

LIVING  
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



# Leaders

Adults • Ages 19 and Up • Learner Guide

September • October • November • December • 2022



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THE WORD



# CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

## Leaders

Christmas Issue 2022  
Phase 4R1, Vol. 20, No. 1

### Adult • Age 19 and Up • Learner Guide

The learning activities suggested in this book are used as part of the teaching plan provided in the *Adult Teacher Guide*. It is strongly recommended that each church provides a copy of the *Adult Learner Guide* for each adult and adult teacher.

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**Editor:** Jetu Green

**Editorial Assistant:** Joan Mars

**Editorial Review:** Beryl Roper

**Cover Photo:** Ramon Morgan

**Cover Design:** Carleen Clothier, John Hatton, Paul Wallace, Ramon Morgan

**Design/Graphics:** Diedre Callam

**Produced and published by Caribbean Christian Publications Ltd**

27 Balmoral Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica; Telephone: 876-906-2828; Fax: 876-908-3844

**E-mail:** jetug@ccpcbf.org; **Website:** www.ccpcbf.org; **E-mail:** info@ccpcbf.org

Under the auspices of the **Caribbean Baptist Fellowship**

**Executive Secretary-Treasurer:** Anselm Warrick

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



“...I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2:2; NKJV). It is a privilege to have you sojourn with us through this final quarter of **Caribbean Bible Lessons (CBL) Bible Leaders Learner Guide**.

Brethren we are on the final leg of 2022. Can you believe it? It has been an interesting and challenging year so far, “but God.” But God has brought us this far and will see us through to the end: Amen. One of the Greek words for prosperity is “evimeria”, which means among other things, prosperity, well-being and prosperousness. As we journey through the remainder of this year, let us be reminded that God wants to prosper us in good health spiritually, physically and in our everyday lives. But let us not think only of our well-being but that of others. Thus may we all seek to prosper our neighbours. Further, I encourage every adult learner to “guard your heart” (Proverbs 4:23). Let us seek to keep our hearts focused on God, so that we will be led by the Holy Spirit and not our feelings or desires (Philippians 4:8). May God guide our hearts as we navigate the issues of life.

It is my hope that the **Bible Leaders Learner Guide** will serve to foster your spiritual prosperity. In **Unit 1** we will delve a little deeper into 2 Timothy. This is a follow-up from last quarter’s study of 1 Timothy in the **Bible Leaders Guides**. **Living Faithfully**, is the title of **Unit 1** it should persuade us to be more committed and consistent in sharing the gospel. The theme for **Unit 2** is **Practising Spiritual Disciplines**. Here we will focus on the spiritual disciplines we must develop in order to improve our relationship with God and daily live more sanctified lives for His glory and purpose

As we seek to prosper holistically in our walk with God, we must take care of ourselves. **Taking Care of Me** is the title for **Unit 3**. In it we will be reminded that God wants us to grow holistically, as He is concerned with the whole person. We close the year with our last unit, **Unit 4**, entitled **Knowing that God Is...** This unit will focus on the multi-dimensional character of the Living God.

We encourage you to read the supporting articles in this issue: Biblical Context of 2 Timothy, Exhortation, Christmas Devotion, Christmas Song and Mission Point. They should prove to be inspiring and thought provoking.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holy and blessed Christmas and a Jesus-conscious New Year! The God of peace be with you.

Jetu Green

# MEET OUR WRITERS

## UNIT ONE: Atlee Rodney, Antigua & Barbuda

Mr Rodney serves in the police force of Antigua and Barbuda. His greatest interest is leading others to understand God's law of love through faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He enjoys teaching and encouraging others. Mr Rodney welcomes every opportunity to teach about spiritual gifts and values. He is a deacon and Sunday School teacher of young adults and adults.



