

2nd Timothy Chapter 1 -- John Karmelich

1. Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy was business. Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy is personal.
 - a) The 1st Letter did have some personal encouragements, but the primary purpose of that letter was for Paul to instruct Timothy on how to organize the church.
 - i) The underlying theme of 1st Timothy was Christian conduct. We are God's representatives to the world, and our conduct is supposed to reflect God.
 - a) "You are what you worship." There is no exception to this rule. Whatever you worship, you become. Therefore, if we expect the world to see the benefit of Christianity, we need to draw upon God's grace and God's strength for our own conduct as a witness to the world.
 - b) Paul's second letter is personal. The overriding theme is about encouragement.
 - i) Let's face it, we all get down at times. The world can be a rotten place. All of us suffer the hardships of sickness and death of loved ones let alone personal tragedies. It is easy to be discouraged.
 - ii) For many Christians throughout the world, just being a Christian is a death sentence. Statistically, more Christians have died for their faith in the 20th Century than any previous century. I suspect the 21st Century won't be much better.
 - a) To give an example, a few months prior to this writing, there was a news story of grenades thrown at people as they were leaving a Presbyterian church in Pakistan. It was organized by an Islamic militant group.
 - b) Need something new to pray for? Go on the internet and read about places around the world where one is persecuted just for being a Christian.
 - (1) Among my favorite ministries is "Voice of the Martyrs" at <http://www.persecution.com/>
 - c) Paul wrote this 2nd letter from a jail cell. At this time, it was a crime and death sentence to be a Christian. Emperor Nero, who went insane, burned all of Rome so he could rebuild it. He started a campaign to blame the Christians for his actions.
 - i) Among Nero's most infamous acts was driving his chariot through his garden, which was "lighted" by burning Christians.
 - a) And you thought you had worries!
 - b) Imagine standing up for Christ in that era of time.
 - ii) For those of you who know the Book of Acts, Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy takes place years after the events of that Book.
 - a) At the end of Acts, Paul is in house-arrest in Rome waiting for trial in front of Nero.
 - b) "Church tradition" says that Paul had his trial, and was set free.
 - c) It is the speculation of many Christians that after Nero had personally rejected the Gospel, that his madness began.
 - d) There are clues throughout Paul's letters that Paul went on to travel in additional missionary journey(s) after the events of the Book of Acts.
 - e) Now Paul was re-arrested during Nero's persecution.
 - f) Paul's death was now immanent. Church tradition stated that Paul was taken out one day from this jail cell and beheaded.
 - g) Yet, the interesting thing is if you read this letter, it is hard to tell that Paul was suffering!
 - (1) The amazing thing to note from this letter is that Paul is encouraging Timothy as opposed to the other way around!
 - (a) I've nicknamed 2nd Timothy "who's encouraging who?"

2. With that frightening introduction, one should study 2nd Timothy is to get encouragement ourselves.
 - a) We all suffer through times of discouragement.
 - i) Going back to one of my themes from 1st Timothy is that Christianity is not designed to be a solo act.
 - ii) Notice as you read this letter how Paul remembers event from Timothy's life encouraged Paul at the end of his life.
 - a) Sometimes, when things are at their worse, is when we have to draw upon our memories.
 - b) Let's face it: It is tough to have faith in a God we can't see or touch.
 - c) All we can do is see how He has, and He is, working in our lives.
 - d) During the times when all seems lost, one has to go back to our memories to see how God has worked in our lives past to help keep our faith strong.
3. One last thing before we start. Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy is called by many commentator's "Paul's last will and testament."
 - a) Suppose you knew your life was going to end any day. Let's say a doctor said it was only a matter of days or weeks left in your life.
 - i) What information would you want to pass on to those you love?
 - ii) This is why I say 1st Timothy is "business" and 2nd Timothy is "personal".
 - iii) Paul knew his life was almost over.
 - a) Reading Acts, Paul went through amazing death defying trials, but somehow, still lived another day to preach the Gospel.
 - b) You get the sense in this letter that Paul knew "this is it". Somehow this trial was different.
 - c) Yet the focus of this letter is on encouraging Timothy.
 - (1) Several times in the letter Paul either states or implies how Timothy is timid or fearful.
 - (a) With a death sentence on believers, who wouldn't be?
 - (b) With people walking away from Jesus to save their own life, who wouldn't be?
 - (c) With your mentor in jail about to be killed, who wouldn't have doubts?
 - (d) That is why this letter is so necessary. It is the reminder to us to stick to what God has called us to do, no matter what the consequences.
 - d) If I had to pick the one great trait that most people lack, it is having the boldness to stand up for what is right.
 - (1) Everyone wants to be popular. There is a human need to want to be loved and admired by people.
 - (2) The Gospel is an unpopular and insulting message. It is telling people "you are not good enough for God." It is saying "the way you are living right now, is not good enough to get into heaven."
 - (a) It's tough enough to preach that message without a death sentence let alone having people trying to kill you!
 - (b) That is why encouragement is necessary.
 - (c) That is why drawing upon God's strength to stand up for Him is so necessary.
 - (d) That is why Paul, on his deathbed, wrote a letter to tell us how to have joy during the worse of times. It is about standing up for what is right when nobody else will. It is about sticking to what God called us to do.

