



If you know, you know - Week 1

Jim Burgen

May 22, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

1 Timothy 1:15-17; 2 Timothy 1:3, 2:1, 3:12, 4:13.

// Message Summary

This Sunday, Pastor Jim Burgen began a new series titled, *If you know, you know*. The series is a strong call to all followers of Christ to be intentional in passing on the faith to the next generation. Throughout history, the primary method God has used to pass His truth from generation to generation is for His men and His women, empowered by His Spirit, to take what God has taught them and to share it with those coming next. Though He can use visions, angels or miracles, He usually doesn't: He uses one person pouring into the life of another. Jim uses the Biblical example of Paul and Timothy: Paul was the greatest preacher, theologian and teacher of the Christian faith in history, and he spent a significant part of his life mentoring and pouring into the life of the younger Timothy.

// Biblical and Historical Context

The books of 1st and 2nd Timothy are two of Paul's three "pastoral epistles", the collective name given to the letters written to specific early church pastors (the third being Titus). All three were written in the early 60s AD, with 1 Timothy and Titus written shortly after Paul's first time in a Roman prison, and 2 Timothy written during Paul's second Roman imprisonment. Timothy was pastoring local congregations in the region around Ephesus and was challenged by issues common to many churches, such as how to handle incorrect teaching and how to pick qualified leaders. Paul's letters to Timothy therefore covered the practical issues of leading a church. Because Timothy has spent a considerable amount of time by Paul's side, we don't see a great deal of theological discussion in these letters (as we do in books like Romans and Galatians). Rather, we see a tender encouragement to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith.

// Community Questions

What is a terrible piece of advice someone has given you? Did you follow it, or ignore it? Share the story.

// Discussion Questions

1. Together, read 1 Timothy 1:15-17. Share something in this passage that you found interesting.
2. Why did Paul say that Jesus had shown him “immense patience”?
3. Pastor Jim said, “The very reasons that I would point to that ought to disqualify me from leadership are the same things that God leverages in my life in order for me to lead.”

What does he mean by this? Where have you seen this in your own life?

4. Who in your life is a “Timothy” to you (a person who needs you to speak life and hope to them)?
 - What do they need to hear from you?
 - What might their life look like if you said those words?
5. The method God primarily uses to share His message is one person to another. What does this tell you about Him and what He values?

// Challenge

Speak life and hope to your Timothy this week. Sit down with them, or call them on the phone, and say the words they need to hear from you.