## UNIT TWO: Derek Archer, Guyana



Mr Archer has served as a teacher of young adult Sunday School in Georgetown, Guyana. He passionately desires to see spiritual growth in the lives of people with whom he works. He is a former lecturer in French and English Literature in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies at the University of Guyana. Mr Archer has been an elder at his church and engaged in the church's praise, theological training and administration ministries.

## UNIT THREE: Joan Mars, Jamaica

Mrs Mars spent most of her working life in human resource management and occupational health. Eager to impact lives in a holistic way through the word of God and service; she is actively engaged in the healing, music and care/support ministries of the church where she worships. She is also a Sunday School teacher of seniors.



## UNIT FOUR: Dahlia Fraser, Jamaica



Miss Fraser accepted Jesus at an early age and has remained active in His service. She is a writer and publishing consultant whose greatest passion is prayer, as she regards it as a powerful resource, which God has given us to impact the world. Ms Fraser has served in a wide range of ministries of the church in Jamaica and in Canada. These include: administration at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, teaching Sunday School, involvement in the prayer ministry, counselling and Christian communications in local congregations.

### The Pastorals

Apostle Paul is believed to be the author of 2 Timothy. This is one of three letters, which Paul wrote to pastors, advising them about church administration and doctrine. This focus of the letters has resulted in them being termed “pastorals”. The other two letters are 1 Timothy and Titus.

### Timothy the Disciple

Timothy is introduced as a disciple at Lystra (Acts 16:1). It is not clear if Paul was responsible for the conversion of Timothy or if Timothy was already a believer when Paul arrived. However, references in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 4:17 and 1 Timothy 1: 2) could lead to the conclusion that Paul was the agent of his conversion. Timothy’s father was not a convert to Christianity but his mother and grandmother were reported as faithful Christians (2 Timothy 1:5).

### Timothy the Missioner and Pastor

Paul took Timothy as an associate when he passed Lystra on his second missionary journey. Timothy stayed in Berea with Silas when Paul was forced to leave suddenly (Acts 17:14). He rejoined Paul at Corinth, where it appears that he remained during the period of Paul’s preaching there. He was sent to Macedonia with Erastus before Paul’s third missionary journey (Acts 19: 22) and was among the company with which Paul returned from his third missionary journey (Acts 20: 4).

### Overview of 2 Timothy

There are similarities and dis-similarities between First and Second Timothy in that both sound teaching of the gospel of Christ. Both letters call for the preservation of sound doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:13-18). However, 2 Timothy is more personal. Paul is in prison (1:8, 16-17) and is expecting to die soon (4:6). 2 Timothy, therefore, reads like a farewell letter in which Timothy is commissioned to continue what the Apostle Paul has begun.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul regards as opponents, persons who were teaching false doctrines such as Hymenaeus and Philetus who for example taught that the resurrection was already past (2:17-18). The letter refers to the reason and the way to counter false teachers (3:10-17). Paul strongly encourages Timothy to faithful ministry (4:1-5).

### Other Highlights of 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 3:16-17 contains two well-known verses in Scripture where it affirms that ‘all scripture is inspired by God’. These verses should remind us that when this letter was written its historical context referred only to the Old Testament as there was no New Testament then. However, the

## Biblical Context of 2 Timothy

encouragement is to take all Scripture seriously, as foundational to our lives and for the defence of sound teaching.

### **Social Context**

It is not very clear if Timothy was in Troas or Ephesus when Paul wrote this letter to him. Troas was a city located in northwestern Asia Minor, on the shore of the Aegean Sea. The name preserves the name of the ancient city of Troy. In New Testament times the city was known as Alexandrian Troy but in the New Testament it is simply called Troy. In 133 B.C. it came under Roman control and was a large and important city. Meanwhile, Ephesus was a wealthy city at the mouth of the river, Cayster, in western Asia Minor.

