

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and a scale on the left side. The scale is a semi-circular arc with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Several circular elements, some solid and some dashed, are scattered across the background, some containing arrows or partial arcs.

# FOUR LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF PAUL

A STUDY OF 2 TIMOTHY

## 1. PAUL WAS GRITTY

Grit is passion plus perseverance. Paul had some goals he wanted to achieve, and even though it was hard work and took many years, he didn't stop or give up.

*2 Cor. 11:24-25 "Five times I received ... lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked ..."*

*Acts 20:23 "in every city ... prison and hardships are facing me"*

Gal 6:9 *“At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

Paul said God gave him the comfort and strength to keep going.

Phil 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Right before he was executed, Paul wrote in his last letter:

II Tim 4:6,7 *“... the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

Paul lived his life with grit.

## WHAT WE CAN DO TO BECOME MORE GRITTY

- Make some long-term goals that are important and that you will work on for the rest of your life.
- Realize that consistent effort will bring improvement and results, but it takes time.
- Keep studying, keep learning, keep teaching, keep encouraging, keep serving, keep forgiving, keep praying.

## 2. PAUL'S GOAL WAS FOR PEOPLE TO BE HIS LEGACY

Paul poured his energy into helping thousands of people become better leaders, better pastors and missionaries, and better at living by faith, hope and love.

His last letter (2 Timothy) can be printed on one piece of paper. Paul mentions the names of 24 people.

In his letter, Paul gives some last words of encouragement to Timothy (and us).

- *Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you*
- *Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord*
- *Endure hardship*
- *Correctly handle the word of truth*
- *Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace*
- *Be kind to everyone*

## WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE PEOPLE OUR LEGACY

- Help your children and grandchildren learn to read the Bible, memorize a few scripture verses (Like John 1:12, John 3:16, John 5:24, Rom 3:23, Rom 10:13, etc.) and take joy in helping and serving others.
- Spend time with your neighbors. When you spend time with them you will find more opportunities to pray and share faith.
- Find a new Christian in your church or small group that you can help to grow spiritually. Invite them to serve with you.

### 3. PAUL TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL CLEARLY

*Colos 4:2 “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly ...”*

*1 Thess 2:8 “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well.”*



In all of his writings, Paul repeated the themes of - God's love, our sin, Christ's death and resurrection, and our need to believe in Christ by faith and follow him.

Rom 3:23 *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

Rom 5:8 *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Gal 2:16 *"A man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ."*

2 Tim 1:9 *"God who has saved us and called us to a holy life"*

2 Tim 3:15 *"salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"*

## WHAT WE CAN DO TO EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL CLEARLY

- Practice telling your story of faith – (1) your life before you believed, (2) how you put your faith in Christ, and (3) some of the things you are learning since you began following Jesus. Practice with as many people as you can – see if you can tell your story 10 times to 10 different people.
- Learn a simple outline that will help you explain the gospel (like The Four Spiritual Laws, The Roman Road, The Bridge, etc.) Ask 10 people if they will let you practice with them.
- It helps if you memorize 10 scripture verses about the gospel.

## 4. PAUL'S GOAL WAS TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE BY MAKING DISCIPLES WHO THEN MAKE DISCIPLES

*2 Tim 2:2 "And the things you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

- Paul spoke to large crowds, he taught small groups, but he also worked with individuals. There are dozens of people who Paul invited to go along with him as he traveled from city to city and country to country. They learned by watching him and working with him and becoming leaders themselves.

YOU → PEOPLE YOU HELP → PEOPLE THEY HELP

What we can do to teach others who then teach others

- If you teach Sunday School, get a helper and let them also teach once or twice every month.
- If you are a deacon, invite another man to be your ministry partner and go with you to visit the hospital and people at homes.
- If you help as a greeter or on the sound/tech crew, invite someone else to help you and work with you.
- If you sing, find a younger singer who doesn't have much experience and invite them to practice with you and perform with you when they are ready.

# FOUR LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF PAUL

- Be gritty. Don't give up when things are hard.
- Make people your priority and your legacy.
- Learn to explain the gospel clearly.
- Help somebody grow spiritually so they can help others.