4. Chapter 1, Verse 1: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
 - a) I mentioned in 1st Timothy Chapter 1 that letters in biblical times start off with who is writing those letters. Then comes who the letter is to, then the text of the letter.
 - i) When we write letters, the signature is at the bottom. In those times, the “signature” and the person’s titles start the letters.
 - b) Paul starts by stating he is an apostle of Christ Jesus.
 - i) Remember this is a personal letter.
 - ii) Timothy spent years being a missionary assistant to Paul.
 - a) Paul eventually left Timothy to oversee the church in the City of Ephesus.
 - iii) Yet Paul is reminding Timothy that Paul is an apostle.
 - a) I think this is done for a number of reasons.
 - b) First Timothy is not an apostle. The word “apostle” refers to one is directly sent by someone with a message.
 - (1) It is a classic Christian debate whether Paul is one of the “12” or simply another person classified as an “apostle”. You can argue it either way from studying the Bible.
 - c) The point is Paul states his apostleship as his authority.
 - (1) Timothy is now grown up and running a church. Paul is addressing Timothy as a commanding officer with a message from headquarters. It is a reminder to Timothy that Paul is still “over him” with direct revelations from God.
 - iv) One has to remember that people were going to question “who gave Paul this authority to tell us what to believe? After all, he’s not Jesus, nor is he one of the original 12 apostles. Who give Paul all this authority?
 - a) That is why Paul needed to state his authority in his letters for that reminder to Timothy and to us.
 - b) That is also why the Book of Acts, written by Luke, states the miraculous events that happened in Paul’s life to validate his authority.
 - c) Second, Paul states it is by the “will of God (the Father)”.
 - i) If you study the Book of Acts, you almost get the impression Paul was “drafted” into Christian service.
 - a) Paul didn’t just say, “you know, I think Judaism is wrong about Jesus. I’ll just change my philosophical outlook and follow Jesus. ☺”
 - (1) Paul was literally called by God to be His servant. He was blinded directly by Jesus on his way to persecute Christian believers. (See Acts, Chapter 9 for the full story.)
 - (a) Paul, in his free will could have chosen to remain blind. Instead, he begged forgiveness and spent the rest of his life doing “the will of God”.
 - b) There are many Christians, looking back on when they first got saved, including myself, now feel “God drafted me as well.”
 - ii) Remember the theme of this letter is encouragement. Paul is reminding Timothy that he was called to serve Jesus just as Timothy was.
 - d) Third, Paul states, “according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,”
 - i) This is a term to describe the Christian life that is found only here in 2nd Timothy.
 - ii) You want motivation to go through all of this suffering? There it is in this phrase.
 - a) Jesus brings us life. I am convinced one does not truly experience life until they have asked Jesus to come live inside of them and “take over”.
 - (1) Yes there are hardships. Yes there is suffering. What is all of that in comparison to eternity? What is all of that in comparison to this life? Living for Jesus brings a far deeper, richer and greater life

than one can ever get from all the materialistic and emotional benefits that this world has to offer.

5. Verse 2: To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- a) I don't believe Paul ever had children of his own. There is speculation he may have been married at one time. Paul may have been a member of the ruling council of Jews (The Sanhedrin), prior to his conversion. Marriage was a requirement for membership. Further speculation is his wife may have left him when he converted to Christianity.
 - i) With all that said, I don't think Paul ever had children.
 - ii) The closest thing to his own children that Paul had were those young missionaries Paul mentored. The closest of those was Timothy.
 - a) That is why Paul starts with the express of "my dear son". It is written even prior to the standard greeting of "grace, mercy and peace".
 - iii) Paul saw his life work as to preach (i.e., proclaim) and teach Christ. Part of that work is to raise up the next generation of preachers and teachers after him.
 - iv) A classic quote is, "Every Paul needs a Timothy and every Timothy needs a Paul."
 - b) The rest of the verse is identical similar to the introduction in 1st Timothy:
 - i) Since I've already discussed those terms in 1st Timothy, Chapter 1, I'll move on. ☺
 - ii) The only new thing to add is to reread those verses from the perspective of a worried Timothy and a about-to-face-death Paul!
 - iii) Seeing that phrase over and over again in Paul's letters reminds us that we draw upon God's grace, mercy and peace in order to live out the Christian life.
 - a) The constant danger is to rely on our own ability to serve God as opposed to drawing upon God's strength.
6. Verse 3: I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.
- a) Notice what Paul does not say to open his letters:
 - i) He does not say, "Woe is me stuck in this stinky disgusting prison hole".
 - ii) He does not say, "Timothy bribe who you can to get me out of here".
 - iii) He does not say, "Timothy forget this Jesus stuff and run for your life".
 - b) Paul, verbally stands up and says I serve God just as my forefathers did and what is more I do it with a clear conscience! Paul is proud of his life and what he has done for God.
 - c) What did Paul mean as he served God, "as his forefather's did?"
 - i) Remember Paul was trained as raised as a Pharisee. This is a very conservative view of Judaism that became the origin of the Orthodox Jewish denomination.
 - ii) Yet, here is what Paul thinks of his past life after his conversion:
 - a) Paul's old life: "a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. (Philippians 3:5b-6, NIV)
 - b) Paul's new life: "...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. (Phil. 3:8, NIV)
 - iii) Given that, who is Paul referring to here as his "forefathers?"
 - a) Most suspect, it was not a direct reference to Paul's parents, but to the Old Testament prophets who have been persecuted prior to Paul.

- b) Here is what the Book of Hebrews says about the Old Testament Prophets:
 - (1) Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. (Hebrews 11:35b-36, NIV)
 - (2) The unnamed writer of Hebrews, who I believe was Paul, ends this chapter with this line: “These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (Hebrews 11:39-40, NIV)
- c) Paul knew his suffering was for a greater good. He knew, like the old Testament saints before him, (i.e., "my forefathers") that suffering was nothing in comparison to our eternal rewards.
- d) The last part of Verse 3 says that Paul remembered Timothy in his prayers “night & day”.
 - i) The question is, “who should be praying for who?”
 - ii) Paul is the one about to die. Yet Paul is one stating he is praying for Timothy night and day.
 - a) “Night and day” could be an expression or a literal term. Either way, the point is that Paul got through the pain of his jail suffering by praying for those who will continue the Gospel message into the next generation.
 - b) If you are in a jail cell, there is not a lot of activities for one to do. ☺ Therefore, there is more time to pray. To me, Christians should never have the excuse of boredom or lack of activity. If there is no other way you could minister to people at any given moment, you can always pray.
 - iii) As we will learn in the next few verses, Paul was concerned that Timothy stand up boldly for the Gospel. Paul was concerned that Timothy was too timid in his faith.
 - a) Before Paul encouraged Timothy, he started with prayer for Timothy.
 - b) That is a message for all of us.
 - c) Our ability to accomplish anything for God comes from God working *through* us. It always begins with prayer.
 - d) This verse is a good reminder to pray for your pastor and bible teachers that influence your life (hint hint! ☺). God expects you to encourage and strengthen them through prayer as God uses them to encourage and strengthen you through their God given gifts.

