

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Second Timothy Bible Study — II Timothy 4:3-7 Lesson #11

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in Second Timothy before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

3-4 For the time will come when they will NOT endure sound DOCTRINE, but **according to their own DESIRES, because they have ITCHING EARS**, they will heap up for themselves TEACHERS: and they will turn their EARS away from the TRUTH, and be turned aside to fables.”

• **I Timothy 4:1** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in the _____ some will _____ from the _____, giving heed to _____ spirits and doctrines (teachings) of _____; speaking _____ in hypocrisy...”

Definition: “According to their own DESIRES, because they have ITCHING EARS” – What does it mean to have “itching ears”? Paul tells Timothy that these people “**will not endure sound doctrine**,” which means **they DON'T WANT to HEAR what the Bible says**, they want a “better” answer. It also means they want a “quicker” answer, because the word “endure” means to “continue, to remain firm, to bear with” something. **These people don't want to learn patience by waiting for God's answer**, so they seek for someone else to give them the answer they want to hear. Then, he says “according to **their own desires**” they will seek out and follow after **TEACHERS who will tell them what they WANT to hear**. That's what it means to have “itching ears.” Many in the churches today are seeking a “prophetic word” from some so-called “prophet” or “prophetess” that will make them feel better, or give them **an answer more in line with what they already want to do**. Instead of being helped by these prophecies they receive, they usually end up worse off than they were before. God's promises in His word may not always come to pass **on our time schedule**, but it is so much better **to WAIT for God's BEST**, than to **HURRY UP** and **receive Satan's “consolation prize.”** In the Old Testament, in Numbers, chapters 22-24, we see Balak going to the “prophet” Balaam over and over again, **trying to get another answer than the one God first gave them**. Finally, God had to speak to Balaam through the mouth of a donkey in order to get him to stop. There is a warning for us there as well: **ACCEPT God's answer from His word**, or else YOU may end up getting an answer that makes you look and feel like a donkey!

• **Revelation 2:14** “But I have a few things against you, because you have there _____ who hold the _____ of Balaam, who _____ Balak to put a stumbling block before the _____ of _____, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality (fornication).”

• **II Timothy 3:1-5** “But realize this, that in the _____ difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, _____, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, _____, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self control, brutal, _____ of _____, treacherous, reckless, conceited, _____ of _____ rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness (false Christianity), although they have _____ its power; and _____ such men as these.”

• **Jude 12-13 & 16-19** “These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love-feasts (church potluck dinners) when they _____ with you without fear, caring for themselves (selfish); clouds without water, carried along by winds..... wild waves of the sea, casting up their own _____ like foam; wandering stars, for whom the _____ of _____ has been reserved forever.” (Verses 16-19)
“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own _____, they

_____ arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; that they were saying to you, 'In the _____ there shall be mockers, _____ after their own ungodly lusts.' These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit...."

• **Ephesians 4:14-15** "That we should _____ longer be _____, tossed to and fro and carried about with every _____ of _____, by the _____ of men, in the cunning _____ by which they lie in wait to _____, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ."

Definition: "EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE" — Doctrine means "teaching" — we are NOT to be falling for every new kind of teaching or latest "spiritual fad". **Cults and false teachers** are EVERYWHERE!! Many of them *SOUND* Christian, or use the name of Jesus, but **they are a mixture of truth and LIES!** Satan is the FATHER of LIES and a great counterfeiter. Many true Christians get tricked or sucked into false cults because **they DO NOT know what God's word really says!!**

• **I Corinthians 14:20** "Brethren, do not be _____ in understanding; however, in malice be _____, but in understanding be _____."

• **Hebrews 5:12-14** "For though by this time you ought to be _____, you need someone to _____ you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need _____ and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of _____ is unskilled in the _____ of righteousness, for he is a _____. But _____ belongs to those who are of full age (mature, grown up), that is those who by reason of use have their _____ exercised (trained) to discern both _____ and _____."

5 But you be watchful in all things, **ENDURE afflictions, do the WORK of an EVANGELIST**, fulfill your ministry.

• **Romans 5:3-4** "And not only that, but we also glory in _____, knowing that _____ produces _____; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Definition: "ENDURE afflictions" – Afflictions means difficulties, testings, tribulations and trials. **Jesus said these afflictions and tribulations would just be a part of life here on earth**, but that He would help us get through them all.

• **James 1:2-3** "My brethren, count it all _____ when you fall into various _____, knowing that the _____ of your _____ produces _____."

• **Acts 5:41** "So they (Peter and the other apostles) departed from the presence of the council, _____ that they were counted worthy to _____ shame for His _____."

• **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken unto you, that in _____ you might have _____. In the world you shall have _____ (troubles, afflictions): but be of good _____; I have _____ the _____."

Definition: "VARIOUS TRIALS and TESTINGS" — "Testing" means to qualify or prove by way of being put through certain conditions or procedures, in order to determine the quality or character of something. "Trial" means **a tryout or experiment to test the quality, value or usefulness of something**. Machines and automobiles are put through "stress tests" to see how they will hold up under pressure and wear.

