

Investing In The Eternal

"Made For This Moment" series- Part 03

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: How have you changed the most since you were a child? In what ways are you still the same?

Let's get on the same page -

In a recent message entitled, "*What Goes Around, Comes Around*", Pastor Brandon brought us to a concluding thought from the Old Testament story of Esther:

*You have a life to give. You have a limited quantity of time and energy to **invest** into something bigger than yourself - something global, something timeless, something life-changing and history-altering.*

Let's briefly discuss that term, "Invest". How do you define an "investment"? What are typical investments made by people today? Can you identify an investment that you are making that is "bigger than yourself"?

In the below passage of Scripture, Paul speaks of putting his trust (or investments) under the guardianship of God. Paul speaks of a guaranteed way of investing in the bank of God.

Book: 2 Timothy 1:7-14

2Ti 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2Ti 1:8 So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for Him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News.

2Ti 1:9 For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time—to show us His grace through Christ Jesus.

2Ti 1:10 And now He has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.

2Ti 1:11 And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

2Ti 1:12 That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the One in whom I trust, and I am sure that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until the day of His return.

2Ti 1:13 Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 1:14 Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

Let's get into the Word:

Life is filled with uncertainties and it would be understandable to be driven by fear, doubt, and unbelief. According to 2 Tim. 7-10, what can help us to rise above these unproductive emotions?

Why was Paul, God's faithful servant, suffering in prison?

Paul tells young Timothy not to be ashamed that his mentor was in prison, that he himself was not ashamed of his imprisonment, and he encourages Timothy to join him in the cause that put him in prison. What causes you to feel shame? How does being ashamed affect our efforts in serving God?

What do you assume that Paul knows about the One in whom he has placed his trust (vs. 12)?

Paul states that he has made an "investment" with God (entrusted to Him). What was that investment?

How does God guard that trust or investment?

Not only do we trust God with an investment, but God has given or entrusted us with something as well: "*carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you*". What would that "*precious truth*" be?

How can we protect or guard the investment that God has entrusted us with?

In my personal time with God:

How am I dealing with "shame" in my life? How might it be hindering me in victorious living?

How am I doing with God's investment in me?