7. Verse 4: Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

- a) It is interesting to think about the things you remember most about a person you haven't seen in a long time. Often it is not the years you spent together, but it may be the last thing you remember.
 - i) There is “logical” speculation that this refers to Paul and Timothy's last meeting. Timothy may have cried realizing he may never see his mentor again.
 - a) Some speculate that Timothy was present when Paul was arrested.
 - b) That show of love burned in Paul's heart, and Paul responded by how much it meant to him.
 - ii) There is nothing a parent wants more in life to watch their children grow up and succeed in life. That is the feeling I get from reading this verse.
 - a) This is Paul, as a guardian-parent-teacher to Timothy, wanting to see him progress and grow as a pastor.
 - b) Life has its pleasurable moments for the saved and unsaved alike. One of them is to watch your children bloom and prosper.
 - (1) Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward. (Psalm 127:3, NKJV)

8. Verse 5: I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.
- a) From the Book of Acts and this letter, we know a few facts about Timothy's background.
 - i) His mother and grandmother are from a Jewish culture and background.
 - ii) His father was from a Greek culture background (Source for both: Acts 16:1).
 - iii) His mother and grandmother converted to Christianity.
 - iv) Timothy grew up in a household that believed in Jesus, thanks to his mother and grandmother.
 - b) Let's read ahead to Chapter 3 of this letter:
 - i) "and how from infancy you (Timothy) have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2nd Timothy 3:15, NIV)
 - ii) What does this mean? It means that Timothy's mother and probably his grandmother raised Timothy on Scripture from childhood.
 - a) They may have had some copies of New Testament scrolls as well as scrolls from the Old Testament.
 - b) More importantly, it speaks highly of grandma Lois and mom-Eunice.
 - iii) This next sub-paragraph is dedicated especially to mothers raising young children and grandmothers of young children:
 - a) You want a great prayer? Pray: "Dear Lord, make my life like that of Lois and Eunice. Help me to raise my child or grandchild in the Scriptures so that when he or she grows up, that child will be used mightily for you!"
 - b) For what it is worth, my wife and I pray over my two year old daughter nightly with a similar type of prayer. We pray that God may teach us and lead us on how to raise our daughter to be a wonderful servant of God. With all the joy I have working on this ministry, nothing would make me prouder than to watch my child grow up and serve the Lord. I can't think of a greater joy. I can't think of a greater prayer as a parent.
 - c) God bless the memory of Lois and Eunice, and may it continue to be a great example to millions and millions of Godly parents!
 - c) To finish Verse 5, Paul is stating the faith that was in Timothy 's mom and grandmother , Paul now says he is persuaded also lives in Timothy.
 - i) This isn't about salvation. Timothy was saved at an early age and worked with Paul in the mission fields.
 - ii) This is about growing in faith in God. This is about Christian maturity.
 - iii) One of my mentors, Chuck Missler used to say "I think God stays up at night thinking of new ways of asking me, "Do you trust me?"
 - a) It is through the trials of life, during the difficult times, when we don't "sense" God's presence, is when we are asked to trust God more, and grow in our faith. That is what walking by faith is all about.
 - b) That is what Paul hoped is happening to Timothy in Paul's absence. That Timothy is growing and maturing in his trust in God.
9. Verse 6: For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- a) "Fan the flame" is a word-picture of stirring up the "fire" that it within you. Anyone who has ever worked a fireplace or a charcoal barbeque understands that the wood or coals need to be poked/stirred to keep the fire hot.
 - b) Faith in God is often described as a muscle. It must be strengthen and exercised in order for it to be of any use. That is the same idea being taught here.

- c) The “gift of God” refers to the spiritual gifts given to Timothy by God.
 - i) I take the view that all Christians have some sort of spiritual gift.
 - ii) For those of you who know biblical Greek, the word “gift” has the same root word as the word for “grace”. It is the idea of an unmerited reward given by God.
 - iii) That gift is intended to be used to help other Christians.
 - a) Like a muscle, there is a “use it or lose it” concept to it.
 - d) The gift was given “by the laying on of my hands”.
 - i) I differ from some Pentecostal groups who believe that magical power is transferred by the actual touching of one believer to the other.
 - ii) The Biblical concept of the “laying of hands” both in the Old and New Testament refers to identification. When the elder(s) or pastor(s) lay hands on someone, it means they are identifying with that person. It is a visual word picture of the receiving person being “one” with the person who is laying on the hands.
10. Verse 7: For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.
- a) Paul is saying a “spirit of timidity” is not a spiritual gift.
 - i) Timid means nervousness. It is the idea that one is afraid to publicly proclaim one’s faith in God out of fear of persecution or fear of not being popular.
 - ii) Here is what Jesus said on this topic: “But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:33, NKJV).
 - a) This is not about temporary lapses in faith. Peter denied Jesus three times and he was not condemned to hell.
 - b) This is about a continual, habitual denial of one’s faith in Jesus either by your public proclamation or your lifestyle.
 - b) Let’s move on to the spiritual gifts that God does give us. The first is “power”.
 - i) The Greek word is the same word from which we get the word “dynamite”.
 - ii) It is the idea that God has tremendous *power* to give to us to accomplish what His goals are for our life.
 - a) A God who created the heaven and the earth can, and does, give us the power not only to stand up boldly for God, but to accomplish anything that God desires for our life.
 - (1) Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13, NJKV)
 - c) Second is the “Spirit of Love”.
 - i) The concept behind “love” as it is used here, is not an emotional feeling. It is the idea of totally giving of oneself for someone or something else.
 - a) We so often forget that God is not this impersonal, indifferent creature who created the world and then ignores us. He is one who loves us unconditionally. A perfect God is perfect in Love. He created man for the purpose of showing us for eternity how much he loves us.
 - b) One can’t think of a greater example of the expression of love than to die for you. This whole grand-scheme of God to create us, die for us and spend eternity with us was all planned out before time began. That is the core message of the Bible.
 - d) Finally, comes self-discipline. It is also translated “sound mind”.
 - i) The key here is the priority. Self-discipline comes last on the list.
 - ii) Even self-discipline is a gift from God. It is a gift to be used for His glory.
 - iii) Again we come to the concept of “using the muscles or losing the muscles”.