### **Paul's Farewell**

At the time of writing 2 Timothy, Paul was experiencing his second Roman imprisonment for the gospel. He was imprisoned in very dismal circumstances where Onesiphorus found him only after a painstaking search. Then he was in chains (1:16), wearing fetters like a common criminal (2:9). Paul was also suffering from loneliness and the cold of prison life (4: 9-13). The preliminary hearing of his case had already taken place (4: 16-17) and he was then awaiting the full trial but he did not expect to be released. Death appeared to him to be inevitable (4:6-8). Historians believe Paul was executed around 97AD during the reign of the Emperor Nero.

## Gratitude

Caribbean Christian Publications wishes to express appreciation to the following persons for their writing contribution to this issue of the **Bible Leaders Learner and Teacher Guides:**

**Curriculum Developers:** Rev. Dwight Fraser, Pam Kelly.

**Feature Writers:** Rev. Dr Cawley Bolt, Beryl Roper, Katherine Shaw and Lois Walters.

Thank you for helping to make these lessons a wonderful reality:

# Safeguarding Your Call



## BIBLE FOCUS

2 Timothy 1:1-14

### KEY VERSE

*Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

– 2 Timothy 1:14 NIV

### BIBLE TRUTH

The believer has a responsibility to value and protect his or her testimony, integrity and witness.

### LIFE QUESTION

How have I been responding to God's gift of salvation?

## THAT'S LIFE

Marcia Laxman was 44 years old and was a customs officer. When she had just started - about 3 or 4 weeks into her service - she began accepting small sums "under the table" from certain customers.

One day in her morning devotions she read Psalm 24, verses 23-24a stood out: "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart." She was convicted to cease accepting bribes. After a while most of the brokers called her "HM", short for

"Honest Marcia".

It's been ten years since that fateful day and Marcia has been an exemplary customs officer, admired by her peers for her integrity. Marcia thanks God for helping her to keep her integrity as a Christian and as an officer.

Marcia received a letter of redundancy on Friday. Debbie a good friend and colleague felt sad that she was being let go and said, "Well at least you can hold your head up high as one who kept the faith all these years despite the temptations."

**How do you daily keep your Christian integrity?**

# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

Today, we begin a month-long exploration of the book of 2 Timothy. In chapter one, the writer, Paul, introduced himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ; a messenger of Christ and a proclaimed truth bearer. Each Christian has a responsibility to safeguard the calling of being a holy, faithful servant and messenger of the gospel. Paul's letter was intended to guide Timothy and other believers in ways that demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of that special calling.

## 1. A Call to Sincere Faith – 2 Timothy 1:1-5

The book of 2 Timothy is the final of two letters by Apostle Paul to the young overseer or chief pastor, Timothy. In the introduction of the letter, Paul asserted that he is committed to reaching others for Christ, in keeping with the will of God and not his own (v. 1). Paul's role as an apostle meant that he had been a church planter, evangelist and preacher of the gospel. Paul highlighted the importance of the declaration of the gospel message. The apostle emphasised the essential aspect of the message of the gospel of salvation, which is only possible through faith in Christ's birth, death and resurrection. It is the only way to eternal life—the *promise of life that is in Christ Jesus* (v. 1b).

The letter was written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome facing probable execution and Timothy was supervising pastors in Ephesus and Troas. Paul greeted Timothy in a fatherly and affectionate manner, reminding him that he still regarded him as, *my dear son* (v. 2). His fatherly love and concern for Timothy is reminiscent of Paul's expression in his first letter, in which he described Timothy as his *true son in the faith* (1 Timothy 1:2).

Paul showed gratitude to God for his spiritual family in the past and present, which served God wholeheartedly (2Tim. 1:3a). Paul expressed great appreciation to God for Timothy and stated that he had consistently placed Timothy's welfare on his daily and nightly prayer list (v. 3b). He had a clear picture of the task of spreading the gospel and expressed concern and compassion for Timothy's task. We should at all times emulate that attitude towards fellow labourers of Christ—including: our Christian brothers and sisters, pastors, deacons, evangelists, missionaries, church planters and Sunday School teachers.

