

### **Paul's Warning (verses 1-5)**

1. What does Paul say will happen in the later times?
2. What is the source of this departing from the faith?
3. These days is this same "departure" taking place? What examples have you seen of this?

### **What Commitment Looks Like (verse 6)**

1. What does Paul instruct Timothy to do in response to those who are departing from the faith?
2. Paul's instruction assumes that Timothy is himself committed to following as a good servant of Christ Jesus. Consider Luke 9:23-27; 57-62. How does Jesus describe what it means to be committed to following Him?
3. These days, what does Jesus' description of following Him look like in your life?

How do we make the choice to be committed to following Jesus in the day-to-day of life?

### **First: We Need To Pursue Our Relationship With God (verses 7-10)**

1. How does Paul describe the commitment necessary (what it takes) to pursue our relationship with God?
2. How is spiritual training superior to physical training?
3. In verse 10, what encouragement (or motivation) does Paul give us for maintaining our commitment to spiritual training?
4. These days, how are you "training" spiritually? What are you doing to avoid becoming a "flabby" Christian?
5. Are there any "exercises" you would like to add to your workout? Maybe a few "exercises" you could add more "reps" to? What would that look like?

### **Second: We Need To Pursue Our Calling (verses 11-16)**

1. In verse 12 Paul gives a list of personal character qualifications. What are they? How would pursuing these help Timothy in his role in the Ephesian church?
2. These days, what do these characteristics look like in your life?
3. In verses 13-16, what does Paul tell Timothy to do? How might what Timothy is to be personally committed to prepare and encourage him for the role he has in the Ephesian church?
4. These days, what does the pursuit of these characteristics look like in your life?
5. How does Timothy's pursuit of his relationship with God affect his calling as a pastor?
6. How does your pursuit of your relationship with God affect your role in the Creekside congregation?
7. In verse 16, what is the bottom line crucial necessity of Timothy being committed to his relationship with God? What does Paul mean by, "*you will save both yourself and your hearers*"? Saved from what?
8. Is it possible to be healthy as a congregation if we are not personally committed to Christ and His Church?
9. These days, what does that commitment look like for you?

### **Extra Credit**

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being really really committed) how committed do you think people are to God's ministry here at Creekside? What evidence would you give to support your answer?
2. What would it take to move that commitment one digit to towards a 10?