

Living for Jesus in Unprecedented Times

2 Timothy 1:7

Living in Unprecedented Times Series

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

Intro: 2 Timothy 1:7 is a verse that has been quoted a lot around the country the last few days!

A)With the outbreak of the Coronavirus we are living in unprecedented times.

B)For those who might be watching this yrs from now – March 13, 2020 – **President has issued a state of emergency.**

C)Gatherings **of more than** 250 people have been banned pretty much across the country

1)Schools, colleges, Universities – shut down – or online learning only –

D)Disneyland, Disney world closed – the NBA season – abruptly ended, **March Madness canceled.**

1)In my life time – I have never seen anything like this

E)And now churches the size of ours – directed to host our services – online only

1)Preaching today to a virtually empty room – Online audience – Hey Calvary Vista family – Praying for you

Crazy times: Go to stores – out of toilet paper and water! – It is ok to drink tap water

A)But what should be our response as Christ followers living in these unprecedented times?

B)Consider today – Use for my text this verse that – we all know how to quote –

1)but do we really know what it means?

C)Unpack and break down for us – 2 Timothy 1:7 – what it means for us – living this time

Context: Written by Paul the apostle

A)To a young pastor Timothy - who was feeling a bit **timid about ministry – because of his age**

B)Perhaps feeling inadequate or unqualified to minister in that way.

C)So Paul is writing to encourage him!

But the verse has great context for us living in these unprecedented times

A)Outline today simple

#1 **What God has not given us – then talk about what God has given us**

B)And what that means to us- Living today!

C)What God has not given us!

1)**God has not given us a spirit of fear.**

Fear- deilía- Day lee – ah

A)This is the **only time** this word is used in the NT - speaks of a spirit of cowardice.

B)means a lack of mental or moral strength.

1) lacking courage, self-confidence, boldness or determination.

C)The Problem with fear is it is an emotion – **Emotions can be hard to control**

D)I can be perfectly calm and then hear something or see something

1)**something rises in me that causes me to feel afraid.**

E)We need to Combat fear with faith – by Believing the truth – **Who Jesus is and who we in Him**

Now although deilia is not used elsewhere in Scripture, Jesus does use the related verb deliao

A)In His parting words of comfort to His disciples whose hearts were troubled and agitated...

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

B)Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you.

1)I am giving you something that is other worldly – can't by this on Amazon or Costco – apple store **Let not your hearts be troubled,** (**present imperative = stop letting this happen.**

A)You can control this emotion – fear doesn't have to control you.

B) Verb troubled is tarasso = cause one inward commotion, take away calmness of mind, to disturb to disquiet, make restless)

C) Jesus is saying - "Stop being fearful" or "Stop lacking courage".)

- You can control this emotion

D) How do we do that?

You will keep *him* in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.
Isaiah 26:3

So I have to take my mind off of whatever it is that is causing the fear – Coronavirus

A) Focus my mind – Have my mind STAYED – focused on the Lord.

B) Focus on who Jesus is – Lord – He is Sovereign – He is King – He is in control –

1) He loves me – He is for me –

C) And He has equipped me to handle this:

1) How has HE EQUIPPED ME?

D) Text – what NOT GIVEN – what given

Not GIVEN? The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear but OF HAS GIVEN power and love and a sound mind

A) Break this down - Power is dunamis = power in action,"

B) It occurs 118 times in the NT. Many of those times it is the power depicted in a miracle

C) Greek scholar Jerry Vine describes power as an ability for meeting difficulties, for the fulfilment of the service committed to us. Service committed?

D) William MacDonald - "Unlimited strength is at our disposal.

1) Greek Scholar Kenneth Wuest - power in the sense of that which overcomes resistance or effects a change"

A few weeks ago – about 10pm at night power outage

A) When that happens – annoying – long period of time it can cause significant problems

B) Listen as long as the church of Jesus Christ is present on this planet **there should never ever be a Spiritual power outage.**

C) Jesus has equipped us with the power to effect change in our culture.

Recall Jesus told his disciples – to wait in Jerusalem – power of the Holy Spirit ... upon

A) You will receive power to be my witnesses

B) Living In that Power of the Holy Spirit – they brought major change to their culture.

1) the early church living in turbulent times of persecution literally turned the world upside down

C) We as the church have the power to affect change in this world

How do we do that?

A) Prayer – power in prayer – Miles - pray this Virus out of San Diego – 24 hours of prayer 30-40 days

B) Stayed tuned website- how you can take a 15 minute prayer slot.

C) Prayer- we need to be praying church – not panicking!

By Living confidently –

A) Because We know that God is Sovereign – Last week Jesus in the storm – With disciples

1) Sent them

2) With them

3) Rest.

4) Power

B) This virus thing – caught the world by surprise

C) But it didn't take God by surprise – Not saying He sent this!

1) But He did allow it

D) Could it be – purpose is to wake us up – remind the world – forgotten him –

1) Just how much we need him

E) So Jesus sent his disciples into the storm
With them/ Rest / Power over the storm

1) This storm? Same is true – do you believe that?

LIVE LIKE – MIND STAYED ON HIM

Not cowering in fear – not freaking out

A) John 14:27 – You have my peace –

B) we can be dispensers of peace to a world that is freaking out right now.

1) Pez candy dispensers - \$240 now – crazy

C) Cool little sweat tart candy – pop out

D) We can be PEACE DISPENSERS -

This is our MOMENT to Shine

A) IS THERE UNCERTAINTY YES –

B) but what are we certain about – May not know what the future holds but we know the one who holds the future

C) We know the Bible says Matthew 24:7 – that in the last days – there will be increased famines and pestilences -diseases viruses in various places

D) This is a little reminder – the days are short!

