

RETHINK, RESET, REFOCUS

— A SERMON SERIES IN 2 TIMOTHY —

GOD CALLS US TO
RETHINK THE LIES,
THE DISTRACTIONS,
AND THE HABITS
THAT DULL OUR FAITH.



GOD CALLS US TO
RESET OUR HEARTS,
OUR PRIORITIES,
AND OUR DIRECTION.

GOD CALLS US TO
REFOCUS ON HIS PURPOSE,
HIS POWER, AND HIS PRESENCE.



Anchor in the Word (2 Timothy 3:1-17), September 6, 2026

Shalom Ministries International Worship Service

Announcement

- Shalom Vision Orientation
 - On the first week of every month, we will hold a newcomer orientation session to introduce the vision and mission of Shalom Ministries International.
 - Newcomers, as well as anyone who wants to hear the vision, are welcome during the Breakout Room Session.



Holy Are You Lord

Can you hear the sound of heaven
Like the sound of many waters
It's the sound of worship, coming
from His throne
There are cries of adoration
As men from every nation
Lift their voice to make His glory
known, singing

Holy, holy, holy are You Lord
Holy, holy, holy are You Lord
The Elders and Angels bow
The redeemed worship You now
Holy, holy, holy are You Lord

Led by Paul Musembi, Worship Pastor

Intercessory Prayer



(Led by Marc Musimbi, Prayer Leader)

The Church in the Last Days

- Difficult, terrible, perilous, or violent
 - There will be terrible times in the **last days** (2 Tim 3:1).
- When are the Last days (End Times)?
 - Began with the first coming of Jesus and will conclude with His second coming.
- 19 distinct characteristics (or vices): Moral, relational degradation
 - People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power (2 Tim 3:2-5a).
 - **Self-centeredness/Greed** (lovers of self/money, boastful, proud, abusive, conceited);
 - **Family/Relationship** (disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving);
 - **Lack of discipline** (without self-control, brutal, not lovers of good, treacherous, rash);
 - **Hypocrisy** (lovers of pleasure rather than God, form of godliness but deny its power).

Rethink Spiritual Deception

- Have nothing to do with **such people** (2 Tim 3:5b)
 - All 19 vices are primarily manifested by people inside the visible church.
 - They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women ... never able to come to a knowledge of the truth... men of depraved minds...are rejected (2 Tim 3:6-8).
 - They are insiders or self-identified religious leaders who present an outward appearance of faith while actively living in unrepentant vice and self-idolatry. They “have a form of godliness but deny its power” (2 Tim 3:5a).
- Your role as a church pastor
 - Refuse to sit under the teaching or authority of leaders who exhibit persistent, unrepentant characteristics from the 19 vices list while maintaining a pious facade.
 - While Christians are called to love everyone, close spiritual partnership (*koinonia*) requires shared truth and accountability.
 - Engage the secular world with grace and witness, but protect the internal integrity of the church from deceitful pretenders who hollow out the gospel from within.

Paul's Life Journey (2 Timothy 3:10–11)

- An authentic leadership cannot be separated from lived experiences.
 - You know all about my **teaching**, my **way of life**, my **purpose**, **faith**, **patience**, **love**, **endurance**, **persecutions**, **sufferings**—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them (2 Tim 3:10-11).
- **Teaching** (doctrine): Paul taught publicly and privately, and instructed believers to remain faithful to the gospel (Acts 20:20–21; 1 Cor. 15:1–4).
 - **Conduct** (way of life): He called believers to imitate his life as he imitated Christ (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17).
 - **Purpose**: Not personal success but faithful service to Christ and the gospel (Acts 20:24; Rom. 15:20).
 - **Faith**: Trust Christ through imprisonment, rejection, persecution, and suffering (2 Tim. 1:12; Acts 20:22–24).
 - **Patience**: He endured opposition and continued teaching, serving others with patience (2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Cor. 6:4–6).
 - **Love**: His letters repeatedly express his deep concern for believers and his willingness to sacrifice for their spiritual growth (2 Cor. 11:28–29; 1 Thess. 2:7–12).
 - **Endurance**: He endured imprisonment, beatings, rejection, danger, and suffering without abandoning his calling (2 Cor. 11:23–28; 2 Tim. 4:7).
 - **Persecution & Sufferings**: He experienced intense opposition and persecution; at Lystra, he was stoned and left for dead, yet he continued his ministry (Acts 13:50; 14:1–6; 14:19–22).

