

STUDY 10

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## FIGHT, WORK, PREACH

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### OBJECTIVES

1. To describe how a local church can develop a long-term plan to sustain its leadership.
2. To be able to explain the purpose of hardships and challenges in developing a Christian leader.
3. To describe the biblical teaching on what a pastor's primary responsibilities are.
4. To be able to state why some believers do not heed the pastorally delivered Word and how this can be an encouragement to pastors.



### BACKGROUND

In the opening chapter of Second Timothy, Paul discusses two uncomfortable facts. Firstly, serving Christ often involves *hardship* and *suffering*. Secondly, some key leaders have been unwilling to endure this hardship and suffering and have thus proven themselves to be *unfaithful*. The remainder of this second epistle is Paul encouraging Timothy to *endure hardship*, and to entrust to *faithful* men the responsibility to further the cause of Christ. To achieve this multiplication of ministry Paul “charges” Timothy to preach the Word — despite the response of his audience. This would require Timothy learning how to *fight* like a soldier, *work* like a farmer!

- 341. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 12:47:04 pm  
2Tim. 2:1 ¶ You then, my child,  
be strengthened by the grace  
that is in Christ Jesus,
- 342. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 12:48:20 pm  
By being strengthened by God's  
grace.
- 343. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 12:56:43 pm  
faithful
- 344. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 1:40:22 pm  
2Tim. 2:2 and what you have  
heard from me in the presence  
of many witnesses entrust to  
faithful men, who will be able to  
teach others also.
- 345. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 1:40:39 pm  
These future leaders had to  
have an ability to be able to  
teach others also, and thereby  
ensure that their leadership was  
sustained.
- 346. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 1:40:22 pm  
2Tim. 2:2 and what you have  
heard from me in the presence  
of many witnesses entrust to  
faithful men, who will be able to  
teach others also.
- 347. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 2:28:15 pm  
By ensuring that competent and  
teachable leadership candidates  
are continually being trained in a  
way that they can train others, a  
church is able to sustain its  
leadership succession.

*Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies*

**Objective 1 - To describe how a local church can develop a long-term plan to sustain its leadership.**

The Apostle Paul seems to have been mindful of not overwhelming Timothy with all that he was expecting of him. What he tells Timothy is also applicable to any of us who might at times also feel overwhelmed.

- 341 1. From **Second Timothy 2:1**, what do we learn about how the servant of God can achieve what might otherwise have seemed overwhelming?

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Paul was asking Timothy to do something that might have been intimidating because it probably involved instructing older men. In contrast to the examples that Paul mentioned in the opening chapter (of men who had been unfaithful), he now tells Timothy to look for **f\_\_\_\_\_l** men (2Tim. 2:2). Interestingly, the first requirement for those that he wants Timothy to train was not their *ability* or even their spiritual gifts. It is quite common for those that God calls to serve Him in some way, that they often feel *inadequate*. It might not have been just Timothy that felt inadequate. Perhaps those that Timothy selected may have also felt inadequate.

- 344 2. Note **Second Timothy 2:2**, what did Paul instruct Timothy to also look for in the church's future leaders?

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- 346 3. How does the instruction to Timothy in **Second Timothy 2:2** ensure that a church is able to sustain a long-term succession of leadership? Discuss.

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(Did you notice how frequently in Second Timothy Paul refers to *pairs* of leaders.)

348. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:02:01 pm  
2Tim. 1:15 ¶ You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

349. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:04:45 pm  
2Tim. 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.  
2Tim. 2:4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

350. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:07:06 pm  
By enduring suffering.

351. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:16:12 pm  
athlete

352. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:27:26 pm  
2Tim. 2:5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

353. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:28:01 pm  
farmer

354. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 4:27:53 pm  
2Tim. 2:6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

355. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 7:29:05 pm  
2Tim. 2:8 ¶ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,  
2Tim. 2:9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!  
2Tim. 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

356. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 7:29:30 pm  
1. Jesus Christ - He endure extreme suffering on His way to cross  
2. The Apostle Paul, who was currently "in chains".

357. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
28 July 2021 at 7:37:17 pm  
Rom. 5:3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,  
Rom. 5:4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,  
Rom. 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Objective 2 - To be able to explain the purpose of hardships and challenges in developing a Christian leader.**

Again, in contrast to the examples of Christian ministers who were not prepared to suffer for Christ (given in 2Tim 1:15), immediately after Paul has told Timothy to recruit new leader to train, he instructs Timothy to *set the example* for these emerging leaders.

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4. In what way does Paul tell Timothy to set the example for these emerging leaders in **Second Timothy 2:3-4**?

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Paul gives a further two examples to Timothy of what great endurance looks like. Firstly, he describes the work that an **a \_\_\_\_\_ e** must endure (2Tim. 2:5). This endurance involves long hours of training and practice. There wouldn't have been many Tasmanians who didn't celebrate when local girl, Ariarne Titmus, won her first Olympic gold medal for swimming at the '2020' Tokyo Olympics. Her highly animated coach, Dean Boxhall, said immediately after her victory that she has had to work extremely hard and endure great hardships to reach the pinnacle of her sport. "I am the author of her pain" he said, "Everything I asked of her to do, she did!" In the process, Titmus had to undergo shoulder surgery and go through a painful recovery period. Secondly, he gives the example of a hard-working **f \_\_\_\_\_ r** (2Tim.2:6).

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5. While two *unfaithful* Christian leaders are named in the opening chapter, who are the two *positive* examples of faithfulness mentioned in **Second Timothy 2:8-10** and how should their example inspire us?

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6. Read **Romans 5:3-5** and discuss what benefit God might be able to achieve in a Christian leader by allowing them to suffer for His sake?

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358. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 7:40:56 pm

Suffering produces endurance  
which produces a strengthened  
character which results in hope.

359. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 7:55:03 pm  
2Tim. 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

360. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 7:55:36 pm  
To "rightly" handle the Word of Truth, which would include teaching the Scriptures well.

361. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:01:26 pm  
2Tim. 2:23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.  
2Tim. 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,  
2Tim. 2:25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

362. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:01:56 pm  
1. Avoid foolish controversies (such as conspiracy theories)  
2. Model kindness, patience, and endurance.  
3. Correct those who oppose sound doctrine.

363. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:18:46 pm  
2Tim. 3:15 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.

364. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:19:02 pm  
It was probably Timothy's Grandmother and mother who taught Timothy the Word of God which shaped him into a man of God. This should be an encouragement to every mother.

365. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:29:26 pm  
2Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,  
2Tim. 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

366. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:30:36 pm  
Preach the Word  
Reprove/rebuke/exhort  
- do it with patience and teaching

367. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
28 July 2021 at 8:33:01 pm  
2Tim. 4:1 ¶ I charge you in the

*Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies*

**Objective 3 - To describe the biblical teaching on what a pastor's primary responsibilities are.**

In Second Timothy 3:1-5, Paul paints a bleak picture of the spiritual condition of many people with the expression "in the last days". This expression should be understood as Paul referring to his time of writing as the "last days" and reasonably continues today.

359 7. According to **Second Timothy 2:15**, what is one of the main responsibilities of a pastor of a church?

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361 8. Based on **Second Timothy 2:23-25**, what is a pastor responsible to avoid, model, and focus on?

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363 9. Read **Second Timothy 3:15** and determine when Paul suggests that the Lord started preparing Timothy for pastoral ministry? How did the Lord begin to do it? What did the Lord use to shape Timothy?

