



Session 7: Sacrifice Over Comfort
2 Timothy 4:5-8; Colossians 1:24; James 1:2-4
04/07/2019

MAIN POINT

It's counter-intuitive but the key to living as light is not comfort, for that only leads to the burden of guilt and the unshakeable feeling that we are not fulfilling what we were made to do. Comfort leaves us with the heavy burden of realizing we are wasting our lives. We live as light through sacrifice; we live light by taking up our cross; we live as light by being poured out. We live as light by being conformed to the image of Christ because He poured Himself out for us.

INTRODUCTION

What are some of your favorite comforts in life? How can these be hindrances to fulfilling our purpose in following the Lord?

When have you been inspired by someone who overcame a significant challenge? To get up and do something that required a sacrifice?

When have you sacrificed something and looked back with no regret at all?

UNDERSTANDING

| 2 Timothy 4:5-8.

How does Paul's words here emphasize his focus in his life? When our comforts are challenged, how do we lose sight of the focus in our life?

Reflecting on Paul's life and what he states here, what are some ways Paul had modeled sacrificial living for Timothy?

How does the promise of future reward for faithfulness impact how we view the call for spiritual growth?

| Colossians 1:24.

How is the type of suffering that Paul experienced, similar in ours today? How is it different? How was Paul completing Christ's work on behalf of the church?

How is the testing that Paul went through an example for us today? What are some ways we find our faith tested today? Why do we shy away from being tested today? Why is testing valuable for us as followers of Jesus?

James 1:2-4

Based on what you read and, in your experiences, how does testing produce endurance? What is a time of testing that you have or currently are experiencing? How are you demonstrating faith in these circumstances?

Who do you know who models being spiritually mature and “lacking nothing?” What characteristics do they demonstrate in their life that encourages you? Challenges you?

APPLICATION

What are some ways we can prepare our hearts for times of testing?

How could you encourage or help a person who you have seen suffering for their faith?

What are some practical ways our group can help one another live as light?

In 2-3 minutes, how can you use what you’ve learned today to share Christ with someone in your community?