October 4, 2026

Community Group Sermon Notes

Continuing in the Gospel – Pastor Kevin Flannery

Series: *Guard the Gospel & Adorn the Truth: The Pastoral Epistles*

Ice Breaker

Fall is here! What's one thing you especially enjoy about the season—cooler weather, changing leaves, football, apple picking, cozy sweaters, or **pumpkin spice everything**? And where do you stand on pumpkin spice: **love it, leave it, or only in certain things?**

Read & Reflect on the Scripture Passage – *2 Timothy 3:10-17*

As you read, notice Paul's three reasons for Timothy to **"continue"** in the faith: a gospel he has seen lived out, the Scriptures that lead him to Christ, and God's Word that equips him for what comes next. What word, phrase, command, or promise stands out to you in this passage? Why?

Sermon Application Discussion

1. Paul points Timothy to a faith he has seen lived out. Read 2 Timothy 3:10–11. Timothy knew Paul's *teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love,* and *endurance*.

- Why is it important not only to hear biblical truth but also to see it embodied in someone's life?
- Who has modeled a life of faith, patience, love, or endurance for you?
- Who might God be asking **you** to influence through the way you live?

2. What do these verses in 2 Timothy 3:11–13 teach us about the cost of following Jesus? Paul experienced severe opposition, yet he remembered the Lord's faithfulness through it. The sermon also reminded us that opposition can take different forms—from severe persecution to exclusion, ridicule, or professional cost.

- Where have you experienced a cost for seeking to obey Christ?
- How can we distinguish suffering that comes from faithfulness to Christ from difficulties caused by our own unhealthy choices or behavior?
- How does trusting Christ with the outcome give us courage to remain faithful?

3. Paul tells Timothy, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned." Read 2 Timothy 3:14–15. Timothy had received truth through faithful people, including his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, but what he received still needed to be grounded and tested by Scripture.

- Who helped you learn the truth of the gospel?
- What does it look like to appreciate Christian teachers or mentors while still testing their teaching by Scripture?
- When a Christian leader or teacher disappoints us, how can we bring that hurt to Christ without allowing someone's failure to become the measure of whether the gospel is true?

4. In 2 Timothy 3:15, Paul says the Scriptures make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." Scripture ultimately directs us to Jesus—the Savior who bore our sins, died in our place, and rose to give us life.

- Pastor Kevin suggested asking as we read: **"What does this passage reveal about God, and how does it help me trust and follow Christ?"** How might those questions change the way you read the Bible?
- Where do you especially need to trust Christ and His grace right now?

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Scripture is "God-breathed" and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

- In your own words, what is the purpose of each of these four ways God uses His Word: **teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training**?
- Which one is easiest for you to receive? Which is hardest?

- Are there portions of Scripture you readily welcome because they comfort you, while resisting passages that challenge your priorities or expose areas that need to change?

6. Verse 17 tells us that God's Word equips us "for every good work." The sermon gave ordinary examples: an honest conversation, a generous gift, caring for an aging parent, or an apology that takes responsibility.

- How should time in God's Word move beyond simply gaining knowledge to producing active obedience?
- Where might God currently be calling you to confess, repair, serve, give, forgive, or take another step of obedience?
- How can this group encourage one another to actually take those steps?

Going Deeper

Choose one passage of Scripture this week and stay with it long enough to pray through it.
Ask yourself:

- **Teaching:** What is God showing me is true?
- **Rebuking:** Is His Word exposing something in my thinking, attitude, priorities, or behavior that is wrong?
- **Correcting:** Where is God inviting me to repent and return to the right path?
- **Training:** What godly habit or response does He want to develop in me?
- **Equipping:** What specific "good work" is God preparing me to do?

Then take **one concrete step of obedience**, depending on the Holy Spirit, and consider sharing it with someone who can encourage you. This follows Pastor Kevin's practical challenge to remain with a passage, pray over it, receive God's correction, and respond faithfully.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for giving us Your trustworthy Word and for the faithful people You have used to help us know You. Give us humble hearts that welcome Your teaching, rebuke, correction, and training. Keep directing us to Jesus and, by Your Spirit, equip us to live lives of faithful obedience and good works. Help us continue in the gospel, trusting the Savior who gave Himself for us and will faithfully bring us home.

Faith in Action

Who could you encourage this week (someone sitting across the kitchen counter or elsewhere)? Paul reminds Timothy of the faithful people God used in his life. Consider someone who may need encouragement to **continue in the gospel**—a child, friend, neighbor, coworker, or fellow believer. Reach out, listen well, share what God has been teaching you through His Word, and look for a practical way to demonstrate Christ's love.

Discipleship Process

LOVE GOD – Attending: Traditional Service (9:00 AM) & Contemporary Service (10:30 AM).
LOVE OTHERS – Connecting: Welcome to week 4 of 12 for Fall Term Community Groups!
SERVE THE WORLD – Serving: As a Community Group, continue discussing and planning **one opportunity to serve together this term**. November 1 is COS Open House, consider helping putting out and restocking snacks in the Corner Cafe. Email andream@coswayne.org to learn more.

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