

The War Zone - verse 12

1. Read and consider Ephesians 6:12 and 1 Peter 5:8. What evidence is there in today's world that substantiates what Paul and Peter are describing?
2. Timothy (as all of us do) had a crucial position and role in the spiritual war zone. In verse 12, what did Paul instruct Timothy to do?
3. What does Paul's "fight" and "take hold" imagery tell you about the nature of the Christian life?
4. These days, in your position and role in the war zone, how are you personally experiencing what Paul and Peter are describing?
5. These days, what do Paul's instructions to Timothy look like in your life?

Five "C's" of Hope:

The Confession of Jesus - verse 13

1. What was it that Jesus confessed (see also Matthew 27:11-26)?
2. The word "witness" (verse 12) and "testimony" (verse 13) both have the same root meaning in Greek of "martyr" (see also Jesus' command in Acts 1:8). What does that tell you about the nature of what it means to testify of Jesus?
3. These days, where are you called upon to testify of Jesus? How is that testifying going for you?
4. How might Jesus' confession be an encouragement to you?

The Coming of Jesus - verse 14

1. In verse 14, what does Paul instruct Timothy to do?
2. These days, what does following Paul's instruction to Timothy look like in your life?
3. Read and consider John 14:1-7. How might Jesus' words to His disciples be an encouragement to you?

The Crown of Jesus - verses 15,16

1. In verses 15 and 16, how does Paul describe Jesus? Take time to think about what each part of Paul's description means.
2. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is the person Whom Paul is describing?
3. These days, what are doing each day to stay focused on Who Jesus is?

Our Calling - verses 17-19

1. Regardless of his personal circumstances, Timothy is to "charge" those rich in this present age to do what? Why?
2. The word "charge" has the idea of coming alongside someone to share with them God's message. What Paul instructs Timothy to do is exemplary for each of us. In the hard stuff of life, what difference does it make to know that God's calling and purposes for your life do not change?

Caution - verse 20,21

1. What does Paul caution Timothy to do? Why?
2. What has been entrusted to Timothy? What has been entrusted to you?
3. What does God's grace have to do with guarding what has been entrusted to you?
4. These days, for you personally, what does guarding what has been entrusted look like?

Extra Credit

1. Thinking back through Paul's "vital signs" (see muncherian.com/ss-vitals.html), on a scale of 1 to 10 (one meaning stone cold dead), how would you rate Creekside? Per vital sign? Overall?
2. What would it take to move us one digit to towards a ten? What role will you take in making this happen?