

Come Before Winter – 2 Timothy 4:6-21

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- What do you think is the most common regret people have when they look back on their early 20's and 30's? What about the most common regret people have when they look back on their middle years? Their life as a whole?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read James 4:13-17.
 - What does James mean when he says life is like a vapor? What are some good ways and some poor ways people deal with this reality?
 - James says we should stop saying one thing and start saying a new thing. What is he teaching us in this? What attitude is he warning against? What new attitude does he want us to embrace?
 - Verse 17 is straight to the point: Procrastination is sin! What causes us to procrastinate? How can we overcome procrastination? Is it through a new belief, understanding, attitude, commitment, or accountability?
- Read Mark 4:4-9, 15.
 - In this parable, who is the sower? What is the seed? What is the soil? What is the fruit?
 - What activity or heart condition is represented by the hard soil of the pathway?
 - What happens to the seed that falls on the path? What is the lesson in this part of the parable?
 - What are the typical excuses people tell themselves when they procrastinate when exposed to God's word in a sermon or in personal Bible study? How can we speak the truth to ourselves and stop procrastinating?
- Read Romans 12:18, Matthew 5:23-24.
 - According to these verses, when there is a division, whose responsibility is it to exercise humility and mend the relationship?
 - List some reasons taking the initiative to mend a relationship is often so difficult?
 - Matthew 5 seems to connect our obedience in mending relationships with our worship of the Lord. What is the connection? Why does Jesus draw this connection?
- Read John 4:35.
 - What is the harvest Jesus is referring to?
 - Why do people procrastinate in serving the Lord and serving the Kingdom? What excuses do people typically employ?
 - What does Jesus say about the work that needs to be done?

Respond

- If you could go back and speak to yourself ten years ago, what counsel would you give? What counsel do you think a ten-year older version of you would come back and say to you today?
- Paul looked back at his life and was pleased about his service for the Lord. He said, "I fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). How would you counsel someone to set their life priorities in order to be able to say the same thing at the end of their earthly days?

Bonus for Thinkers

- The assurance we have in Christ seems to lead some people to have an attitude of procrastination, and it propels others to greater faithfulness and service. Why is that?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (12/9)	James 4:13-17, Mark 4:3-20
Tuesday (12/10)	1 Corinthians 7:1-40
Wednesday (12/11)	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Thursday (12/12)	1 Corinthians 9:1-27
Friday (12/13)	1 Corinthians 10:1-33

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (12/9) — James 4:13-17, Mark 4:3-20

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (12/10) — 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

- According to 7:3-5, does God see the act of pleasing our spouse and satisfying his or her sexual desires as a good thing or a bad thing? Does he see it as an important thing or an unimportant thing? How could you be a better blessing to your spouse?
- We learn a general principle in 7:16 that a husband or wife can have a significant impact on the spiritual life of their spouse. If you are married, what could you do to have a greater positive impact on the spiritual walk of your spouse?
- We all have many relationships. We have relationships with employers, family members, etc. According to 7:23, what is the most important relationship we have? How is that reflected in your life?

Wednesday (12/11) — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

- In light of 8:4-6, what should we think of superstitions, good luck charms, and horoscopes?
- Paul said it is silly to think that someone dedicating meat to a false God matters at all. But he also said in 8:9 that we shouldn’t let our mature understanding of this cause others to stumble. How could your more mature understanding of what is proper and acceptable be a stumbling block to others with less understanding of the Bible?
- In 8:12 we learn that we are guilty of sin if we influence others to violate their conscience or to sin. In what ways may you be having a negative influence on other’s walk with the Lord?
- According to 8:13, what is more important, that I get to exercise my rights or that I sacrifice my rights to show love and deference to a younger or weaker brother in Christ? Is there something you need to forfeit in order to help a brother in Christ?

Thursday (12/12) — 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

- After giving a long list of the sacrifices of personal privilege, Paul gives the reason why in 9:12. What is that reason? What is in your life that prevents you from more faithfully sharing the gospel?
- Paul says he cannot boast about preaching the gospel because that is what the Lord expects of him (9:16). What are some things the Lord just expects you will regularly do in the service of his Kingdom?
- In 9:19-22, Paul gives a number of ways he has moved outside his comfort zone to share the gospel. How could you move out of your comfort zone to spread the gospel?
- Who will you encounter the rest of the day that you could tell about the salvation offer from Jesus?

Friday (12/13) — 1 Corinthians 10:1-33

- Paul talks about the sin of grumbling in 11:10. Grumbling is the opposite of being thankful. This is such a serious thing that he compares the sin of grumbling to the sin of idolatry (10:7), sexual immorality (10:8), and putting Christ to the test (10:9). Write down some times in the last few days you have had an attitude of grumbling instead of an attitude of thankfulness to the Lord.
- 11:12 is a very important principle. Write it down in your own words.
- God promises to do two things when we are tempted in 10:13. Write those two things down. How can remembering those two things help you to overcome temptation?
- How are you doing in your assignment today of bringing glory to God in whatever you do? How could you better honor the Lord the rest of this day?