- iv) Self-discipline is simply the idea of developing regular habits to keep us in shape spiritually, much in the same way physical exercise requires some self discipline to keep us in physical shape. It is always easier to stay in shape than to get in shape. That applies to our spiritual life as well as our physical life.
11. Verse 8: So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel,
- a) Well, that sounds inviting, doesn't it? ☺
 - i) "Hey Timothy, I know its illegal to believe in Jesus, I know it may cost you your life, so why don't you be like me here in jail, about to be killed? Come join me in the suffering for the gospel." ☺
 - ii) You have to admit, this verse, read out of context, lacks appeal.
 - b) Why do we have to suffer for the Gospel sake?
 - i) Reading ahead to Chapter 3: "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," (2nd Timothy Chapter 3, Verse 12, NIV).
 - ii) I used to think it meant that everyone who believes in Jesus will have death threats, and physical pain through persecution.
 - a) While that is true for a very large percentage of Christians throughout history (a sobering thought!) it is also true it does not apply to all.
 - b) What it does refer to is the fact that when you take a stand for God, it makes others feel guilty. They look at the immortality of their own life and the fact they don't want to change. The last thing immoral people want is to be around someone telling them or showing-by-example that what they are doing is wrong in God's eyes.
 - (1) This is one of the historic reasons for Anti-Semitism as well as those who practice their faith in Jesus.
 - (2) The persecution comes from those who don't want you to witness to them.
 - c) The second reason is demonic. Satan's time on earth is limited, and is determined by a fixed (specific) number of people becoming Christians. This is the idea being taught in Romans 11:25. Only God alone knows that final number. Because Satan knows his time is limited, he is doing everything in his power to slow down and stop the spread of Christianity.
 - (1) Persecuting Christians to a point of timidity means those Christians are not being a witness for Jesus and is helping Satan's cause!
 - (2) One of my favorite expressions is, "If you don't think Satan is real, try opposing him for awhile."
 - c) Let's end the "negative" and move on to the "positive".
 - i) We endure this suffering because there is no better choice.
 - a) Knowing that we have an eternity of rewards and happiness is far better than any and all suffering we can endure here in earth.
 - ii) In summary, all the happiness the world can possibly offer you is nothing compared to the joy of eternity. Having to choose one or the other, it is much better to deal with the hardships of life now than to spend eternity in hell.
 - a) The writer of Hebrews described Moses with the same idea: "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward." (Heb. 11:24-26, NIV)
12. End of Verse 8 and 9: But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

- a) This one sentence goes on for 3 verses, so I'm taking it phrase by phrase.
 - i) We suffer through this life and can endure it by the power of God.
 - b) Notice the first phrase of Verse 9: "who has saved us and called us to a holy life".
 - i) Being a Christian does not mean to turn your life over to Jesus, and then to go on living the life as you did before.
 - a) The mistake too many people make is that they accept Jesus, and that's it.
 - b) The Christian cliché for that type of believer is a "baby Christian".
 - (1) It is not a reference to physical age, but spiritual maturity.
 - (2) I've met many baby Christians who are seniors (and vice versa!).
 - ii) The Christian life is designed for us to grow in our faith by learning to trust God more and more. This is where the "spiritual habits" discussed earlier come in.
 - iii) We grow as Christians by trusting more and more on God's grace as opposed to our own discipline and abilities.
 - iv) That is what is meant by the last phrase of Verse 9 that says, "not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace."
 - a) That is what the "holy life" is all about. It is not a "better than you" idea that the world believes, but our primary focus is we separate ourselves to do what God has called us to do versus doing our own desires.
 - b) Remember I talked about Godly "love" as being "giving of oneself to others?" That is the idea of our maturity as believers. As God bestows that type of love on us, we in turn, through God's power, bestow that love on others as a witness for God. That is the holy life as described here.
13. Verse 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
- a) We are still in the middle of a long sentence that ends with Verse 11.
 - i) Someone needs to talk to Paul about his long, run-on sentences. ☺
 - ii) If you think we are the only ones having trouble understanding Paul, look what Peter says, "just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ...His letters contain some things that are hard to understand," (2nd Peter 3:15-3:16, NIV) (Gee, no kidding Peter! ☺)
 - b) The whole redemptive plan of God is a little "fuzzy" to understand if one just reads the Old Testament. The secret of understanding the Bible is to realize it is 66 separate books written over a thousand plus year time span but designed to be a single message.
 - i) When you only have "part" of that message, being the Old Testament, only part of that picture is clear to see.
 - c) Which leads us back to Verse 10: "Now been revealed through...Christ Jesus".
 - i) It wasn't until Jesus came in the world and died for our sins that the purpose of the Nation Israel, the purpose of the 10 commandments, the purpose of the Garden of Eden, and the purpose of the entire Old Testament now makes sense.
 - a) Ok, John, you've now confused me. ☺
 - b) The main purpose of the Old Testament is to show that God is perfect. A perfect God can stand no sin whatsoever.
 - c) The 10 commandments and the surrounding commentary ("the law") show us what God expects of us to be perfect.
 - d) The history of Israel in the Old Testament is a history of failure. It shows that a "chosen people", who was revealed through dramatic miracles the existence of God, and what God expects of us, can't be perfect through our efforts.
 - e) Think of all the great events of the Old Testament as a question to God:
 - (1) Gee, God, if only you could rid the world of all sin, leave one perfect family, then I know I could be perfect in your eyes.
 - (a) OK, I'll flood the world and save one family (Noah).

