



Small Group Discussion Questions  
POSITIVE CHOICES  
WHEN LIFE IS NEGATIVE  
2 Timothy 1:1-7  
Pastor Rene Schlaepfer

Warm it up

Look back over your notes from the weekend. Which of Paul's "overwhelming circumstances" do you relate to right now? Where do you fall on the line between "fierce resolve" and "easily discouraged"?

Talk it Over

Read 2 Tim 1:1-7. What principle or phrase stuck in your mind from these verses after this week's message? Why?

Make a list of ten things for which you are grateful today and share that with the group!

### Work it Through

1. The first choice was: When despair threatens to weaken you, choose hope! Read 2 Tim. 1:1,2. In this introduction Paul mentions three truths that come up again and again in his writings: The sovereign will of God, the promise of life in Christ, and God's grace. How do these three truths lead to hope instead of despair? In other words, if you really thoroughly believed these three truths, how would that affect your despair and discouragement?

2. The second choice: Gratitude instead of cynicism. What tends to make you cynical? How can gratitude conquer cynicism?

3. Read 2 Tim. 1:3. Paul often starts his letter with expressions of gratitude to God. For example, read 1 Thessalonians 1:2,3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; and 1 Tim. 1:12. What does this show you about Paul?

4. Read Philippians 4:6,7. How does gratitude lead to the peace of God?

5. The third choice: Relationship instead of isolation. Read 2 Tim. 1:4,5. What are some role models of faith (like Lois and Eunice) you can look to today? Who are some people in need of encouragement (like Timothy) you can write or call today?

6. The fourth choice: Action over paralyzing fear. Read 2 Tim. 1:6,7. Paul reminds Timothy that God does not give him a spirit of fear. What do these comments suggest about Timothy? Do you need to hear this today too? Specifically, how do you need to act with more power, love, or self-discipline?

*Pray it Through*

Pray for one another! Ask God to help you and everyone at CPC to move with power, love, and self-discipline, and to respond to negative circumstances with positive choices!