). Can you name cult leaders that have gained quite a following in our times and are their follies clear to everyone? Why or why not?
- (3) Paul said, "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." How does this truth speak to you in your present situation? When persecuted, how can we learn from the life of Paul (as described in vv.10-11)?
- (4) Paul reminded Timothy "from whom he learned" the truth, which would include his mother, grandmother and Paul. From whom have you learned the truth? How important is it that you also remember from whom you learned it?
- (5) Paul talked about the word of God in that
  - a. It is able to make you wise for salvation: what does this mean?
  - b. It is God-breathed: what are its implications?
  - c. Its usefulness in equipping the man of God: how important is it to commit to a regular reading and reflection of God's words on your own? Any other means should you commit to besides?
- (6) What is the main message to you today?

**V. Meditative Reflection**

This week we shall continue to reflect on the ‘Nine Marks of a Healthy Church’, beginning with it’s and Introduction.

**January 17**

Please refer to the Introduction on page 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph to the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of page 28.

**January 18**

Please refer to the Introduction starting with “**NEEDED: A DIFFERENT MODEL**” to the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of page 29.

**January 19**

Please refer to the Introduction on page 29, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph.

**January 20**

Please refer to the Introduction on page 29, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

**January 21**

Please refer to the Introduction on page 29, last paragraph to the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of page 30.

**January 22**

Please refer to the Introduction on page 30, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

**January 23**

Please refer to the Introduction starting with “**LEADING THE DISCIPLES** ” to the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of page 31.

**VI. A Time for Silence**

You have mediated much today with your intellectual faculty today. Now have a moment of silence (the length is up to you, 5 or even 30 minutes), and ask God quietly, “Lord, is there any important message from you today that I might have missed? Show me, your servant is listening?”

**VII. Supplication**

Use the following chart to cover people and ministries that you want to remember before the Lord:

	Your family	Other people	Church Ministries	Other Ministries	City & World	Others
Sunday						
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wed						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						

**VII. Benediction**

“With every power for good to stay and guide me, comforted and inspired beyond all fear. May I live these days with you in thought beside me, and pass, with you, into the coming year.” In Jesus name. Amen. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945, adapted )