- (b) That didn't work.
 - (2) Gee God, if only we could have a great king ruling over us.
 - (a) OK, I'll give you King David. He conquered all the surrounding nations. He's not perfect, but he seeks me with all his heart.
 - (b) That didn't work. Israel eventually went back into idolatry.
 - (3) Gee God, if only you could bless us with tremendous prosperity, then we wouldn't be tempted to sin and follow your laws.
 - (a) OK, I'll give you King Solomon. Israel had every blessing you could possibly imagine. Still didn't work.
 - (4) I'm trying to get you to see all the events of the Old Testament in perspective of man giving excuses to God why they fail to obey his commandments.
 - d) Which leads us back to Jesus. The only way a perfect God, who is perfect in His judgment as well as perfect in His love reconcile that perfection is to pay the price Himself for our sins. We can't do it on our own.
 - e) Which leads us, back to Verse 10: "Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."
 - i) How had Jesus "destroyed death"? Death still exists.
 - ii) What Jesus destroyed was the *power* of death. It is now meaningless to a Christian. By accepting Jesus payment for our sins, death has no meaning to us.
 - a) "When this happens, then at last this Scripture will come true—"Death is swallowed up in victory." O death, where then your victory? Where then your sting? For sin—the sting that causes death—will all be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge."
(1st Corinthians 15:54-56, The Living Bible)
14. Verse 11: And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.
- a) A "herald" is a proclaimer. Think of a man yelling out "Here ye! Here ye!"
 - b) The word is translated "preaching" in many translations. It is the one proclaiming the good news of Christ.
 - c) Paul is simply listing the 3 things he was appointed by God.
 - i) The first is to proclaim the word of God, to be an evangelist (i.e. preacher/herald).
 - ii) The second is that he was given special revelations by God to us. That is what is meant by an apostle in this context.
 - iii) The third is a teacher. This is where he was given the gift to expound and explain God's word for us to grow as mature as believers.
15. Verse 12: That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.
- a) I've already discussed suffering enough, so I'm not going to make you suffer anymore on a discussion of suffering. ☺
 - b) Remember that one of the purposes of this letter is that Timothy himself was timid.
 - i) It was illegal to teach Christianity and Timothy was nervous about this.
 - ii) This whole chapter and letter was designed to encourage Timothy during the difficult times and to remind us of the importance to stand up for Jesus, even if that makes us unpopular.
 - iii) Here was Paul, in jail, about to die. During times like that, one could have doubts and say "am I really doing the right thing?"
 - a) Yet he states "I know whom I have believed". He is reassuring himself and Timothy and us that Christianity is real and to keep the eternal perspective.
 - c) What does Paul mean by "he (Jesus) is able to guard what I have entrusted to him"?
 - i) In a short sentence, Paul meant "his life's work!"

- ii) Do you know the expression “You can’t take it with you?” Well, it is Biblically wrong. You can take it with you. The secret is you send it up ahead of you!
 - iii) There are rewards for those who are faithful to God.
 - a) Jesus said, “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”
 - iv) We have rewards in heaven based on our faithfulness of what God calls us to do.
 - v) I believe Paul is mentioning this as an incentive to Timothy during this trial.
16. Verse 13: What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
- a) Do we depend upon God for our guidance? Of course.
 - b) Do we study the Bible to teach us how to live out our lives? Of course!
 - c) Do we need other sources? Yes. Paul is arguing that here.
 - i) Paul is reminding Timothy to do what Paul has taught him:
 - a) “What you heard from me”
 - b) “Keep as a pattern of (my) sound teaching.
 - ii) This verse is a support for bible college, seminary and the fact that outside education and good teachers are also important in life.
17. Verse 14: Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
- a) The “Good deposit” is the spiritual gifts given to us by God through the Holy Spirit.
 - i) “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (Holy Spirit) to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17, NIV)
 - b) The help of the Holy Spirit is what we have already talked about in “exercising” the gifts God has given us.
 - i) If you’re not sure what your gifts are, half the fun of our faith is finding out what they are. A counseling session with a good Christian pastor or teacher will help reveal them to you. Sometimes your Christian friends may know what they are just by observing your life. Often, they are more obvious than you think.
18. Verse 15: You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- a) We don’t know anything about these two men other than what is written in this verse.
 - b) What a way to be remembered in history!
 - c) One of the parables told in 3 of the Gospels is the story of the “4 types of soil”.
 - i) This is told in Matthew Chapter 13, Mark Chapter 4 and Luke Chapter 8.
 - ii) Jesus describes the Word of God as being like seed. (Ref: Matthew 13:18, et.al.)
 - iii) There are 4 different types of “soil” on which this seed can land.
 - iv) Each soil represents a different type of person.
 - a) One type doesn’t get it at all. (Again, see Matthew 13:18)
 - b) One type gets it and grows deeply in their relationship with God.
 - c) The other two are the interesting ones:
 - (1) One becomes “unfruitful” because it (he/she) cares more about the things of this world. (See Matthew 13:22)
 - (2) The other becomes “unfruitful due to persecution.”
 - d) My point is these two characters Phygelus and Hermogenes fit the type of “soil” who become “unfruitful” due to persecution.
 - (1) Jesus said of that type: “But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.” (Matthew 13:21, NIV).
 - v) A classical debate is whether or not this type of person is “saved”. You can’t tell from the text. Neither can you tell if Phygelus and Hermogenes are saved.

