

Women's Bible Study

A Spiritual Legacy

Be Discerning : 2 Timothy 3: 1-9

Gretchen Steer – March 23, 2011

Intensive Study Questions

Key verse: "...having a form of godliness but denying its power..." (2nd Timothy 3:5)

1. Is it possible for a Christian to possess "a form of godliness" but not the real thing? What might that look like in someone's life? What can we watch out for in our own lives so that we don't fall into the trap of giving lip service to belief but not actually living as if it mattered?

2. Paul is primarily talking about teachers and leaders in this passage, in the sense that they are the ones with influence in a church who can lead others astray. Look at James 3:1 and John 8:31-32. Are teachers held to a different standard than other believers? Why?

3. The N.T. writers and Jesus frequently refer to O.T. scripture when they wrote or spoke. Why is it important for us to also refer to scripture when we teach or speak? Is it possible to misuse scripture? How? Give an example from scripture. If the word of God is not chained (2 Tim 2:9 - living and active and able to fend for itself) how can it be misused?

4. Verses 6 and 7 talk about not only unscrupulous teachers, but "weak-willed women loaded down with sins". Their characteristic is that they are always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Is it wrong for Christians to attend Bible studies year after year? Find at least one passage that speaks about our responsibility to continue to learn God's word. What should be the outcome of our study of God's word? What should change in our lives? Give scriptural examples of the types of change we should see in ourselves.

5. Verse 9 tells us that "their folly will be clear to everyone." Read Romans 14:10-12 and 1 Cor. 4:5. Does God promise that the wicked will be judged in this life? In eternity? Why is it important that we learn to discern the truth? Now think of an area of your life where more truth is needed. How can you bring that area into the light of God's truth in the coming days? Finish by reading Eph. 5:8-11.

Women's Bible Study

A Spiritual Legacy

Be Discerning : 2 Timothy 3: 1-9

Gretchen Steer – March 23, 2011

Discussion Questions

1. Without looking at the passage, describe some who is really bad or evil. What characteristics do they have? What types of actions do they do? Now look at 2nd Timothy 3:2-4. What characteristics does this person share with the one you just described? Is it possible that a person with these characteristics could still be a Christian? Why or why not?

2. The passage talks about false teachers who “worm their way into homes”. In our culture, false teaching can enter our homes through the internet, radio, tv, or in person. Describe some of the false ideas that enter our homes through these means. How can a Christian counteract these ideas?

3. Is it wrong for a Christian to be “always learning” (v. 7)? Why or why not? What must happen in our lives for learning to be of value to us?