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365 10. How does the study and application of the Bible serve as the pastor's main pastoral tool? (**2Tim. 3:16-17**)

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367 11. What did Paul charge Timothy to do which is also applicable for pastors today? (**2Tim. 4:1-2, 5**)

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presence of God and of Christ  
Jesus, who is to judge the living  
and the dead, and by his  
appearing and his kingdom:  
2Tim. 4:2 preach the word; be  
ready in season and out of  
season; reprove, rebuke, and  
exhort, wit

**368. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

28 July 2021 at 9:20:28 pm

2Tim. 4:5 As for you, always be  
sober-minded, endure suffering,  
do the work of an evangelist,  
fulfill your ministry.

**369. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

28 July 2021 at 8:34:05 pm

Preach the Word

Be always ready to teach the  
Word

Reprove/rebuke/exhort the  
wayward

Patiently teach God's Word.

+ do the work of an evangelist

370. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 9:41:17 pm  
2Tim. 3:6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

371. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 9:16:22 pm  
2Tim. 3:7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

372. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 9:16:47 pm  
They are always being taught but never learning.

373. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 9:21:11 pm  
2Tim. 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 2Tim. 4:4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

374. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 9:22:09 pm  
People will not “endure” sound teaching and will turn away from the truth and prefer listening to myths instead through false teachers who tell them what they want to hear—especially those things that “suit their own passions”.

375. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 July 2021 at 10:03:46 pm  
The issue of their resistance is not the quality of the pastor’s preaching but the condition of the people’s hearts. This will mean that the pastor in such a predicament needs to be encouraged that it is not his or her preaching that is the problem, and that they should continue to preach the truth.

376. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 July 2021 at 8:54:17 am  
2Tim. 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

377. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 July 2021 at 8:54:33 am  
Paul remained remarkably positive that he would be ushered into the heavenly kingdom of Christ which would be his ultimate deliverance from all his troubles.

**Objective 4 - To be able to state why some believers do not heed the pastorally delivered Word and how this can be an encouragement to pastors.**

Faithful pastors often get frustrated when their congregants do not seem to be growing in their discipleship. Sometimes this frustration is due to church attenders living double lives. Paul seems to allude to this in **Second Timothy 3:6**.

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12. How does **Second Timothy 3:7** sum up the frustration that many church leaders feel with such people?

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13. What other reasons does Paul give for some believers not heeding the preaching of God’s Word according to **Second Timothy 4:3-4**?

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*Inadequacy* is a common job hazard for pastors. The frustration of preaching without seeing much positive response — and often being criticised for their preaching — can all be very discouraging for a pastor. An unsuspecting pastor may well blame him or herself and his or her lack of preaching effectiveness - despite faithfully preaching sound doctrine and truthfully conveying the message of God’s Word. In fact, it is the faithful and accurate preaching of God’s Word that brings brings conviction of sin and challenges people to live more fully for Christ.

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14. Therefore, why could a pastor be encouraged if they find there is resistance to their preaching by those who may be living double-lives? Discuss.

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15. Despite Paul’s sufferings and imminent death, what was his attitude and great hope? (**2Tim. 4:18**)

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**APPLICATION**

- 16. Many churches bemoan that they don't have enough leaders or volunteers. Drawing inspiration from Paul's exhortations to Timothy, what are three things that each local church can do, despite their congregation size, that will help them to sustain their church's leadership for generations to come? Discuss.

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- 17. Your employer, a rather large company, has just signed up to a *Diversity and Equality* compulsory staff training series of sessions. After completing the training sessions you will be required to wear a rainbow pin with a red enamel love-heart embossed into it. All staff will then be required to march in the Pride march on Pride Day. How would you respond to this workplace directive? Discuss.

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- 18. Your church is looking for a new pastor. Based on what Paul has told Timothy about what a pastor's main responsibilities are, what are the main requirements your church should expect from any candidate applying for the position?

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19. You have become aware that there are a few people in your church, some of them leaders, who are compromising their commitment to Christ through marital infidelity and fornication. The pastor is not aware of this. These same people have become increasingly critical of the pastor's preaching. The pastor has just returned to work after taking stress-leave due to the overwhelming criticism he has been receiving from his last few sermons where he called for believers to walk in holiness. What should you do? Discuss.

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Amen.