- vi) What we do know is that they're lives are "unfruitful" for Jesus because 1) they were not "rooted" in Jesus and got scared when the persecution came.
 - a) We become "rooted" by keeping up our spiritual exercises, which is prayer, time in the Word and being obedient to what God called you to do.
19. Now, a positive example: Verse 16: ¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.
- a) Paul mentions three names that Timothy was probably familiar with: Onesiphorus in Verse 16 and Phygelus and Hermogenes in Verse 15.
 - i) With names like that how could you forget them? ☺
 - ii) The point is to show Timothy the contrast between Onesiphorus and the other two guys who got scared when the going got rough.
 - b) Remember that Christianity was a death-sentence.
 - i) This guy Onesiphorus is recorded for all history who had the bravery to go to Rome to search out Paul among all the jail cells. Imagine having to explain to all those guards why you were visiting this criminal.
 - c) Some commentators point out that Paul says to show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus. They speculate that Onesiphorus may have died in these travels to see Paul. Verse 19 may imply that he died from this effort. (Again, this is just speculation.)
 - i) The reference to "that day" in Verse 19" is the day of judgment for believers. The day are rewards are determined for our faithfulness.
20. OK, its time to wrap this up.
- a) Timothy was "timid" in his pastoral duties, probably out of fear of persecution.
 - b) Paul, on "death-row" in prison is encouraging Timothy!
 - c) The main point to all of this is to root ourselves in God to have the eternal perspective during the difficult times of our lives.
 - i) God can bring peace to our lives, even during the worse of times.
 - a) The pain is real, and is still there.
 - b) What we have, is the eternal perspective of knowing that death is meaningless to us. "Life" is living for God, no matter what the circumstances, and God, through his grace, will provide us with the sustenance to get us through any and all situations.
 - c) To paraphrase Chuck Missler again, "God is staying up nights thinking of new ways to ask us, "Do you trust me? Do you really trust me?"
 - (1) That is what Paul is encouraging Timothy to do, and reminding Timothy to exercise "spiritually" to strengthen his faith.
 - (2) The same thing is what Paul is asking us to do in this letter.
21. Let's pray: Father we ask forgiveness of the sin of worrying. We focus on our problems and our worries, and we forget that you are in charge. Help us stir-up the Holy Spirit that is within us, so we may walk worthy of you, to do that special work that you called for our lives. For those of us who are not aware what are spiritual gifts are, help us (them) to be aware of them, and to find out what special ministry(s) you want us to fulfill in our lives. For we ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Bonus Material – Below is the class handouts. It is a "summary" version of this lesson.

Notes for 2nd Timothy – Introduction and Chapter 1 (Page 1 of 6)

Discouragement and Encouragement

Introduction: Overview of 2nd Timothy

1. The underlying theme of 1st Timothy was Christian conduct.
 - a. We are God’s representatives to the world, and our conduct should reflect that fact.
2. Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy is personal. The overriding theme is about encouragement.
3. Paul wrote this 2nd letter from a jail cell in Rome. It was written shortly before Paul’s death.
 - a. At this time, it was a crime and death sentence to be a Christian.
 - b. Both 1st and 2nd Timothy take place years after the events of the Book of Acts.
 - c. 2nd Timothy was written just prior to Paul’s execution (based on church tradition).
4. The interesting thing is if you read this letter, it is hard to tell that Paul was suffering!
 - a. The amazing thing to note from this letter is that Paul is encouraging Timothy as opposed to the other way around!
 - b. I’ve nicknamed 2nd Timothy, “Who’s encouraging who?”
5. Many commentators call Paul’s 2nd letter to Timothy: “Paul’s last will and testament.”
 - a. Suppose you knew your life was going to end any day;
 - b. What information would you want to pass on to those you love?
 - c. Reading Acts, Paul went through amazing death defying trials, but somehow, still lived another day to preach the Gospel.
 - i. You get the sense in this letter that Paul knew “this is it”;
 - ii. Yet the focus of this letter is Paul encouraging Timothy, not the other way around.
6. Several times in the letter Paul either states or implies how Timothy is timid or fearful.
 - a. With a death sentence on believers, who wouldn’t be?
 - b. With your mentor in jail about to be killed, who wouldn’t have doubts?
 - c. That is why this letter is so necessary. It is the reminder to us to stick to what God has called us to do, no matter what the consequences.
7. To many, the Gospel is an unpopular and insulting message. It is telling people, “You are not good enough for God”, and “Your good deeds are not good enough to get into heaven”.
 - a. It’s tough enough to preach that message without a death sentence for Christianity.
 - b. That is why encouragement is necessary.
 - c. That is why drawing upon God’s strength to stand up for Him is so necessary.
 - d. That is why Paul wrote a letter to tell us how to have joy during the worse of times. It is about standing up for what is right when nobody else will. It is about sticking to what God called us to do.

2nd Timothy, Chapter 1, Verse 1: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,”

1. Paul is reminding Timothy that Paul is an apostle. Timothy was very aware of this fact.
 - a. Timothy is not an apostle. The word “apostle” refers to one is directly sent by someone with a message. Paul and the “12” are those with direct instructions from Jesus.
 - b. Timothy is now grown up and running a church. Paul is addressing Timothy as his “commanding officer with a message from headquarters”. It is a reminder to Timothy that Paul is still “over him” with direct revelations from God.

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 1 (Page 2 of 6)

Verse 1 (cont.)