Reset Your Expectation

- Why was it beneficial for Timothy to remember Paul's experience?
 - You know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra (2 Tim 3:10-11).
 - In Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. Paul, observing him intently and said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked... Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there...and they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city (Acts 14:8-10, 19-20).
 - Sharing in a mentor's life provides the vital support and courage needed to finish the work of the ministry.
- Counting the cost of faithful discipleship
 - Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2 Tim 3:11b-12).
 - Modern culture often conditions believers to expect comfort, social approval, and smooth sailing. Paul forces a radical expectation reset.
 - Persecution is not a sign that God has failed or that you are doing wrong. Persecution is normal outcomes of living a distinct, Christ-centered life in a fallen world.

Reset Your Spirituality (Respond using a 1-5 scale)

1. Is my teaching based on the Bible rather than cultural trends or church growth tricks?
2. Do my private behavior and character match what I preach from the pulpit?
3. Do I allow trusted peers or mentors to correct my blind spots regarding my life and leadership?
4. Is my main goal spiritual maturity in believers rather than numbers or institutional fame?
5. Do I respond to critics and difficult people with patience and love instead of frustration?
6. Do I handle conflict without using manipulation, retaliation, or divisive words?
7. Do I stand firm in biblical truth even when it brings pushback or criticism?
8. Do I rely on spiritual disciplines to stay strong through persecution and opposition rather than giving up?

Spiritual Stability, Conviction, Perseverance

- **But, continue...** (μένω *menō*, remain, keep going)
 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it (2 Tim 3:14).
 - They will go from bad to worse (v. 13) — but you, Timothy, continues/ remains faithful to what he has already learned and been convinced of.
- Three key themes: Learned → convinced → continue
 - “Remember what you have learned”: Timothy has learned the truth-> He has become convinced of the truth -> he must continue in the truth. Conviction produces continuation.
 - When the world is moving away from God, Paul's message to Timothy is not ‘follow the crowd,’ but ‘continue in what you know to be true.’
- When everything around you is changing, don't change your foundation
 - Continue does not mean never change, but don't abandon your foundation. Christian maturity requires growth, learning, adaptation and wisdom, but must continue in the truth.
 - Rethink: The world will be difficult. False teaching and opposition are real.
 - Reset: Return to what you have learned (But you continue).
 - Refocus: Build your life on Scripture.

Refocus your Mind, Anchor in Scripture

- The world in the Last Days
 - Becoming morally corrupt, false teachers, Timothy facing oppositions.
 - When the world becomes confusing, deceptive, and hostile, what can Timothy rely on?
- Unshakable truth in a shaking world
 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching**, **rebuking**, **correcting** and **training** in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17).
 - Scripture is from God: God-breathed.
- Functions of Scripture
 - **Teaching** (*didaskalia*): doctrinal instruction and the systematic transfer of divine truth.
 - **Rebuking** (*elegchos, diagnostic*): bring to light, expose, or cross-examine.
 - **Correcting** (*epanorthosis*, set straight/restore): provides the remedy by picking a person up, healing the fracture, and pointing them back to the right direction.
 - **Training** (*paideia*): continuous process of shaping habits, building character, and cultivating for holy living.

Scripture is Useful for Faithful Ministry

- Rethink (Don't let the world define truth)
 - There will always be competing voices, cultural pressures, false teaching, and changing ideas.
 - Who or what determines what is true in your life?
- Reset (Return to Scripture)
 - But as for you, continue...
 - Timothy needs to reset his direction by returning to what he has learned and become convinced of.
 - What is the foundation of your life when everything around you is changing?
- Refocus (Let Scripture equip you for good work)
 - The goal isn't simply to know the Bible.
 - The goal is to become thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - How is God's Word preparing you to live and serve faithfully today?