

## 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5: Caring for New Believers Fintry, 28/2/2010, am

- Mission Series #7 - Reflecting a Relationship
- *Family service again...!!*

### **Nurturing New Life (1)**

- *(Put growing/seeds compilation video on)*
- Recap on Mission series:
  - concerned with growth of God's people...
  - thought mostly about numerical growth... people becoming Christians for the first time
  - think of a forest - need new growth, new trees taking root...
  - but you also need the trees that have been planted to grow and flourish...
  - in other words, everyone who is a Christian growing...
- This is the assumption that stands behind the passage from 2 Timothy 3&4 we'll read later in the service:
- growth in faith, in relationship with God, is important!
- **What do you need to make plants grow?**
  - seed
  - soil
  - water
  - light
  - warmth
  - fertiliser/food
  - time
- Get out plant pot and soil etc and demonstrate:
  - get folk out to help me plant the pea!

## Nurturing New Life (2)

- *(Put first/mature growth compilation video on)*
- Has our plant grown?
  - need a bit more time than that!!
- What was Paul's concern for Timothy?
  - and how was Paul's concern expressed?
- Fundamentally, relationship with Jesus Christ:
  - growth, maturity, service, "live a Godly life in Christ Jesus", righteousness.
  - (3:16) taught about Christ, rebuked for not living in Christ, trained to live righteously like Christ, trained to share that relationship with Christ.
- Paul's deepest desire for Timothy is that he would have a mature, growing, deepening relationship with Jesus Christ - Paul's own Lord and rescuer.
- *That was the touchstone, what bothered Paul as his own life slipped away: **live a godly life in Christ Jesus!***
- How was that concern of Paul's expressed?
  - intriguingly, fundamentally through a **relationship** with Paul:
    - 1. Points to his own example and that of other Christians:**
      - *"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose...." (3:10) - example*
      - *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it" (3:14) - try it, practise*
    - 2. Points to his current situation, where he is working and serving Christ "on his own", and encourages and challenges him to keep going!**
      - *"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (4:5) - do it!*
    - 3. Points to place of Scripture**
      - *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (3:16,17) - foundation*
- Its exactly the same model that Jesus employed as he trained the disciples:
  - he set an example of what to do and how to do it;
  - he got the disciples to do those things while Jesus was there;
  - he sent them out to do things for themselves.

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– and always rooted in what Scriptures teach

- Paul is encouraging and challenging Timothy to grow in his relationship with Jesus by pointing to what he has learned through his relationship with Paul.

### **Conclusion**

- So where does that leave us?
- We want the church to grow.
- We are praying for people to come to faith; we are defending that faith when folk come up with hard questions; we are building relationships with people that commend Jesus Christ; we are helping and serving in practical ways that reflect the love of Christ; we are making church as accessible as possible for people...  
...and we start seeing people come to faith!
- What then?
- What do we do?

#### **First of all we want to adopt Paul's attitude:**

- his concern was that these new believers would grow, mature, deepen, in their new found relationship with Jesus Christ.
- That is the bottom line. Whatever we do must reflect that concern!
- Not numbers of new members; not successful organisations; not being financially secure; not having great halls;...
- Relationship with Jesus Christ!

#### **Second, we will adopt Paul's approach:**

- he reflected his concern for Timothy in his relationship with Timothy.
- In other words, he didn't just talk about it, but tried in every way to bring Timothy closer to Jesus Christ, through example, through Scripture, through challenge, through encouragement...
  
- **So, who is Timothy for you?**
- **Or, who is Paul for you?**
- **Are you growing?**
  
- **Prayer - for self and others:**  
– "Take my life and let it be!" (NOT: "Take my wife and let me be!")