

“Invested” | 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy

GETTING STARTED: Who writes you letters on a regular basis? What could a person learn about you by the contents of your mailbox? What sorts of catalogs, junk mail or advertisements are waiting for you each day?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE:

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:2 and 2 Timothy 2:2-7. What is the nature of Paul and Timothy's relationship? What words or phrases does Paul use to describe Timothy? How is this a mark of being invested in Timothy's life?

2. Who has fulfilled the role of a spiritual parent in your life? Looking back, what intentional decisions were made so that they could invest in your life? When have you reinvested those efforts into the lives of others?

3. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-11. What is Paul trying to accomplish in these verses? What has he revealed to Timothy in the past and why is he calling back to it now?

4. Discipleship centers on individual relationships. Many church programs center on groups of people. How do you navigate having programs for groups, all while developing disciples by investing in one person at a time?

5. Read 2 Timothy 2:2-4. How do Paul's words align with Rudy Carrasco's quote, "It's relatively easy to raise a voice in protest, but unfathomably hard to invest in a life"? What implications do Paul's words have for us in regards to where we make investments?

6. What prevents you from investing more in another individual?

6. Read Romans 16:21. What is the significance of the term "coworker" (from the Greek compound word for "fellow

worker")? Who are your "coworkers" in faith? How should you support and interact with these "coworkers?"

7. Read all of Romans 16. How many individuals or groups does Paul address here? What do these verses teach us about the relational investments that are necessary when making disciples?

APPLY THE TRUTH:

The final stage of our "Mapping My Spheres" chart is to identify specific ways to impact your spheres of influence. To help answer the question in column three (*How will I influence the people and culture of this sphere?*), consider connecting the names in column two (*Who do I already know in this sphere?*) with some specific ways that you can get invested in a person's life. Paul served many roles in Timothy's life – from a spiritual parent to a coworker. What relationships do you have right now that would benefit from you living into one of those roles?

PRAY:

Our 2 week "I Heart SPFLD" initiative will last from March 13-26 (<http://southsidechristian.com/i-heart-spfld>). In the past we have used this as an opportunity for groups to serve. This season, our hope is that individuals will use it as a time for personal investment in their own spheres of influence. As "I Heart SPFLD" kicks off this week, take time to pray for God to reveal specific relationships in which you can invest.

NOTES:

Mapping My Spheres

| Spheres | When and where do I already intersect with this sphere? | Who do I already know in this sphere? | How will I influence the people and culture of this sphere? |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Arts/Media | | | |
| Business | | | |
| Education | | | |
| Government/ Politics | | | |
| Science/Medicine/ Technology | | | |
| Family | | | |
| Religion | | | |

Don't worry – it doesn't have to be perfect! This worksheet will be available each week during our "Spheres of Influence" sermon series. You can use the same one each week or start fresh as you expand your understanding of your spheres of influence.