

## If you know, you know - Week 4

### Don't Lose Hope - Ben Foote

June 12, 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

John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 1:7-6, 2:3-6.

#### // Message Summary

This Sunday, Pastor Ben Foote led us through the fourth message in the series, *If you know, you know*. These messages follow the writings of Paul as he encouraged the younger Timothy to continue the good work of leading his church. Paul's two letters to Timothy are designed to equip, encourage and challenge the next generation of Christ-followers. Ben's message this weekend zoomed in on the "Timothys" of our church - those under the age of around 30 - with a straight-forward message: Don't Lose Hope.

According to some studies, the Millennial and Gen Z generations have the least positive outlook on life out of any generation. A possible reason for this is the story they've been told (that we all have been told) that if they're not happy - and happy all the time - then there must be something wrong with how they are doing life. But the truth is that life is not always easy, comfortable and happy. Paul recognized this and encouraged the younger Timothy to endure life's hardships with hope. Likewise, Jesus tells us that in this world we will have troubles, but we can cling to Him because He has overcome the world.

#### // Biblical and Historical Context

When Paul wrote the words, "Endure hardship with us...", he was not speaking theoretically or philosophically. Rather, he was a man speaking from years of punishing experience. According to 2 Corinthians 11:24-31, Paul's life was often one of hunger, lack and physical strain. He frequently had to rely on charity to meet his physical needs. He received repeated beatings and stonings, had been attacked by robbers, and was famously shipwrecked three times. He often couldn't find safety in the city or the countryside, and lamented of persistently living "cold and naked". When Paul encouraged Timothy to take the path of endurance, he knew that it was the only way to make it through this difficult lifetime with hope.

## // Community Questions

What is the most enduring physical activity you have ever taken part in? A marathon? Hiking a peak? Swimming the English Channel? Describe the experience.

## // Discussion Questions

1. Together, read 2 Timothy 2:3-6. What do you find interesting in this passage?
2. Paul uses three analogies to describe how Timothy should approach suffering and hardship.
  - What are the three analogies?
  - What can each one teach us about endurance?
3. Pastor Ben said: “The people who most amaze us are the people who have suffered, and who have endured hardship - but they’ve done it beautifully. These are the kinds of people that we’re naturally drawn to.”

What examples do you know of people enduring hardship “beautifully”? Why do you think we are often naturally drawn to these people?

4. Think about someone important to you. How would *their* life look different if *you* made the commitment to approach life’s challenges with endurance and hope?
5. What features of God’s nature and character make it possible to endure hardship with hope?

## // Challenge

Consider your group of friends, and the people who are shaping your life. Are they encouraging you to endure hardship with hope? Is their life an example of enduring hardship with hope?

If yes, be thankful that you have this strong community. Take a short moment to let them know that they are an encouragement to you.

If not, think about someone who could be this support, and think about how you could draw closer to them this week. Make that call, send the text, pursue this connection.