• **I Peter 1:7** "That the genuineness of your _____, being much more precious than

gold that perishes, though it is _____ by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

●**Matthew 5:10-12** “_____ are those who are _____ for righteousness _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed (happy) are you when they revile and _____ you, and _____ all kinds of _____ against you falsely for My _____. _____ and be exceedingly _____, for great is your _____ in heaven, for so they _____ the prophets who were before you.”

Definition: “Do the WORK of an EVANGELIST” – “Evangel” is the Greek word for the GOSPEL, the GOOD NEWS. An evangelist is one who PREACHES the GOSPEL and witnesses to people about Jesus Christ. We are all called to be witnesses for Christ, but God has given to some a special **spiritual gift of evangelism** (see Ephesians 4:11-12) .

●**Acts 21:8** “On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of _____ the _____, who was one of the seven (the first seven deacons), and stayed with him.”

●**Ephesians 4:11-12** “And _____ Himself _____ some to be apostles, some prophets, some _____, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the _____ of _____, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

6-7 For I am already **being POURED OUT as a DRINK OFFERING**, and the **TIME of my DEPARTURE is at hand**. I have **FOUGHT the GOOD FIGHT**, I have **FINISHED the RACE**, I have kept the faith.

●**Philippians 1:22-25** “But if I _____ on in the _____, this will mean _____ from my _____; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the _____, having a desire to _____ and be with _____, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more _____ for _____. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith.”

Definition: “Having a desire to DEPART and BE with CHRIST, which is FAR BETTER” – In this context, **DEPART means to DIE and leave ones earthly body**. Why is it **better for Paul to “depart and be with Christ”**? It’s better to be with the Lord in heaven, because He has promised us “fullness of joy” and “pleasures forevermore” in His presence, and also promised no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, and no more pain - those are all things we have to deal with here on earth.

●**Psalms 16:11** “You will show me the path of life; in Your _____ is fullness of _____; at Your right hand are _____ forevermore.”

●**Revelation 21:3-4** “And I heard a loud voice from _____ saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of _____ is with _____, and He will _____ with them, and they shall be His _____, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more _____, nor _____, nor _____, and there shall be no more _____, for the former things have passed away.’”

Definition: “Being POURED OUT as a DRINK OFFERING” – The drink offering was one of the many sacrificial offerings in the Law of Moses given to Israel. The drink offering was always of WINE, and it could be a tithe of a person’s harvest of the vineyard, or just a “libation” given alongside the other offerings. For us as Christians, **we see the WINE representing Jesus on the cross as He POURED OUT His BLOOD for our sins**. Paul isn’t comparing himself to Jesus, but he felt like he was being “poured out” as an offering to God as he approached his own death.

• **Mark 14:23-25** “Then He took the cup (of WINE), and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, ‘This is My _____ of the new covenant, which is _____ for many. Assuredly I say to you, I will no longer drink of the _____ of the _____ until that day when I _____ it new in the _____ of _____.’”

• **Exodus 29:40** “_____ the one _____ shall be one-tenth of an ephah of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil, and one-fourth of a hin of _____ as a _____.”

• **Genesis 35:13-14** “Then _____ went up from him in the place where _____ talked with him. So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he _____ a _____ on it, and he poured oil on it.”

Definition: “The TIME of my DEPARTURE is at hand” – Paul realized that he would probably be put to death for his faith in Christ, and that it would be very soon.

• **II Peter 1:13-15** “Yes, I think it right. As long as I am in this _____, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must _____ my _____, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things _____ my _____.”

• **II Corinthians 5:1-4, 6 & 8** “For we know that if our _____ house, this _____, is destroyed, we have a building from _____, a _____ not made with hands, _____ in the _____. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation (house, body) which is from _____, if indeed, having been _____, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this _____ groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.” (Verse 6) “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the _____, we are _____ from the Lord.” (Verse 8) “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be _____ from the _____ and to be _____ with the _____.”

Definition: “Shortly I must PUT OFF MY TENT” – Peter is referring to his death, because he says, “**AFTER MY DECEASE**”, and refers to his earthly body as a “tent” that his eternal spirit lives in while on earth. Obviously, **if we can PUT OFF the body**, the true person, the soul and spirit, is LEAVING the body at death. In some translations, II Peter 1:15 reads, “.....that at any time **after my departure** you may be able to call these things to mind,” so again we see that **death is a DEPARTURE** from the physical body. Paul tells Timothy that he feels he has “**FOUGHT the GOOD FIGHT and FINISHED the RACE**” - in others words, Paul has accomplished what God sent him to do and he is now ready to DEPART and be in heaven with the Lord.

• **Hebrews 12:1** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every _____, and the _____ which so easily ensnares us, and let us _____ the _____ that is set before us.”

• **Acts 20:21 & 24-25** “Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, _____ toward God and _____ toward our Lord _____ Christ.” “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may _____ my _____ with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord _____, to testify to the _____ of the _____ of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone _____ the _____ of _____, will see my face no more.”