Imagine the contribution that we could make in the life of believers by consistently praying for them! Christians should consistently remember other believers in prayer as Paul did.

## 2. A Life of Love and Boldness – 2 Timothy 1:6-10

Paul exhorted Timothy to be proactive, enthusiastic and bold in using his spiritual gift. He likened the use of that spiritual gift to the rekindling of a flame: *fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands* (v. 6). God used prayer, which included the laying on of hands, as an avenue for blessing Timothy with spiritual gifts (v. 6b). This is not the only means by which God gives gifts. The passage, however, is a reminder that we should not neglect laying our hands on others while we pray for them. Laying on of hands might assist the persons being prayed for, to discover or receive their spiritual gifts, or other blessings, which God has provided for them.

We ought to be reminded of the necessity of continually seeking God's strength through prayer to stir up the spiritual gifts which we have. Additionally, we should use our gifts regularly, to bring glory to God and blessings to others.

Paul explained why Timothy should be bold in using his spiritual gifts: *The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline* (v. 7). Paul was emphasising that as disciples of Christ, we cannot help to strengthen the brethren and expand God's kingdom, if we allow fear and timidity to prevent us from using our spiritual gifts.

Paul called upon Timothy and all believers, not to be ashamed to testify about the experiences they have endured for the cause of Christ (v. 8). He pointed out that the essence of the Christian life is declaring that God has delivered us from sin and called us to a holy lifestyle (v. 9).

## 3. A Life of Purpose – 2 Timothy 1:11-14

As an ambassador of Christ there will be times of pain, suffering, ridicule and open rejection. But, as recorded in verse 12, Paul has advised us not to be frustrated by such persecution. We can face persecution with unflinching confidence, knowing that God is able to sustain us until death and after death. It will be difficult and sometimes it will appear as if there is no way out. However, be assured of God's presence, power, provision and promise to be our deliverer.

We are encouraged to hold fast to the truth of the gospel with faithfulness. We should rely on the Holy Spirit to keep our heart focused on the good news of salvation and to enable us to teach the precious, sound doctrine of the gospel (vv. 13-14).

## Reality Check

Are you aware that God has called you to live a holy and faithful life in Him? How do you cherish and defend that special and holy calling with purpose? Let us live our Christian life in a way that reflects our appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made to obtain our salvation.

# Pursuing Godliness



## BIBLE FOCUS

2 Timothy 2:1-16, 22-26

### KEY VERSE

*Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

– 2 Timothy 2:22 NIV

### BIBLE TRUTH

A godly life is grounded in and fashioned after the Word of God.

### LIFE QUESTION

In the face of trials, how can my life demonstrate living by the Word of God?

## THAT'S LIFE

For athletes, the Olympic Games are the highest level at which they will compete in their lifetime. Do you remember the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo when Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shelly-An Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson completed a one-two-three clean sweep won gold, silver and bronze medals in the women's 100m. Thompson-Hera clocking 10.61 seconds the second fastest time in history?

Do you recall where you were when the Bahamians Steven Gardiner and Shaunae Miller-Uibo won gold in the men's and women's 400m at the 2020

Tokyo Olympics? Were you glued to your television when Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago placed first in the Javelin event, the Bahamian 4 x 400m men's relay team copped the champion medal and the Jamaican 4 x100m men's relay team came first at the 2012 Olympiad?

Many of those athletes have wowed us with their prowess and determination in track and field. They have given us some unforgettable sporting moments. But, have you stopped to think about the sacrifices which many have had to make?

**How is the Christian life similar to the life of an athlete? What can we learn from an Olympian, in our quest to pursue godliness?**

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

The 2 Timothy text discusses many valuable attributes and habits which we should be aware of and practise in the search for godliness. Be mindful that as we travel the Christian journey, there will be trials, temptations, distractions and obstacles; but we ought to be confident in God's empowering care. When we are grounded in Christ, we will display Christian qualities and be victorious as we focus on Christ and His teachings.