2. Paul says he is an apostle, “By the will of God (the Father)”.
 - a. Paul didn’t just say one day, “You know, I think Judaism is wrong about Jesus. I’ll just change my philosophical outlook and follow Jesus. ☺
 - b. Remember Paul was literally called by God to be His servant. He was blinded directly by Jesus on his way to persecute Christian believers. (See Acts, Chapter 9 for the full story.)
 - c. Paul, in his free will could have chosen to remain blind. Instead, he begged forgiveness and spent the rest of his life doing “the will of God”.
3. Next, Paul says he is an apostle, “According to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,”
 - a. You want motivation to go through all of this suffering? There it is in this phrase.
 - b. Jesus brings us life. I am convinced one does not truly experience life on earth until they have asked Jesus to come live inside of them and “take over”.
 - c. Yes there are hardships & suffering. What is all of that in comparison to eternity?

Verse 2: “To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1. Neither the Bible, nor historians report any indication that Paul ever had children of his own.
 - a. The closest thing to his own children that Paul had were those young missionaries Paul mentored. The closest of those was Timothy.
 - b. That is why Paul starts with the express of “my dear son”. It is written even prior to the standard greeting of “grace, mercy and peace”.
 - c. Paul saw his life work as to preach (i.e., proclaim) and teach Christ. Part of that work is to raise up the next generation of preachers and teachers after him.
 - d. A classic quote is, “Every Paul needs a Timothy and every Timothy needs a Paul”.
2. The rest of the verse is identical similar to the introduction in 1st Timothy:
 - a. Therefore, you can see my notes on 1st Timothy Chapter 1 for details. ☺
 - b. Seeing that phrase over and over again in Paul’s letters reminds us that we draw upon God’s grace, mercy and peace in order to live out the Christian life.

Verse 3: I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

1. Notice what Paul does not say to open his letters:
 - a) He does not say, “Woe is me stuck in this stinky disgusting prison hole”.
 - b) He does not say, “Timothy bribe who you can to get me out of here”.
 - c) He does not say, “Timothy forget this Jesus stuff and run for your life”.
2. Paul says I serve God just as my forefathers did and what is more I do it with a clear conscience!
 - a) Paul is proud of his life and what he has done for God.
3. What did Paul mean as he served God, “as his forefather’s did?”
 - a) Remember Paul was trained as raised as a Pharisee, a devout religious Jew.
4. Notice what Paul thinks of his past life after his conversion:
 - a) Paul’s old life: “A Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. (Phil. 3:5b-6, NIV)
 - b) Paul’s new life: “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (Phil. 3:8, NIV)
5. Who is Paul referring to in Verse 3 as his “forefathers?”
 - a) Most suspect, it was not a direct reference to Paul’s parents, but to the Old Testament prophets who have been persecuted prior to Paul.

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 1 (Page 3 of 6)

Verse 3 (cont.)

6. Here is what the Book of Hebrews says about the Old Testament Prophets:
 - a) “Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.” (Hebrews 11:35b-36, NIV)
 - b) The unnamed writer of Hebrews, who I believe was Paul, ends this chapter with this line: “These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” (Hebrews 11:39-40, NIV)
 - c) Paul knew his suffering was for a greater good. He knew, like the Old Testament saints before him, (i.e., “my forefathers”) that suffering was nothing in comparison to our eternal rewards.
7. The last part of Verse 3 says that Paul remembered Timothy in his prayers “night & day”.
 - a) The question is, “Who should be praying for who?”
 - b) Paul is the one about to die. Yet Paul is stating he is praying for Timothy night & day.

Verse 4: Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

1. There is logical speculation that this refers to Paul and Timothy’s last meeting.
 - a. Timothy may have cried realizing he may never see his mentor again.
2. There is nothing a parent wants more in life to watch their children grow up and succeed in life.
 - a. This is Paul, as a guardian-parent-teacher to Timothy, wanting to see him progress and grow as a pastor.

Verse 5: I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

1. From the Book of Acts and this letter, we know a few facts about Timothy’s background.
 - a) His mother & grandmother are from a Jewish culture and background. (Ref. Acts 16:1)
 - b) His father was from a Greek culture background (Ref. Acts 16:1).
 - c) Verse 5 here states that Timothy’s mother and grandmother converted to Christianity.
 - d) Timothy grew up in a household that believed in Jesus, thanks to his mother and grandmother.
2. From Chapter 3: “And how from infancy you (Timothy) have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2nd Timothy 3:15, NIV)
3. It means that Timothy’s mother & his grandmother raised Timothy on Scripture from childhood.
 - a) These two women are great examples on the importance of raising Godly children.

Verse 5 Part 2: Paul is stating the faith that was in Timothy’s mom and grandmother, Paul now says he is persuaded also lives in Timothy.

1. Timothy was saved at an early age and worked with Paul in the mission fields.
 - a. This is about growing in faith in God. This is about Christian maturity.
 - b. That is what Paul hoped is happening to Timothy in Paul’s absence.
That Timothy is growing and maturing in his trust in God.

Verse 6: For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1. “Fan the flame” is a word-picture of stirring up a fire.
 - a. Wood or coals need to be poked/stirred to keep the fire hot.
2. Faith in God is often described as a muscle. It must be strengthened and exercised in order for it to be of any use. That is the same idea being taught here.

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 1 (Page 4 of 6)

Verse 6 (cont.)

3. The “Gift of God” refers to the spiritual gifts given to Timothy by God.
 - a. That gift is intended to be used to help other Christians.
 - b. Like a muscle, there is a “use it or lose it” concept to it.
4. The gift was given, “By the laying on of my hands”.
 - a. I differ from some Pentecostal groups who believe that magical power is transferred by the actual touching of one believer to the other.
 - b. The Biblical concept of the “laying of hands” refers to identification. When the elder(s) lay hands on someone, it means they are identifying with that person. It is a visual word picture of the receiving person being “one” with the person who is laying on the hands.

