

Series: 4Ward on the Journey
Sharing Life – In Community We Prepare
Text: 2 Timothy 3:1-17 (AM 1/14/18)

Writing from a dark dungeon in Rome, Paul's pen revealed that the Apostle was discouraged and despondent but not *despairing*. Since the Fall the world, God's creation has remained in rebellion against Him. In these perilous times, the first missionary to the world was *determined* that the Church would triumph over darkness. He instructed Timothy, his son in the faith, how to lead His Church to prosper in these difficult days. Christians will *struggle*, but God has provided a *safe-place* for His Children. It is His Church, specifically *Biblical Community*. Just as Jesus prepared His Disciples in Community to Change the world, God calls His Children to be committed to *Share Life*. There, in that Safe-Place, members are *transformed*, and disciples *equipped* for Ministry and the Work of changing our world. Aren't you ready to *Prepare for life in Community*?

I. A Perilous Culture (1-4)

Are we conforming to the culture or changing it?

- A Self-Centered Society (1-2a) *"Men will become lovers of themselves"*
- A Sadistic Society (2b-3a) *"Blasphemers...Unholy...Brutal...Unloving"*
- A Secular Society (3b-4) *"Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God"*

II. A Powerless Church (5-11)

Are we contributing to the darkness or confronting it?

- A Social Church (5) *"Having a form of godliness but denying its power"*
- A Salt-less Church (6-9) *"Always learning and never able..."*
- A Steadfast Church (10-11) *"You have carefully followed my doctrine"*

III. A Perfected Community (12-17)

Are you committed to community or circumventing it?

- A Disciple's Struggle (12-14) *"All who live godly in Christ will suffer..."*
- A Disciple's Safe-Place (15-16) *"Scriptures...able to make you wise"*
- A Disciple's Success (17) *"Thoroughly equipped for every good work"*

Application: The last words of Jesus to His Church are a clarion call to "Make Disciples". He showed us how investing over three years in the twelve. At CBC, our Journey Groups are a safe-place for you to enjoy biblical community. There, *friendships* will form, *needs* will be met, *ministry* will occur, and *transformation* will take place. God will "complete" you to serve Him! It's time to make the investment! Time + Trust + Transparency + Truth = Transformation!