### 1. Prepare for The Race and Warfare – 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Similar to the previous chapter which we explored last week, chapter 2 focuses on the grace which comes from Jesus Christ alone. The first verse of the chapter starts with Paul urging his spiritual son, Timothy, to be strong in the unmerited favour of Jesus Christ. This call by Paul should not be seen as indicating a limitation of the power and grace of God nor is it a feature of human being's power to be spiritually strong. We are to be strong not in our own strength but in Christ Jesus because He is the source of grace. Paul's charge to Timothy in verse 1 suggests that while Christ works on the inside, His work should be evident on the outside—in the way we live. The Holy Spirit's work should be reflected in our words, actions and attitudes.

Paul appealed to Timothy, and by extension, all believers, to have the attitudes of a good soldier and an athlete if we are to be victorious in living the Christian life, especially in enduring suffering for the gospel (vv. 3-5). Pointing to the Word of God as the Christians' rules for the race of life and for spiritual warfare, the apostle urged believers to live in compliance with the teachings of the Word of God.

Paul gave Timothy an update on the persecution he had been suffering for his effort to reach others with the gospel. Paul reported that he was imprisoned in chains like a criminal (vv. 8-9). As an exemplary soldier of Christ, he declared that he was ready to patiently endure all things for the sake of those whom he needed to reach with the gospel of Christ. He hoped that by reaching them, they too could accept the gift of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ, and becoming God's chosen people.

**"Anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules" (2 Tim. 2:5).**



## 2. Die to Sin – 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Paul reminded Timothy that the Christian life is one of sacrificial commitment to God, as all our thoughts, life, desires, aspirations and actions should be crucified with Christ. God should take priority in our life at all times. If we have *died* with Christ, our desires should be secondary to God's desires and the needs of others.

The Scripture calls upon us to *die to sin* (vv. 11-13). This means, as Christians, we should no longer let sinful behaviour, be part of our daily life. Christ suffered and died for us. So, when we make Christ pre-eminent in our life, we put sin to death. Our new spiritual life demonstrates our new way of living, talking and doing. We put away the old way of life and put on the Christlike attitude.

## 3. Speak and Live Love – 2 Timothy 2:14-16, 22-26

Paul charged Timothy to remind Christians about the grave danger of negative words and quarrels (v. 14). He reiterated the caution against ungodly and idle chatter, emphasising that it would lead people into more ungodliness (v. 16). The apostle compares the rapid spread of unholy living, which starts with immoral speech, to the disease, gangrene. That illness which leads to the death of some cells in the body, causes persons to lose their limbs, or parts of their limbs, at a rapid rate.

Timothy is exhorted that as a Christian and pastor, he ought to be loyal to God with actions and words. The same is applicable to us as we strive to be diligent in our Christian race and seek approval of God, as unashamed workers in His kingdom (v. 15).

Paul listed some essential godly qualities that Timothy and others who serve the Lord should display (vv. 22-26). The apostle advises that believers should not have the bad desires which result from youthful immaturity. Instead, they should have a passion for righteous living, faith, love and peace. We are also encouraged to shun foolish and ignorant speculations, practise kindness and gentleness, as well as to teach and exercise patience.

## Reality Check

Write down the godly qualities of 2 Timothy 2:22-24, which you have not been demonstrating. Pray for God's strength to help you to possess those attributes. If you have never accepted Christ as Saviour, why not surrender your life to Christ now?

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### Caribbean Christian Publications

27 Balmoral Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica, West Indies

Tel.: (876) 906-2828 • Fax: (876) 908-3844 •  (876) 312-9306

E-mail: [info@ccpcbf.org](mailto:info@ccpcbf.org) | Website: <http://www.ccpcbf.org>

ISSN 0799-6381



*Beaming the Light of God's  
Word to Caribbean People*