

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 10TH-11TH, 2019 // 2 TIMOTHY

## PERSONAL (2 TIMOTHY 1:1-5)

### PAUL WAS AT THE END OF HIS LIFE

Context is always important when reading the Bible. 2 Timothy was written by Paul as he awaited execution in Rome. This sheds light on the emotional depth of this letter. V1-2 reiterates to Tim God's call on Paul as an apostle, a sent one of God that had seen the resurrected Christ.

### THINGS GET CLEARER AS TIME MOVES ON

Because Paul was facing death, his God-given authority became more clear to him. He also focused on what was truly important, his relationships, specifically his one with Tim.

- This should be the natural progression of all believers. **As we mature, what is truly important (God and others) should become our highest priority.**

### CREATING A HERITAGE

Paul reminisced about his relationship with Tim and thanked God that he got to do life with him. He also expressed joy that Tim had good family in his life that taught him the truth about Christ. Tim's dad was Greek, but his mother and grandmother were believers that taught him the gospel.

### WE DO NOT INHERIT OUR FAITH

The fact that Tim's mom and grandmother instilled Christ in him is great, but Paul mentions Tim's "sincere faith." This implies that Tim had to **take ownership** of his own faith.

- **Proper belief and action are essential to true faith. Salvation is a personal transaction between an individual and God. No one can do it for us.**

### PARENTS / GUARDIANS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

Though we cannot save others, we're responsible for teaching children and those we have influence over the ways of Christ. **We cannot control the results, but we're commanded to "plant and water."**

- **Negligence and misleading of the generation under us will have serious consequences (Matt. 18:6).**

### THE FLAME (2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7)

#### "REKINDLE THE GIFT FROM GOD"

Paul has established that Tim came from a good heritage and has a "sincere faith," but he also reminds him to fan the flame that is inside him.

- The "gift from God" is the **Holy Spirit that is given to all true followers of Jesus** (Eph. 1:13). **Without this gift, we're incapable of following Jesus.**

### WE MUST FAN THE FLAME OF THE SPIRIT

The HS is referred to as many things, one being a fire. If we are to be what God wants us to be, we have to fan this fire. **This means we discipline ourselves in godliness (church, pray, read the word) so we can produce the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).** In other words, **proper faith takes work!**

### WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS WORK

Our relationship with God is kinda circular. We have His Spirit to help us grow and be what we should, and the more we fan that flame (work out our own salvation Phil. 2:12), the more strength He gives us.

- It is a 2-way relationship that we benefit from. **God will draw as close to us as we would like (Js. 4:8).**

### BOLD AND CONFIDENT

Paul realizes Tim is a little timid and fearful about the future, so he reminds him that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power."

- This doesn't mean there aren't moments of fear, but **the supernatural power of God in us should eventually override the natural tendency to be afraid.**

### IDENTITY (2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12)

#### WE'RE TO BE SECURE IN WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

Christians are to not be "ashamed of the testimony about our Lord" or the teachings by his apostles (Paul specifically in this context).

- **We're to clearly live out our faith, speak about the teachings of the Bible when the time comes, and tell our personal testimonies as a way to connect people to Jesus.**

### WE'RE TO IDENTIFY IN SUFFERING

Paul says we're to "share in the suffering for the gospel," which means we should be willing to face persecution and hardships for the sake of our relationship with Christ

- A false narrative has been taught that Christians shouldn't have to suffer, but **we should count it an honor to suffer for Jesus (Phil. 1:29).**

## "...NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS"

Paul reminds Tim that salvation only comes through God's grace and His work on the cross. We must respond to the call, but the work of salvation is beyond our ability.

- **Christianity is the only world religion that teaches salvation comes from God's work and His gracious love.**

### BUT WE STILL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

**Though we aren't saved by works, we are not saved from them either!** The initial trust and surrender to God is the beginning. **God has called us to live holy lives that honor Him, love mankind, and serve both.** Back to the circular relationship. This is only possible with God's grace. We must constantly lean on Him!

### JESUS IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE

The reason the Gospels are so important is because they show how God would live in our shoes. His attitude, servitude, love, and mercy give the perfect example of grace and holy living.

- Not only His life, but His death. **The cross opened the door for us to live similarly to Jesus and be connected to our Heavenly Father.**

### ANSWERING THE CALL AT ALL COST (V11-12)

Paul accepted Jesus' teachings, his calling, and then suffered to the point of death for it. He was able to endure because he believed in God's goodness and trustworthiness.

- **Though we may not be killed for our faith, we must be ready to be. Are we really willing to give everything for this? Are we willing to live for it?**

### FAITHFUL (2 TIMOTHY 2:13-18)

#### "HOLD ON TO THE PATTERN OF SOUND TEACHING"

The "pattern of sound teaching" is simply the Bible and the progressive revelation that the Word gives from Genesis to Revelation.

- **Any theology outside of this teaching is not of God.** And though we're to study and know context, every word of the Bible is there for a reason (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### THIS TRUTH IS MEANT FOR DAILY LIVING

Paul did not advocate intellect of the scripture for intellectualisms sake, but to know **the Word because it works in every corner of daily practical living.**

- There's nothing wrong with deep theological conversation, **but the real impact of the Bible comes out in our work, homes, relationships, fulfillment, etc.**

### GUARD THIS, BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT!

Every generation is charged with protecting their personal faith and the integrity of the church and the Word of God. We must intentionally **pray, read the Word, attend church, and be willing to defend the "sound teachings" of Christ.** Why? Because **society and the souls of those in it are on the line!**

### BUT WE CANNOT CHANGE ANYTHING...KINDA

We are called to "plant the seed," "water the ground," but God will make things grow.

- **Our responsibility is to respond to God, trust Him, express love to those around us, follow the Bible, and communicate Jesus to others. We can't change the world, but we can be a catalyst to God changing it.**

### SOME WILL REJECT, OTHERS WILL DEFECT

Because Paul had been arrested and many false teachers had risen up, the church in Ephesus and other areas were suffering. **Many people were leaving because Christianity was harder than they thought it would be.** Many who appeared to be faithful buckled when times got hard and defected.

### BUT MANY WILL RISE UP

Paul reminds Tim of Onesiphorus who was faithful and even visited Paul in prison. One's family stayed strong in their faith even in the face of persecution and being shunned."May the Lord grant that he obtain mercy" shows us that **God favors those that remain faithful to Him.**

### CHOICES THAT DETERMINE DIRECTION

We cannot change things, but God can through us. We can plant seeds and water the ground, but God makes things happen. **We cannot expect things to happen (growth) if we don't choose to prepare the "soil" in our lives.** No deposit, no return. This means our families, relationships, jobs, education, contentment, fulfillment and most importantly our souls will not positively change if we don't make Jesus-centered choices. Are we making the choice to learn correct theology (study of God)? Are we willing to suffer for our faith? Not just die, but live everyday for Him? Are we investing our time into things that are truly valuable? Do we love others? Would we consider ourselves faithful? Do we have a proper definition of faithful? God will only do in and around us what we allow Him to do. **Are we preparing for God to do something amazing in our lives that will resonate to those around us for generations?**