Verse 7: For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

1. Paul is saying a “spirit of timidity” is not a spiritual gift. Timid means nervousness or fearful.
2. Here is what Jesus said on this topic: “But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:33, NKJV).
 - a. This is not about temporary lapses in faith. Peter denied Jesus three times and he was not condemned to hell.
 - b. This is about a continual, habitual denial of one’s faith in Jesus either by your public proclamation or your lifestyle.
3. The first spiritual gift listed here is that of “power”.
 - a. The Greek word is the same word from which we get the word “dynamite”.
 - b. God’s power to work through us is something we can pray for:
 - i. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (Ephesians 3:16, NIV)
4. Second is the “Spirit of Love”.
 - a. The concept behind “love” as it is used here, is not an emotional feeling. It is the idea of totally giving of oneself for someone or something else.
 - b. A perfect God is perfect in Love. He created man for the purpose of showing us for eternity how much he loves us.
5. Finally, comes self-discipline. It is also translated “sound mind”.
 - a. The key here is the priority. Self-discipline comes last on the list.
 - b. Even self-discipline is a gift from God. It is a gift to be used for His glory.

Verse 8a: So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel,

1. Well, that sounds inviting, doesn’t it? J
2. (Verse 8 to Verse 11 is all one sentence, so I’m breaking it down into sections.)
3. Why do we have to suffer for the Gospel sake?
 - a. “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,” (2nd Timothy Chapter 3, Verse 12, NIV).
4. I used to think this verse meant that everyone who believes in Jesus will have death threats, and physical pain through persecution.
 - a. While that is true for a very large percentage of Christians throughout history (a sobering thought!) it is also true it does not apply to all Christians.
 - b. What it does refer to is the idea that when you take a stand for God, it makes others feel guilty. They look at the immortality of their own life and the fact they don’t want to change. The last thing immoral people want is to be around someone telling them or showing-by-example that what they are doing is wrong in God’s eyes.

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 1 (Page 5 of 6)

Verse 8a (cont.)

5. The second reason is demonic. Satan's time on earth is limited, and is determined by a fixed (specific) number of people becoming Christians. This is the idea being taught in Romans 11:25. Only God alone knows that final number. Because Satan knows his time is limited, he is doing everything in his power to slow down and stop the spread of Christianity.
 - a. Persecuting Christians to a point of timidity means those Christians are not being a witness for Jesus and is helping Satan's cause!
6. In summary, all the happiness the world can possibly offer you is nothing compared to the joy of eternity. Having to choose one or the other, it is much better to deal with the hardships of life now than to spend eternity in hell.
 - a. "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."
(Hebrews: 11:24-26, NIV)

Verse 8b-9: "But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace."

1. (Remember that Verse 8-11 is all one sentence. I'm taking it phrase by phrase.)
2. Notice the first phrase of Verse 9: "who has saved us and called us to a holy life".
 - a. Being a Christian does not mean to turn your life over to Jesus, and then to go on living the life as you did before.
 - b. The Christian life is designed for us to grow in our faith by learning to trust God more and more. This is where the "spiritual habits" discussed earlier come in.
 - c. We grow as Christians by trusting more and more on God's grace as opposed to our own discipline and abilities.
 - d. That is what is meant by the last phrase of Verse 9 that says, "not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace".

Verse 10: "But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

1. We are still in the middle of a long sentence that ends with Verse 11.
 - a. Someone needs to talk to Paul about his long, run-on sentences. ☺
2. If you think we are the only ones having trouble understanding Paul, look what Peter says, "just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ...His letters contain some things that are hard to understand," (2nd Peter 3:15-3:16, NIV) (No kidding Peter!)
3. The redemptive plan of God is a little "fuzzy" to understand if one just reads the Old Testament.
 - a. Which leads us back to Verse 10: "Now been revealed through...Christ Jesus".
 - b. The Old Testament makes more sense in the light of the New Testament.
4. Which leads us, back to Verse 10: "Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."
 - a. How had Jesus "destroyed death"? Death still exists.
 - b. What Jesus destroyed was the *power* of death. It is now meaningless to a Christian. By accepting Jesus payment for our sins, death has no meaning to believers.
 - c. "When this happens, then at last this Scripture will come true—"Death is swallowed up in victory." O death, where then your victory? Where then your sting? For sin—the sting that causes death—will all be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge." (1st Corinthians 15:54-56, The Living Bible)

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 1 (Page 6 of 6)

Verse 11: “And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.”

1. A “herald” is a proclaimer. Think of a medieval man yelling out “Here ye! Here ye!”
2. Paul is listing the three things he was appointed by God.
 - a. The first is to proclaim the word of God, to be an evangelist (i.e. preacher/herald).
 - b. The second is that God gave him special revelations to us.
 - c. The third is a teacher. This is where he was given the gift to expound and explain God’s word for us to grow as mature as believers.

Verse 12: “That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”

1. I’ve already discussed suffering enough, so I’m not going to make you suffer anymore on a discussion of suffering. ☺
2. This whole chapter and letter was designed to encourage Timothy during the difficult times and to remind us of the importance to stand up for Jesus, even if that makes us unpopular.
3. Paul states, “I know whom I have believed”. He is reassuring himself and Timothy and us that Christianity is real and to keep the eternal perspective.
4. What does Paul mean by “he (Jesus) is able to guard what I have entrusted to him”?
 - a. In a short sentence, Paul meant his life’s work!
 - b. We have rewards in heaven based on our faithfulness of what God calls us to do.
 - c. I believe Paul is mentioning this as an incentive to Timothy during this trial.

Verse 13-14: “What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”

1. Paul is reminding Timothy to do what Paul has taught him.
2. This verse is a support for bible college, seminary and the fact that outside education and good teachers are also important in life.
3. The “Good deposit” is the spiritual gifts given to us by God through the Holy Spirit.
(See John 14:15-17)

Verse 15: “You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.”

1. We don’t know anything about these two men other than what is written in this verse.
2. What a way to be remembered in history! They are infamous for deserting Paul!
3. Some people turn away from Christ due to persecution.
 - a. Jesus said of that type: “But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.” (Matthew 13:21, NIV).

Verses 16-18: “May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.”

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