

# Growing a Biblically-Rooted Community

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2 Timothy 3:1-17 ▪ June 14, 2026 ▪ Brad Manely

Be \_\_\_\_\_ in a spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ world. (1-9)

Be \_\_\_\_\_ in a spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ world. (10-17)

## ***2 Timothy 3:1-17***

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<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

<sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. <sup>9</sup> But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

<sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** Think of a time when Scripture shaped the decision or direction of a group you were part of. What happened, and what impact did it have?

**Read and Discuss:** 2 Timothy 3:1-17

1. Paul warns that the “last days” will be marked by extreme self-centeredness (vv. 1–5). As you scan the list of negative behaviors in these verses, how would you say such behaviors get in the way of people knowing, loving, and sharing Jesus? How can being a biblically-rooted community help us respond to what’s going on around us in helpful, loving, God-honoring ways?
2. In the middle of describing these cultural trends, Paul warns against those who are “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth” (v. 7). What are some differences between being a community that is merely *educated* by the Bible versus one that is truly *rooted* in it? How can we as a church family guard ourselves against the trap of collecting biblical information without allowing it to transform our lives, character, and community?
3. In verses 10–11, Paul points to his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, love, and endurance as an example for Timothy. How does this picture of normal Christian life (v. 12) compare to our culture’s expectations of contemporary Christian life? Where might the 21st century church benefit by adjusting its expectations and priorities?
4. Timothy clearly learned much from Paul’s life and example. Who are the “Paul-figures” in your life who have modeled Christian character for you? How can we cultivate our own personal influence so that we are able to strengthen our church in becoming a more biblically-rooted community?
5. Paul says to Timothy, “Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed” (v. 14). What practices or relationships have helped you stay anchored to the Gospel when life gets chaotic? How can our church help one another persevere in knowing, loving, and sharing Jesus?
6. Paul says Scripture is “breathed out by God” and equips us for teaching, reproof, correction, and training (vv. 15–16). How does seeing the Bible as God’s voice shape your willingness to be corrected or redirected by it? How has God’s Word provided course corrections in your life? How did that process impact your relationship with Jesus?
7. Paul concludes that Scripture thoroughly equips us for “every good work” (v. 17). What are some ways you have seen this happen—perhaps in your own life, in our church, or in other communities you’ve been a part of?
8. Looking at the passage as a whole, what threats to the church’s mission does Paul identify? How would striving to be a biblically-rooted community help us to be faithful and fruitful?

**Apply:** Which part of this passage challenges you most right now—resisting cultural drift, following godly examples, or staying rooted in Scripture? What is one step you can take this week to help our church grow as a community that knows, loves, and shares Jesus?

**Pray:** Pray that we will draw wisdom and strength from God’s Word so we can better know, love, and share Jesus in a spiritually chaotic world.