

2 Timothy 1:1-18 Stay True

As we come now to 2 Timothy Paul's situation has changed dramatically

A)When Paul wrote 1st Timothy he was on the road - hoping to visit Young Pastor Timothy in Ephesus.

B)But now Paul finds himself in Prison in Rome - for the 2nd time.

C) the Book of Acts closes with Paul under house arrest in Rome.

1)Although he was linked to a guard at all times, he lived in his own quarters and was able to have visitors.

E)Today Paul might have had one of those Ankle bracelet monitors to monitor his whereabouts.

After his release from house arrest, Paul embarked on another missionary journey, probably into Spain.

A)Upon his return to Rome, he was arrested a second time.

B)This time, however, Paul was put in a cold, dark, and damp dungeon. Why?

C)The emperor Caesar Nero is on a Rampage against the Christians

1)He has been blaming everything that is wrong in Rome on the Followers of Jesus

D)So when Paul returned to Rome - Caesar had him imprisoned - and Paul is awaiting his execution

Here is what is amazing to me!

A)Paul is all alone He is in a cold dark damp prison cell - only Luke is with him

B)You would think that Timothy would be writing to encourage Paul.

1)But instead it is Paul writing to encourage Timothy.

C)Timothy is a young Pastor - Pastoring in Ephesus during turbulent times -

1)Becoming harder and harder to be a Christ follower.

D)Here in Chapter 1 Paul gives Timothy 3 words of encouragement and exhortation.

1)To help him stay true and focused!

V.6 Stir up the Gift that he has been given

V.8 Don't be ashamed of the truth

V.13 Hold Fast to the truth

E)3 great encouragements for us today - who are living in times where our world is becoming more Hostile to Jesus / his followers

V.1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

The fact that the letter begins somewhat formerly with Paul taking the time to identify himself as an Apostle -

A)Reminds us that this was written for more than Timothy's consumption. -

B)This would be a word of encouragement and instruction for the early Church

1)and the Church as a whole - to be passed down thru the centuries.

2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Grace, Mercy and Peace - 3 wonderful gifts from God!

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, Probably a reference to the last time they were together in person - Paul passed the baton of the church in Ephesus to Timothy and Timothy cried.

So Paul says 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

A)When Paul thought of Timothy his son in the faith - his heart was filled with Joy - Genuine faith

B)The word Genuine here is Sincere. Without Hypocrisy.

1)Paul was blessed by the Genuiness of Timothy's faith

C)One of the things I love about this Church is that so many of you have a Genuine faith -

1)no playing Church - not fair weather believers - not pretending

Notice where it started in Timothy: He had a good example of Genuine faith { Mom and Grandmother

A)Reminds me of the four scholars who were arguing over Bible translations.

B)Some scholars were arguing about Bible translations which one was the best

C)When one of them shined a whole new light on the debate- "I personally prefer my mother's translation."

When the other scholars chuckled, he responded, "Yes she translated it. She translated each page of the Bible into life.

It is the most convincing translation I ever read."

D)Some people are really good at discussing all the different nuances of the Bible

1)But they don't live it out in their lives -

E)Knowledge is worthless if it doesn't penetrate the way that we live

1)The greatest thing we can do for our kids is to Live what we believe

1st Exhortation:V.6 Therefore:

A)Because God is faithful - because he has done this work in you - I want to encourage you Timothy 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

B)Stir up = Kindle afresh -It means to keep in full flame.. Add fresh fuel.

C)The Charge is in the present tense which conveys the sense of progressive, continuous action.

1)Keep kindling the gift afresh or make it your aim to continually keep it at full flame.

D)Now we need to be careful not to conclude that Timothy's fire had gone out.

1) Such a view is inconsistent with Paul's statement in verse 5. Genuine Faith.

The Present tense of the appeal also lets us know that the appeal is preventative rather than corrective.

A)Timothy is to keep the flame blazing at white heat as he has been doing.

