



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Living Faith in a Dying World (2 Tim 3, 4)	SPEAKER	DSP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Time of the End	DATE	13 & 14 March 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Are you a good or bad influencer? What is the model that you'd like to set for future generations, or for your pre-believing friends and family members? DSP cited 2 Tim 3, where Paul mentioned that difficult times will come in the last days, and highlighted 19 characteristics of negative behaviours in 2 Tim 3:2-3. How can we resist such negative influences and stay true to the faith?

3 KEYS TO HAVE A LIVING FAITH IN A DYING WORLD

To have a living faith in a dying world, one must:

- 1) have a high view of godly teachers (2 Tim 3:10)** – Paul reminded Timothy to learn from godly teachers and to turn his attention to focus on the good influences in his life; similar to how Paul told the Corinthians to be watchful and imitators of him. However, DSP also noted that while no mentor is perfect, we can still learn from their strengths and learn from the areas of their lives that reflect God. It is important that we set our eyes on Christians that soar with God and not those that are focused on earthly things.
- 2) have a high view of God's Word (2 Tim 3:15-16)** – While Scripture was written by men, it is inspired by God and is beneficial for teaching, rebuke, correction, training in righteousness. Thus, it is important that we live according to what the Bible says and not tweak the Bible to suit our lives. DSP emphasised that when we honour the Word of God, the God of the Word will transform our lives. Also, the Bible is the living word. When you place your faith in the living God, that is how living faith is produced.
- 3) have a high view of God's call (2 Tim 4:1-2)** – Paul instructs Timothy to preach the word and be ready in and out of season → this means we ought to preach God's Word at all times, regardless of the situation (e.g. current restrictions in view of Covid-19). We are told to dig deep into God's Word and doing so will help us to share and preach his word. This is God's calling for everyone.

He has gifted all of us with the Gospel that can save and transform lives. The question is: What are you doing about this gift?

CONCLUSION

The end times are near – what are we doing to reach out to the dying world around us? How can we keep our faith in times like these? The final charge that Paul gave to Timothy before he died is the same calling that has been given to all of us – to preach God’s Word. There is urgency for us to rise up as men and women of faith to reach out to those who do not know God.

QUESTIONS

1. 2 Timothy 3:2-5 lists 19 characteristics of negative behaviours and influences. Are there any present in your social or work circles that you've personally experienced? Share how you respond or deal with people displaying such negative traits.

Leader's notes: This is a recall question to identify the some of the negative traits that Paul highlighted and how members can avoid or handle such people.

2. We are instructed to learn from godly teachers – are there godly mentors/leaders in your life? What are some traits that they have displayed that make you look up to them? Take some time to also reflect on these mentors in your life and appreciate them for all that they have done. If you're a mentor yourself, share your journey of how you became a mentor to someone else.

Leader's notes: This reflection question is to encourage members to list out some of the traits of their mentors that they admire; what they can learn from these traits, and also to consider how they can showcase these traits in their lives.

3. Paul's final charge to Timothy was to preach God's Word; it is also a charge for all of us as believers. Is there anyone within your community that you've yet to share the gospel with? What are some tips you can share with the cell group on how to reach out to the community? Take time to pray and ask God to place a burden in your heart for someone he wants you to reach out to.

Leader's notes: There should be an urgency in preaching the word to our friends and family members, in order to save them from experiencing God's wrath. This question is aimed at encouraging members to share the Gospel actively and to invite their pre-believing oikos to some outreach programmes, such as Alpha.