

## 2 Timothy 1

### Read verses 1 – 2

1. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy from a Roman prison. The opening of this letter is much like many of the other letters that Paul wrote. He immediately declares that he is an apostle called by God. It was not Paul's will that he was an apostle, but the will of God. Of all the men that have been called by God, Paul was the least likely one to be sharing the Gospel message to the Gentiles. He was so deeply rooted in Judaism that he was persecuting followers of Jesus when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.
2. Paul says, "*in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus*". This is different than how he begins his other letters. John 3:16 is the promise that Paul is writing about. "For God so loved the world" that He sent His Son Jesus to bring us everlasting life. Paul was so focused on everlasting life with Christ that he wrote, "*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*" (Philippians 1:21) Paul also wrote that we are to "*prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*" (2 Corinthians 5:8)

"The Bible doesn't tell us the details, but it seems that after Paul was released from the Roman imprisonment mentioned at the end of the book of Acts, he enjoyed a few more years of liberty until he was re-arrested and imprisoned in Rome again. One can go to Rome today and see the place where they say Paul was imprisoned. It is really just a cold dungeon, a cave in the ground, with bare walls and a little hole in the ceiling where food was dropped down. There were no windows; it was just a cold, little cell that would have been especially uncomfortable in winter."  
(Guzik)

3. Paul was always focused on Heaven. To the Corinthian church, Paul wrote, "*16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

4. In verse 2, Paul prays a blessing on Timothy. As far as Christians are concerned, there are no greater blessings than we could hope for than “Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord”.

Read verses 3 – 5

5. The common response of Christians when a friend goes through trials and troubles is to say, “I’ll pray for you.” Paul goes beyond that, he sends Timothy the prayer in these verses. In verse 3, Paul tells Timothy, “*I thank God for you*”. There is nothing more uplifting than to know that someone cares enough about you that they are willing to put your name before the all-powerful God.
6. How often does verse 3 say that he prays for Timothy? “*night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.*” Too often today, we say that we will pray but we get distracted or forget. You should always take prayer seriously, especially if that someone is in need.

Holman’s commentary says, “Paul, at the end of life’s journey, offered thanks for this young man of faith. Sitting alone in the chill of a Roman prison, perhaps Paul reflected upon the shared struggles and joys of ministry together. As events replayed in his mind, there stirred within him a thankfulness for Timothy’s loyalty and commitment to Christ.”

7. In verse 4, Paul says that he remembers Timothy’s tears. Paul doesn’t say why Timothy had tears but I can guess that it was when they parted ways. You get the sense of how close Timothy and Paul were from reading these verses. Remember that in the first century when you traveled together, you walked for hours or even days at a time. You had no earbuds or music to distract you. You would have to make conversation with the people that you are traveling with. You would get to know your fellow travelers.
8. In verse 5, Paul says that he is reminded of Timothy’s sincere or genuine faith. I would imagine that on their journeys, Paul would know for sure that Timothy had a genuine faith. How did Timothy know what a genuine faith was? Paul says that his genuine faith was modeled to Timothy by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Timothy was brought up in a godly household.

Holman's Commentary says that "Timothy's father was Greek. His mother and grandmother, however, were Jewish (Acts 16:1 *"Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek."*) Apparently, they had trained Timothy in reading and memorizing Old Testament texts because Paul later remarked how Timothy had from childhood known the holy Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15)."

Read verses 6 – 8

9. In verse 6, Paul says that Timothy is to *"fan into flame the gift of God"* (NIV) or *"kindle afresh the gift of God"* (NASB). Remember Timothy's spiritual gifts (in 1 Timothy 4:14) were most likely teaching and preaching. Paul tells Timothy to kindle or fan his spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 4:11 tells us that spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit. *"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."* We are given these gifts to glorify God and build up the Church.
10. The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts, but we are to develop them or grow them and to use them. According to Paul we are to fan the flames of the gift. I can see myself starting a brush pile on fire. If I fan the embers, I can get the flames to grow bigger and bigger. Paul is saying fan the flames of your spiritual gifts so they can grow or rekindle them so that they impact everyone in the church.
11. In verse 7, Paul tells Timothy and us that we are not to use our gifts timidly. We are to use the gifts boldly. This verse makes me think of the children's song, "This little light of mine." Hide it under a bushel, No. Won't let Satan blow it out, No! I'm gonna let it shine." This is how we are to use our spiritual gifts. They are not to be hidden. Don't let Satan convince you not to use your gift. Let them shine.

Read verses 8 – 12

12. In verse 8, Paul says what he said in Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."* We have the easy job when it comes to salvation. We may not think so, but our job is to tell others about the saving grace of God. God has the power to help us to speak out. It is

God's message and if they reject it then they are rejecting God. Many people who share the Gospel message take it too personally and get offended. Remember that one introduces the Gospel message, another leads them to Christ but God ultimately gives them salvation. It can take numerous introductions to the Gospel message for them to accept it, and some people only need one.

