

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

The Uber-ised Church

Follow the Algorithm or follow Jesus – Ian France – 11.10.2026

Scripture

1 Timothy 4:6-10

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Paul reminds Timothy that his calling as a pastor is, first and foremost, to instruct his congregation, not just by what he says, but by his example as well. To do this well, he must be anchored in God's word and follow it carefully. Paul warns the young man that he must not pay any attention to what people say.

People in Greek and Roman culture paid a great deal of attention to physical exercise, which has some temporary value. In the same way, Timothy should spend time studying how to live in a godly way, which has eternal benefits. Godliness improves life in the here and now, and Timothy should not hesitate to share this fact with others. It does not stop difficulties, but it makes the best, most contented and fulfilling life a Christ-follower can live.

In addition, such a life is the only guarantee of eternal life and happiness. Paul reminds Timothy that they both trust in the living God who is the true Savior of everyone who believes in Him. Salvation is available to everyone, if only they will believe and follow Christ.

Icebreaker:

What social media platform absorbs most of your time?

How much time do you spend using it?

How do you feel sharing this information with others?



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Application

- Considering your answer above, who or what would you say you were following? What is the biggest influence in your life? Are you comfortable with your answer? What would it take to make any changes you may feel are necessary?
- How much time do you spend with Jesus in a day? Does your response to this question impact your response to the earlier question about changes that you may need to make? What action could you take?
- *Following the algorithm leads to divisions in the human family. Following Jesus unites us:* How do you feel when you read people's angry comments and reactions to certain posts? What would you say to such people if you met them face to face? How would your relationship with Jesus help you calm the situation down?
- *Following the algorithm leads to deception. Following Jesus leads to truth:* What was your reaction to the statement that a half-truth is a whole lie? What examples have you discovered of this fact? Jesus says truth is discovered in your relationship with Him. How have you found that to be so? What difference has that made in your life?
- *Following the algorithm leads to isolation. Following Jesus leads to authentic community:* How do you feel when you see (or are part of) a group of people who are all on their phones even though they are sharing a meal together? Does this happen in your own family? How is it affecting your relationships? Are you one of those who has 'someone to text but no one to call?' How does that make you feel?
- *Following the algorithm leads to death. Following Jesus leads to abundant life:* What dangers confront you when you use social media? Can you see that it patrols through your life and manipulates you? If you open a site, how quickly do you receive other feeds that are like the site you opened? How often do they come? What does that do to the way you live? Does the fact that Jesus cares for you and wants to guide you make any difference to the way you respond to the algorithms that run through your life?
- Would you say you live an abundant life? Why/why not?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

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Prayer

Pray for one another regarding the issues raised during your discussion time and any other needs of the group.

Service

Fast from social media this week and spend the time with Jesus instead. What difference do you notice? Be willing to share when you next meet.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-timothy-4/>



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