

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 11TH, 2019 // 2 TIMOTHY

As we learn to reflect the image of God we are going to be met with challenges that will bring us fear.

We must learn the fear of God to overcome this fear of man that causes us to suffer for the faith. This will require the power, love, and sound-mind of Christ.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- This was the last letter written by Paul
- It was penned in Rome's Mamertine prison, an underground chamber around A.D. 67 or 68
- According to tradition, many Christians were martyred for their faith by Nero because he blamed them for the Great Fire of Rome in which 2/3's of the city was burned.
- The most intimate of letters written by Paul.
- After already standing one trial he was awaiting a second trial knowing death awaited him.
- As a Roman citizen this would have been decapitation.
- With this in mind we see the passion of a spiritual father giving instructions, guidelines, and encouragement to his beloved spiritual son.

THEME

We see four basic layers within this letter

1. He encourages Timothy to be faithful in guarding the gospel.
2. The importance of teaching others to raise up the next generation of leaders.
3. To be strong and suffer hardship just as Paul had.
4. And a final charge to stay faithful in proclaiming the gospel.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE (2 TIM. 1:1-7)

In the greeting we have Paul again stating his authority as an Apostle of Christ, which was common in most of his letters.

- What stands out is that he adds "according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus"

We can feel the closeness of death that awaits Paul as he stirs up his faith for the prize that stands before him.

- We see a much deeper relationship between Paul and Timothy than just a mentor and trainee. It encompasses an intimate and emotional bond.

As one who is awaiting his death we see the intimacy of a father that wants to communicate the love he has for Timothy by calling him his "dear son". They built this strong bond as they stood together in ministry traveling the world to spread the gospel of Christ

Their ministry led them to many places:

- They ministered together in Philippi then Athens
- Timothy went to Thessalonica
- Timothy joins Paul back in Corinth
- They went to Ephesus
- Timothy was sent to Corinth with letter from Paul
- Paul meets up in Corinth and pens Romans
- Paul then goes to prison in Rome
- He is released and appoints Timothy in Ephesus

As a good mentor he calls to remembrance the means of grace that God used to transform Timothy:

- **Prayer**- Paul prays constantly day and night
- **A mentor**- Paul himself
- **A Godly family**- His mother and grandmother
- **A sincere faith**
- **God's gifts and His Spirit**

Timothy gets a bad rap of being fearful, weak and timid- "Timid Timothy". Timothy is just like any person.

The pressures of this life can start to wear on you and cause you to silence that which was previously loud.

- Paul reminds him that God didn't give a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- Paul even suffered from this fear according to Acts 18:9-10

SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL (2 TIM. 1:8-14)

In first century Rome the idea of following a god that was crucified was humiliating. It was intended for the lowest of the low including slaves and enemies of the state because of its humiliating nature.

- This idea rings true as we look at graffiti from that time. There is a sketch on a wall called "The Alexamenos Graffito".
- It is a picture of human body with the head of a donkey. The inscription reads Alexamenos worships his god.

Not only was it shameful to believe in this God, it was shameful to be associated with a man called Paul.

- Many of those who were associated with him had left him and Paul was encouraging Timothy to not be one of them.

We each are called to suffer for the gospel according to the power of God.

- It is very hard to see the idea of God's plans in our lives especially when we are suffering.

There are three main reasons why Paul and Timothy were not to be ashamed:

1. **The gospel reveals God's initiative**, "his own purpose and grace," that existed before time began
2. **The appearance of Christ meant that death had been "destroyed."** His appearance, therefore, "brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."
3. **The Lord will guard what has been entrusted for the important coming day.**

THE KINDNESS OF ONESIPHORUS (2 TIM. 1:15-18)

Here we have Paul who had gone to a hearing once. During these hearings it was customary to have someone stand in your defense.

- Most likely to the heavy persecutions of the Church at this time, because of Nero, everyone had abandoned Paul.

To associate with Paul could mean death for you as well.

- As we see this fear overwhelmed many especially Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- Not only did they but so did the whole of Asia.
- This is not the Asia as we currently understand it. This is Asia Minor, or what is known as modern day Turkey. This is where Ephesus was located.

As it mentions Timothy would have known because this is where he is located when he received this letter.

- Then we have Onesiphorus. He is the only one that searched him out not ashamed of his chains or afraid of being associated with him.

We each need an Onesiphorus in our lives. We need someone that will hunt us down, when we are in a dark place. When it feels like we are in chains and have no where to go.

- If you don't have someone in your life like this how can you be that person for someone else?