B)It is not an implied rebuke for neglect but a fatherly appeal to bravely continue in the face of serious difficulty.

1)So it is not a wakeup call to Timothy but rather an encouragement to use his muscles – keep fit and sharp

C)Anyone who has ever built a camp fire knows that the fire has a tendency to go out - it not stirred

1)Fan the flame and keep adding fuel to the fire

D)Paul is saying in essence "Timothy you can't be passive and expect the effects of your spiritual gift to just happen.

E)It's your responsibility to keep rekindling your spiritual gift."

1)Keep fanning to flame the 'coal' which is already glowing.

Wiersbe writes that "Timothy did not need any new spiritual ingredients in his life; all he had to do was "stir up" what he already had."

We are to stir up OURSELVES the gift within us by continuing to use those gifts

A)Stay active - like - continuing to use your muscles. - Don't use them they atrophy

B)Stir up ourselves - and we are to Stir up each other

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-24

C)So Paul encourages Timothy to stir up the gift within him - given to him by God - then he adds -

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

Paul saw the timidity that was in Timothy;

A)Timothy it seems was Timid by nature

B)He had a weak constitution. He had frequent ailments and a weak stomach 1 Timothy 5:23

C)He was naturally shy—what today we would call an introvert.

1) On one occasion Paul wrote to the Corinthians,

“If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. No one, then, should refuse to accept him” (1 Corinthians 16:10, 11a).

D)It seems that Timothy was a guy who was easily intimidated.

Paul wanted Timothy to know that this fear wasn't from the God he served; he needed to know that God has not given us a spirit of fear.

A)but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

B)Power of the Holy Spirit living within us - REZ POWER - The Same power that brought Jesus out the Grave - available to us

C)AND LOVE - Romans 5:5 **The love of God has been poured into us by the Holy Spirit**

1)Poured into us in order to be poured out of us

D)AND A SOUND MIND: **God is not the author of confusion - Chaos - but peace**

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

What is true of Timothy is true of us - God was wanting Timothy and he wants us to lean into what he has given us in Christ

A)Not FEAR - Power / Love/ sound mind.

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

B)So first of all Paul encourages and exhorts Timothy to Stir up the gift that is in him.

2nd Paul exhorts Timothy to not be ashamed - V.8 THEREFORE

A)Since you have been given a Spirit of power and love and Sound mind

8 Therefore do not be ashamed **of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner**, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according **to our works**, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been

revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

B)Why might Timothy have been Ashamed? - Everyone wants to fit in right?

C)When the majority of people around you are against what you stand for -

1)it CAN become harder to stand up -

AND Even harder for a timid guy like Timothy

D)He would probably have been more prone to keep his faith to himself

1)Paul is encouraging him to do the opposite

To Remember that the Gospel is the power of God to save - to bring that which was dead to life.

A)Not according to our Works - but through his grace

B)Sometimes we can feel like we need to defend the gospel/ - and there is a place for that when People ask questions

C)But trying to proof the truth of the gospel is not where we need to start

D)CHS - The Gospel doesn't need to be defended - the gospel is like a lion - **a lion doesn't need to be defended - just let it out of its cage...**

E)CHS said: The gospel is the same - just share it let it out and let it do its thing - Power to save and transform

It is interesting that Paul exhorts Timothy to not be ashamed of the **of the testimony of JESUS -BUT ALSO OF PAUL HIS PRISONER.**

A)Why would Timothy be tempted to be ashamed of Paul - he loved Paul - Paul was his mentor - spiritual father

B)Well there was an opinion that was circling around about Paul -

1)that often gets shared today in some Christian circles

C)The idea - if things are going wrong in your life - you must be doing something wrong

D)The false word being spread about Paul was this

1)If he was really an Apostle of Jesus - God's messenger - he wouldn't be in prison

Paul is contradicting that false rumor: He says I have been appointed by Jesus to preach the life changing message of the gospel and 12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

A)Paul is encouraging Timothy to be ready to suffer with him if need be

B)That last phrase in V.12 is interesting - I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

C)What had Paul committed to Jesus? His life, his ministry, his work, his connections.

