



LESSON THREE:

A Second Helping of Truth

SCRIPTURE:

1 Timothy 3

FOCUS VERSE:

Stick to what you know is certain. All you have learned comes from people you know and trust (2 Timothy 3:14 VOICE).

DISCUSSION STARTER:

Below are ten facts that you have heard and probably repeated or taught to others. Which of the following are actually true?

1. A penny dropped from the top of the Empire State Building will kill you.
2. The Great Wall of China is the only man-made object that can be seen from space.
3. Cracking your knuckles will give you arthritis.
4. On average, a person swallows eight spiders a year in your sleep.
5. When briefed on those suffering in her kingdom, Marie Antoinette replied, "Let them eat cake."
6. Toilet seats are full of germs.
7. Alcohol warms you up.
8. Wear a cap in the cold because you lose about 90% of your body heat through your head.
9. Wait at least 30 minutes after eating before jumping in the pool to swim.
10. Shaving makes hair grow back thicker.

Paul begins verse 14 in the same way he begins verse 10. "But you." There is a marked and distinct contrast between Timothy and the rest of the world. Here are some truths about the truth.

Truth Almost Always Brings Difficulty

Timothy, warns Paul, "Mark this. There will be terrible times in the last days." It is a challenge to know exactly what Paul means when he speaks of the last days. From the flavor of the letter, it seems apparent that these are Paul's last days. Nero is the Roman Emperor and his fury against the Christians knows no end. Paul anticipates his own death by beheading in the coming days. Timothy, things are getting worse right now.

People Will Pretend to Love Truth, but Don't

Paul's words to Timothy ring hopeful but harsh. Throughout this third chapter, Paul warns Timothy of the hypocritical nature of many people. He points to the Old Testament characters Jannes and Jambres who opposed Moses. He hints of others in their day who turned and opposed the truth. He says these "evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

Truth Will Be Persecuted

Paul's next warning to Timothy is pointed. "All who desire to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12). No one know this truth better than Paul.

Truth Comes from God

Frank Gaebelin, pastor, theologian, author, and editor of one of the most respected commentary sets on the entire Bible, wrote, "All truth is God's truth."