

---

## 2 Timothy 3 – Lesson 4

“Well, I have my truth and you have yours,” a friend replies when you express your views about an ethical issue. We live in an age of relativism in which most people believe that we should not make moral judgments because there is no common standard of right and wrong. Theologian and ethicist Stanley Grenz asserts, “We are confronted by the greatest issues humankind has ever faced at a time when the moral fiber of our society appears to be at its weakest.”

### PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- *What happens in a society where there is no common standard for truth? Give some practical illustrations.*
- *List all the things that you know are absolutely true.*

### GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. How does Paul, the letter’s author, describe the culture Timothy will encounter (vv. 1-5)? How does it compare with your own environment? Give some examples.
  
2. Verses 6-9 describe people who were seeking counterfeit spiritualities. Jannes and Jambres were traditional names of the magicians in Pharaoh’s courts who imitated the miracles Moses performed (see Exodus 7:11 and 9:11). What counterfeit spiritualities have you seen (both within the church, the wider community and the media)? How does Paul describe the effects of counterfeit spiritualities?

3. Contrast the example Paul has set (vv. 10-12) with the “evil men and imposters” described in verse 13.
  
4. According to verses 14-15, what resources does Timothy have to equip him to face the ungodly environment?
  
5. Think about the people that most strongly affected your coming to faith and your Christian growth. What were some of the most helpful ways that they did that? How can you pass on that legacy to others (see 2 Timothy 2:2)?
  
6. What does Paul say about the Scriptures in verses 16-17? Why is it important?
  
7. In what ways can we use the Bible as a teacher—both for ourselves and for others?
  
8. How have you experienced the Bible correcting and/or equipping you? Give a recent example of when your study of the Scriptures gave you clear direction in a particular situation.

- 
9. In what area or areas of biblical knowledge are you weak? What step could you take to better know Scripture so that you could be “equipped for every good work”? (Give yourself a small, realistic goal to begin with.)
10. Read Exodus 20:1-17 and Jesus’ great commandments (Matthew 22:37-39). How are the two related?
11. Consider each of the Ten Commandments in the light of Jesus’ summary of them in Matthew 22. What implications does each commandment have for the activities and decisions facing you this week?