

2 Timothy 1

Introduction:

- Review: Paul wrote 13 letters for the New Testament (*Romans—Philemon*)
- What is the order of those letters?** *Romans—2 Thessalonians* (to congregations) and *1 Timothy—Philemon* (to individuals)
- Let us remember that the letters are not in time sequence; this is very important as we look at the book of *2 Timothy*
- Why?** Because it was written last in Paul's life (shortly before his execution)

"Pastoral Epistles": *1-2 Timothy, Titus*

- Denominational preachers use the word "pastoral," but that is not a Biblical term for preachers
- They use this term to indicate that these books were written to preachers ("pastors"), but the word *pastor* refers to elders (or shepherds) in the church (*Acts 20.28*)

Prison epistles: *Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 2 Timothy*

Chapter summaries:

- Chapter 1 – Guard it (the truth of the gospel)
- Chapter 2 – Teach it (to others)
- Chapter 3 – Abide in it (do not fall away)
- Chapter 4 – Preach it (in season and out of season)

Themes of the letter:

1. A letter to encourage Timothy not to grow weak
2. Because of Paul's imminent death, to encourage Timothy to deal with the false teachers at Ephesus
3. To give Timothy practical advice as a preacher

Timothy was the full-time preacher at Ephesus; he was still a young man and needed advice from Paul

- Paul was in prison in Rome waiting for his execution
- He was hoping that Timothy would be able to visit him in time

Nickname for book of 2 Timothy: "The Last Will and Testament of the Apostle Paul"

2 Timothy 1.1-2 - A very simple salutation

V1– **What was Paul's traditional way of beginning a letter?** Person writing the letter, to whom it was written, a blessing

- Did Paul follow this traditional greeting at the beginning of this letter?** Yes
- List the three parts**
- How did Paul identify himself?** An apostle
- Was he made an apostle on the basis of his good works?** No, on the basis of the decision of God
- What is the "promise of life in Jesus Christ"?** Eternal Life

V2– **How was Timothy identified?** Paul's son

- Explain?** Paul probably baptized him

- Some people say that this is why we should call preachers "father"
- Correct?** Absolutely not – **Read Matthew 23.9**

2 Timothy 1.3-7

V 3 – For what was Paul thankful? For Timothy

- Why was he thankful for Timothy?** Because of his faith (v 5)
- How was the condition of Paul’s conscience?** Clear – he always had done what he thought was right (*Acts 23.1, 2 Corinthians 1.12*)
- Who else had a clear conscience?** His ancestors
- A message here?** The importance of setting the right example for our children (Paul’s ancestors had always been faithful to God)
- Many people think only of themselves; they have the attitude: “It’s my life, and I’ll live it like I want to”
- They never think about their future descendants (children and grandchildren who may not even be born yet)
- But let us consider our actions in light of our future generations
- What did Paul do for Timothy?** Prayed for him day and night

V 4 – What did he remember about Timothy? His tears

- Why tears?** At parting from Paul
- Why would seeing Timothy give joy to Paul?** Encouragement

V 5 – What about Timothy’s background? Grandmother Lois and mother Eunice were faithful Christians

- Has anyone here had grandmothers who influenced you in your Christian life?** (Examples...)
- Why aren’t Timothy’s father and grandfather mentioned?** Not Christians (*Acts 16.1* – father was a “Greek”)
- The family tree is important only if our relatives were Christians (non-Christians didn’t matter to Paul)

V 6 – Timothy had a gift of the Holy Spirit (*1 Timothy 4.14* – the presbytery, with Paul’s assistance, had given Timothy this gift)

- the presbytery = refers to the elders at Jerusalem, and Paul could have been the actual one to administer the gift
- Timothy might have been a little afraid to use his gift

V 7 – We should not be timid as Christians

2 Timothy 1.8-14

V 8 – What might have some people been ashamed of? The testimony (gospel) and Paul as a prisoner

- Sometimes today people are ashamed of a congregation that meets in a house or that does not have

a lot of wealth

-Sometimes people are ashamed that we are so “old-fashioned” that we don’t have instrumental music in worship, etc.

-So some were ashamed that the Apostle Paul was in prison

-Message of Paul about his imprisonment? We will all be tested and must be willing to sacrifice for the gospel of Jesus Christ

V 9 – Why should we be willing to sacrifice? Because of our salvation and our “holy calling” and the grace granted to us by Christ

-Is our “holy calling” based on our good works? No (but according to the purpose that Christ has for us)

V 10 – What has Christ done? Abolished death

-Has Christ abolished death? Yes, by his resurrection from the dead

-Explain? He brought immortality and life to mankind

V 11 – What were the three roles of Paul? Preacher, apostle, teacher

-What was he doing in this letter? Serving as a teacher

V 12 – Why was Paul suffering? Because he was not ashamed of the gospel

-Why did Paul put up with the suffering? He knew the person he believed in (not “know of,” but “know”)

-What had Paul entrusted to Christ? The eternal salvation of his soul (the most valuable possession he had)

-One of the great verses in the New Testament – we have a song based on this verse

-Song: "I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace"

V 13– Meaning? It is important that we hold to “sound words” (Greek: healthy and wholesome, as opposed to sick and unhealthy words)

V 14– How could Timothy guard the sound words? True to Holy Spirit (gift of Holy Spirit then, the Bible today)

-Paul gets down to sound doctrine right away

-Some people today are saying that we cannot understand the Bible in the same way and that there are many different ways to interpret the Bible – all false views

-The treasure? The gospel

2 Timothy 1.15-18

V 15 – What happened to those from Asia who were in Rome and could have helped Paul? They had deserted him

-Why? They were ashamed of him as a prisoner (implied from *verse 16*)

-Notice that Paul calls them by name (Phygelus and Hermogenes)

V 16 –The bright spot in the life of Paul in prison? Onesiphorus

-What had Onesiphorus done? Refreshed Paul, visited Paul whenever he was in Rome, and was

not ashamed of Paul's chains

V 17 – It must have taken a lot of time just to find Paul (with so many prisoners being held there)

-What attitude did Onesiphorus have in trying to find Paul? Eager to do so

V 18 – **What was Paul's prayer?** That God would grant him mercy on “that day” (the Day of Judgment)

-Two men had their names recorded in the Bible for all generations because they deserted Paul, when they could have helped him

-But one man had his named recorded in the Bible because he looked up Paul in prison and helped him

Lessons from this chapter:

Questions:

-What is the nickname of 2 Timothy? Last Will and Testament of Apostle Paul

-How was Chapter 1 an encouragement to Timothy?

-How does it encourage us today?

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