13. Paul tells Timothy not to be ashamed of sharing the Gospel but also not to be ashamed of Paul. Paul was imprisoned for the Gospel. He could have gone back to Judaism and the Jews that were pursuing him (and who were responsible for his imprisonment) would have left him alone. Paul warned young Timothy that there was a good chance that prison could be in his future.
14. The NIV translates the last part of verse 8 to say, "*join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.*" Remember God doesn't take you out of your trials, He will be beside you through them. This applies when you are sharing the Gospel. He will give you the right words to say and the strength to say them.
15. In verse 9, Paul points out that we are Christians not because of who we are but what Christ has done. We are Christians because we had heard the Gospel message and responded to it. Think back on when you first heard the call from Jesus to step down that aisle and claim His salvation. I mean truly heard it. When you couldn't resist the call any longer. When you could do nothing but act on it. That is the call that Paul is writing about.
16. He says that this is God's plan of salvation. Calvinist might read this verse and say, "See it is predestination." What Paul is saying here is that this was God's plan of salvation from the beginning of time. God didn't have to alter the plan when Adam and Eve failed in the Garden. He didn't have to shift gears when His only begotten Son was crucified. This has been His plan from the beginning of time, Grace through faith in His Son.
17. Verse 10 says this plan was not made known until Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect obedient life, was crucified to take on our sin and give us everlasting

life. God told His people of His plan but they refused to accept that His Son was that Messiah, the Christ.

18. Paul is saying what Jesus said in John 3:16-17. For God so loved the World that He sent His one and only son to “destroy death and has brought life and immortality”. This is the Gospel message. Our only contribution is our faith. We have to have faith that Jesus is that Messiah, our Savior.
19. In verse 11, Paul says this is the Gospel message that he was sent to tell the Gentiles. This is the Gospel message we should have heard when we accepted Jesus as our Savior. This is the message that we should be passing on to everyone that we know and meet. Paul points out that this is the message that has brought him physical suffering to deliver.
20. In verse 12, Paul says that there is no shame in this message. There can be no shame in sharing the Gospel if you have the same faith that he does. He says, “*Because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.*” Sounds like good lyrics for a hymn. If you have full faith in Jesus as the Messiah and you believe that He is the Son of God then at the end of your life you will have complete confidence that Jesus will say “Well done my good and faithful servant. Welcome home.”

“That Day was precious to Paul because he had committed everything to Jesus. To the degree we commit our life and all we are and have to Jesus, to that same degree that Day will be precious to us.” (Guzik)

Read verses 13 – 14

21. In verse 13, Paul tells Timothy and us to hold fast to his teachings which are the truth. It is important to stay faithful to the correct Gospel. In his letters, Paul has always pointed out that the Gospel that Paul teaches is the correct Gospel. It was given to him by Jesus. Galatians 1:11-12 says, “*11 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*” This is what qualifies Paul to be called an apostle of Christ.

22. Paul tells Timothy and us to be faithful to teaching the correct Gospel “*with faith and love in Christ Jesus.*” When educators teach, they teach solely for the purpose of knowledge. When pastors or church teachers teach, they should teach out of faith and love.
23. They aren’t teaching for financial gain or for educational purposes. They are teaching because it is the Great Commission by Jesus. Matthew 28: “*18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*”
24. Why do you tell others about Jesus? Because you have faith in Him and you love Him and others. If you had a cure for cancer, wouldn’t you share it. You have the cure for death and sin, why wouldn’t you share it.
25. In verse 14, Paul says, “Guard the teachings that he has given us and Timothy.” We are to guard them to make sure that what we are teaching is accurate and the true Gospel.
26. Today as it was in Paul’s day, there are false teachers all around us that aren’t teaching out of love and faith. They are teaching for personal gain. Look at the number of cults in the world today. Look at the number of preachers teaching what you want to hear. In a few chapters we will read an extension of the verse. 2 Timothy 4:3 says, “*For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*”
27. We have read in Hebrews 13:5 which echoes God’s promise from Deuteronomy 31:6 and Joshua 1:5, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you*”. Today how do we have God with us wherever we go? Through the Holy Spirit. Paul says we are to guard what he has taught us with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help us discern what we are being taught.

We are also supposed to spend time in God's Word so that we can check what we are being taught. As Pastor Brian says, "Don't trust what I say, check what the Bible says."

Read verses 15 – 18

28. My Bible closes this chapter with a section entitled "Examples of Disloyalty and Loyalty". Paul tells Timothy in verse 15 that, "*You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.*" By the end of his life most people had turned away from Paul. (Guzik) Think back on what Jesus said to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3. The church at Ephesus had forgotten their first love which is most likely the love for God and each other.
29. It would be great to have your name listed by Paul so that people could see it for all time. However, as a Christian this is not the way you would want to be remembered. This is the only place that Phygelus and Hermogenes are given in the entire Bible and they are remembered for deserting Paul.
30. On the opposite side, verse 16 gives the name of someone who seemed to always be there for Paul. Paul says that "*he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.*" Verse 17 says that when he was in Rome, he even "*searched hard for me until he found me.*" Guzik says, "Onesiphorus was a different sort of man than Phygelus and Hermogenes; he was faithful to Paul in difficult circumstances. Paul therefore prayed for mercy on Onesiphorus and his whole household."
31. Onesiphorus was also very helpful to Paul when he pastored at Ephesus. This is the way a Christian should want to be remembered as someone that lifts up the pastor and is willing to help him in any way he can.