**20/21 June 2023**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:10 - 17**

**Christians In the west have never been considered a minority nor to be in danger of persecution. Do you identify with Kate Forbes quote that "…*people of faith are a minority and (as such)… feel like they have to hide or adapt their faith*?" Or on the contrary that "*Christians have found themselves labelled as the oppressors*" (Ben Chang)? If so, take a few minutes to share some examples with your group.**

**Zim spoke of two ways to be equipped to endure based on this passage:**

**1. Encouragement from godly examples (vs 10-11): What traits are modelled by Paul in vs 11? Where do you and I find our own "first hand" godly models that emulate these traits? Can we name any? Are we ourselves godly models to those around us? What’s stopping us from being godly models?**

(Some suggestions were to read / watch documentaries about those who have lived lives of godly endurance. Sharing testimonies of seeing God in others really emboldens the faith of the church in seasons of loneliness and oppression).

**2. Sticking with the Scriptures (vs.14-17): Sometimes we think we need a modern formula to be a people who can endure … but more often than not, the food and inspiration and compass for godly models has been the tried and true. What are some of these basic practices that we put into effect?**

(Bible reading; prayer; fellowship; worship; fasting; hospitality; generosity; reflection; rest and delight In God. Those "that you have known since Infancy…" these are what put us in a place to be empowered and transformed by God and effective In our contexts)

**3. Zim spoke about the difference between people who "big up" themselves and those who "big up" God… discuss within your groups how we can use everyday conversations and encounters to "big up" God. Does this mean that we "put down" ourselves or others?**

(Paul had no problem encouraging people to follow his example… but he was quick to say "As I follow Christ"… he was able to also honestly say in 1 Tim. 1:15 that he is "the worst of sinners" )

**The All Sufficiency of Scripture**

**4. Read vs. 16 - 17: Zim summarised this is saying: "*The Bible teaches all we need for all God wants to give*". How have you experienced Scripture to be all sufficient to save and transform us?**

**When was the last time you let the real God, through the Bible, 'teach, rebuke, correct and train you'?**

**What would it look like as a Connect Group to really let the Lord do that in our times together each week?**

**Pray with and for one another**