People all around you are freaking out – stay calm

A) Why? - My hope is not in the economy – President – not in CDC or medical doctors –

B) Not in finding a vaccine for the virus – yes praying for all of that

C) But my hope and confidence are in Jesus – I want to walk in that reality

D) And if this gets as bad as some people think it might – I am not afraid to die!

1) For me -TO LIVE IS CHRIST – TO DIE IS GAIN

E) Doesn't mean – I am being Caviler about it – but I am confident

1) MY MOM 80 – Ok – go to heaven be with Jesus and your dad

B) Not afraid to die – Not saying to be caviler and disrespectful -but we can be hopeful

Pez Dispensers / Peace Dispensers

A) Invite friends and neighbors to watch online..you

B) So we have been given POWER – to live victoriously courageously in this storm

C) We also have been given love – Love of God has been poured into us by the Holy Spirit

D) Love – agape describes the unconditional, unselfish, costly love of God- led him to give his son to pay the price for our sins

E) Agape has as its chief ingredient, self-sacrifice for the benefit of the one loved

Why does a Secret service agent fearlessly jump in front of the president when bullets start flying?

A) Love for country and a sense of duty

B) Want to Overcome fear? – Realize – out of love for Jesus you have a duty to represent our king

C) You have a CALLING to be salt and light in this world!

1) Run toward the hurting the wounded the weary the FEARFUL

In past situations – Hurricanes hits Mississippi – Or New Orleans – Haiti -run toward the devastation –

A) Hopping on planes – running to Clean up/ aid

B) Fire - run to help – U-Haul full of clothes

C) In this situation – Love motivated us to take different action – Not hold services

1) Take the recommendation and practice social distancing -

D) No gatherings over 250 people

E) Not sure how this virus spreads exactly – there is no vaccine at this time

1) Even though it is true very few people will die But every death is a loved one gone

F) Please – let's not make light of that

So We are loving our neighbors by protecting our neighbors – help not spread this thing further

A) Trying to help not overload our medical system

B) Will this work – not SURE – but it is a good effort

C) So no services on the weekends – next 3 weeks at least

1) But the church will remain open – the rest of the week

D) Pastors and staff here still ministering to people

1) Still praying, counseling – still feeding the poor

E) Love prompts us to not isolate completely – yes be wise – but to be available

Walk in love in our OPINIONS

A) As we have varying opinions about this virus –

B) Some people blown this out of proportion – this is the end of the world

C) Other extreme – The media and politicians are blowing this way out of proportion – no big deal

1) The flu is worse? – We have a vaccine for the flu

D) Personally I am in the middle of those two opinions

E) But Love says I am going to prefer others – I am going to respect Others –

1) not going to push my convictions or opinions on anybody else

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:1-5

Put on the mind of Christ. Consider others above myself – their interest not my own

But here is what I would say to the person who thinks – **blowing this way out of proportion** –

A) **What if you are wrong?** What if this is as serious as some experts believe

B) Potential to be way worse than the common cold

Or flu

C) This thing spreads in your church and precious older saints get infected –

1) not because they came to church – but because their son or daughter did

D) **They go home and give it to grandma – dies**
Is it really worth the risk?

Proverbs 27:12 “A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.”

E) Let's be safe rather than sorry

LOVE SERVES –

A) Asking ourselves during times like this is what does it look like for us to serve our community

B) Know an elderly person? At risk person – show love –

1) going to the store can I pick something up for you.

C) Need toilet paper I have extra

This is our time to shine church – be intentional – ways to show love to people around us

A) We can be this Calming influence in the midst of the Chaos

B) So we have been given – Power – Love also a Sound mind

C) **Sound Mind** = Sophronismos – So/Fran/E/mos
A mind that is secure, self-controlled, disciplined, of sound judgment, exercise of prudence,

D) Falconer defines it as “**control of oneself in face of panic**”

Why should we be of a sound mind?

A) We know that all of this is ultimately in the Lord's hands – this did not take Jesus by surprise

B) Always in light of the big picture.

1) See the big picture

C) Mentioned earlier – Matthew 24 – Sign of times leading to the Lord's coming

D) **Why hasn't He come yet? – Lord this world is getting crazier by the day -**

1)what are you waiting for?

E)Apostle Peter answers that question for us -

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Repent = turn from sin – turn from living for self and live for Jesus – faith in Jesus

A)The Lord has been waiting patiently for people to turn from sin and turn to Him

B)See there is a Virus that is a greater problem than the Coronavirus – Sin Virus

C)The whole world is infected – The consequences are ETERNAL – separated from God

D)But there is a Cure – BLOOD – JESUS MISSION

1)Took the Virus for you – so you could be cured, Set free

Today – Open your heart

Sound mind: See the bigger picture – praying for Revival.

A)911 – churches packed for 1-2 weeks then it was back to business as usual

B)If this brings about a Revival – good thing!

C)See people Turning to the Lord – Pray

So applicable - For us – Not given us fear

lacking courage, self-confidence, boldness

He has given us

- **Power** - ability for meeting difficulties, for the fulfilment of the service committed to us.
- **Love** - unconditional, unselfish, costly love, that sacrifices for **the benefit of the one loved**
- **Sound mind** - “control of oneself in face of panic

WALK IN THAT REALITY –

National day of prayer - YOU YOUR FAMILY

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES

GIVE US YOUR EMAIL

KEEP ON EYE FB, IG, & WEBSITE

GIVING ONLINE

LOVE YOU – MISS YOU – PRAYING FOR YOU