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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas



**Lesson Leader:**  
James Haymon

**Class Leaders:**  
Joe & Comella Liles

## Perseverance in Leadership A Study in 2 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
06/28	Introduction	
06/28	Perseverance in Heritage	1:1-18
07/12	Perseverance in Work	2:1-13
07/19	Perseverance in Character	2:14-26
07/26	Perseverance in Following	3:10-17
<b>08/02</b>	<b>Perseverance in Word</b>	<b>4:1-8</b>
08/09	Summary & Review	

### Food for Thought

#### POWER OF GOD'S WORD

To the wise, God's Word is sufficient  
The Bible stands like a mountain  
Towering far above the works of men;  
Its truth by none ever was refuted,  
And destroy it they never can

*Your word, O Lord, is eternal;  
it stands firm in the heavens.*  
**Ps 119:89 (NIV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread" Aug 14, 2004)*

## PERSEVERANCE IN GOD'S WORD

### 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

Paraphrasing the words of Professor Zane Hodges, from a seminary class in years gone by, "Nothing needs to be taught, for which the Scriptures do not provide the text; nothing needs reproof which the Scriptures do not reprove; nothing needs improving which the Scriptures do not seek to improve." **False teachers always place the emphasis on their own unique teachings, teachings which go beyond the written Word of God (see 1 Corinthians 4:6). True teachers never feel the need to go beyond the Bible.** And so Paul solemnly charges Timothy to make the proclamation of God's Word his passion (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Timothy is to continue to faithfully proclaim the Word of God. He is to "preach the message, whether it is convenient or not" (4:2). What does this mean? I don't think that it means that we preach, regardless of the readiness of our audience, or the appropriateness of the moment. Too many texts tell us that there is a time and a place, and a proper presentation of the truth (Colossians 4:5-6). I think that here **Paul is telling Timothy that he is to be faithful in proclaiming the truth of God's Word, whether it is convenient for him or not.** How many times do our children (for me, now my grandchildren) come and ask us to read a book to them in the middle of an exciting football game, or in the middle of my studies? How often do our children misbehave just at the time we least want to trouble ourselves to deal with their sin? Paul instructs Timothy to **be disciplined enough to seize every opportunity to proclaim the Word of God.**

There is a good reason for Paul's sense of urgency (2 Timothy 4:3-5). Paul is well aware that his days are numbered. He is in prison and soon to be executed. Further, he is an old man. But **Paul is not thinking of himself here; he is calling attention to the times in which he and Timothy are living. The days are growing more and more evil.** Men are not eager to hear the truth. In fact, they seek out those who will teach them "truth" the way they want to hear it. Timothy needs to "make hay while the sun shines;" he needs to take advantage of every opportunity, because as time passes these opportunities will become fewer and fewer. There was no time to waste.

While Timothy has much work yet to do, Paul's ministry is drawing to a close. That ministry has been a faithful and fruitful one, one which Timothy would do well to imitate (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Here is a sermon in and of itself. Paul knows that the time of his departure is near. His life has been a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1-2). He has the comfort of knowing that he has faithfully carried out his mission. His work lies behind; his reward awaits him. His Lord, the righteous judge, will reward him with "the crown of righteousness." And this reward is not only awaiting Paul, but all of those who have fixed their affections on the Lord's return.

*(Excerpts from "Creation to the Cross" By Bob Deffinbaugh)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### *Perseverance is the ultimate evaluation of an evangelist (vs. 1)*

Evaluation because they must give an account (Heb 13:17)

Evaluation because all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10)

Evaluation that others don't understand (1 Peter 4:4-5)

Evaluation that understands that they will be judged more strictly (James 3:1)

### *Perseverance in proclaiming God's Word (vs. 1-2)*

Perseverance so that deliverance will come to both the hearers and proclaimers (1 Tim 4:15-16)

Perseverance because we don't know what will succeed (Eccl 11:6)

Perseverance because it is our purpose (Luke 4:43)

Perseverance so that God will find us doing His will when He returns (Luke 12:42-43)

Perseverance so as to be counted worthy (Acts 5:41-42)

### *Perseverance is the tireless task of an evangelist (vs. 2-4)*

Task to preach the good news (Luke 4:18)

Task to proclaim the kingdom of God (Luke 9:60)

Task of being called and sent to preach (Rom 10:15)

Task to admonish and teach (Col 1:28-29)

### *Perseverance in truth knowing some people will not endure sound doctrine (vs. 3-4)*

Some people will not endure sound doctrine because of deception (2 Cor 11:3-4)

Some people will not endure sound doctrine because of turning to a different gospel (Gal 1:6-7)

Some people will not endure sound doctrine because of false doctrines (1 Tim 6:3-5)

Some people will not endure sound doctrine because of the many false prophets (1 John 2:18-19)

### *Perseverance is the hard work of an evangelist (vs. 5)*

Work that is done day and night (Isa 62:6-7)

Work that requires watchfulness (Mark 13:34-37)

Work that must be completed (Col 4:17)

Work that only a few truly accept (Luke 10:2-3)

Work that requires endurance (2 Cor 6:4-10)

### *Perseverance with attention to duty (vs 5)*

Attention to duty because it is a priestly duty (Rom 15:16)

Attention to duty because we are to encourage and help others (1 Thess 5:14)

Attention to duty because we must proclaim to the next generation (Ps 71:18)

It is a duty, not for reward (Luke 17:7-10)

Attention to duty because we are held accountable (Ezek 33:7-9)

### *Final reward for perseverance (vs. 6-8)*

Reward of eternal life (1 Tim 6:19)

Reward of a crown that last forever (1 Cor 9:24-27)

Reward of the victor's crown (2 Tim 2:5)

Reward of the crown of life (James 1:12)

Reward of crown of glory (1 Peter 5:2-4)