

Thinking Christianly

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Timothy.
- B. The problem: what we are to do when pressures threaten to sweep away our faith.

II. Do what Paul has done.

- A. He taught the truth.
- B. He lived righteously.
- C. He trusted the Lord Jesus to work out things.

III. Saturate the mind with the Scriptures.

- A. The Scripture is the book that points the way to God and opens His mind to us, so the believer can think His thoughts after Him.
- B. The first thing to do is to learn what the Bible says.
 - 1. This requires repeated reading of it.
 - 2. The only way to be exposed to the thinking of God is to read the Bible.
 - 3. Reading the word of God will drastically change one's thinking.

IV. Believe the things the Scripture teaches.

- A. Timothy not only knew what the Bible said, he acted on it.
- B. Factors that helped Timothy believe.
 - 1. They came through people he learned to trust.
 - 2. They came to him from childhood.

V. The result of believing the Scriptures - Salvation.

- A. The Scripture is able to bring us to a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus.
- B. The uniqueness of the Bible is that it reveals a person who becomes more real to one than the book by reading it.
- C. There is no point in reading the Bible unless it brings us to the person it points to--Jesus.

VI. Scripture was breathed out by God.

- A. The Bible can teach a person.
- B. The Bible has the power to convict a person leading them to freedom and life.
- C. The Bible can train a person in righteousness helping him to become a whole person.

Application questions:

1. What program do you have in place for reading the Bible systematically? Explain.

2. Who in your life is guiding you through the Scriptures to help you act on them in obedience? How can you fill this void if there is no one?

3. Why is the Bible so integral to salvation? Explain.