D)Paul's confidence was in the ability of Jesus to keep it

I have learned to keep things in an open hand instead of a tight grip.

A)It is my way of saying to Jesus - this is yours not mine - this church

B)My possessions - my relationships - this all belongs to you -

1)and I am trusting that you will do with it what you want

C)HE IS ABLE - AMEN

So we have seen Paul encourage Timothy to Stir up the gift that is in Him

A)To not be ashamed of the testimony of Jesus - or his servants - to be bold in proclaiming the truth of the gospel

B)Not worried about the consequences

C)Finally V.13 He exhorts Timothy to Hold Fast 13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Hold fast suggests someone or something would try to take the truth from Timothy.

A)Unless he held on in faithfulness, it would be snatched from him.

B)The truth of the message of Jesus Christ is always under attack -

1)by those who want to twist it and pollute it

C)It is why Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent (kjv study) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

Be diligent to study - to hold fast to the word as to not be led astray.

A)US treasury the way they teach -people to detect counterfeit money is to count the real money all day

B)So acquainted with the real stuff - they are able to detect something that is phony right away.

C)The same is true concerning the Gospel -

D)the more we study the truth and immerse ourselves in the truth -AND Hold fast to the truth

1)The minute that something comes up that is even subtly off - there is that alarm that goes off in your heart

IF you go into a bank today- \$100 dollar bills - hold it up to the Light

A)That is what we are to do-

B)when we hear something that seems really sound cool - new and different - hold it up to the light of the truth

C)Is that really true? - Been times heard something - sounded so good -

1)Is that really what that passage says - is that really the intent

D)Is that really true? - Hold it up to the light - Is that accurate

So important because - often times a complete drift from the truth starts with a subtle shift - 1 degree -

A)Like a plane that is off 1 degree - navigation - flying to Hawaii will eventually end up 100's of miles off in the ocean

B)Keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in you - learn to be sensitive to that voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart

1)Smoke Alarm - conviction alarm - false teaching alarm

So Hold Fast Timothy - Why? Not everyone does - examples V.15

15 **This you know**, that **all those** in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes

A)Many today who are going astray from the knowledge of the truth - Sad

B)One of my favorite Bible teachers - a guy I loved listening to -

1)Left his church and following a different gospel-

C)Paul gives some examples of a few guys who have turned -

1)but ends by drawing Timothy to think about a guy who stayed true

16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; 17 but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out **very zealously and found me**. 18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

A)Onesiphorus was a different sort of man than Phygellus and Hermogenes;

B)he was faithful to Paul in difficult circumstances.

1)Paul therefore prayed for mercy on Onesiphorus and his whole household.

C)We don't know much about Onesiphorus, other than that he lived near Timothy,

1)because at the end of the letter Paul asked Timothy to greet Onesiphorus' household.

Paul described many things that made Onesiphorus special.

A)He often refreshed me: He was an intentional blessing to Paul, and worked to refresh the apostle who did so much for other people.

B)He Was not ashamed of Paul's chains:

1)Onesiphorus showed himself to be a true friend of Paul when the apostle was imprisoned.

C)Paul said V.17 He sought me out very zealously and found me:

1)There were many prisons in Rome, so it was probably difficult for Onesiphorus to find Paul, but he did.-Zealously loyal

D)Willing to go the extra mile

Onesiphorus had a reputation for being faithful and loyal in his service to Jesus and the church. V.18 You know very well how he served

A)Onesiphorus lived up to the meaning of his name, which means "help-bringer."

B)We need more men and women like Onesiphorus in the church today

C)Zealously faithful to the Lord and his people.

Paul is encouraging Young pastor Timothy to be that kind of Guy!

A)May we be as well.

B)Let's encourage one another to love and good works

Stirring each other up in our gifts and calling!

A)Knowing that God has not given us a spirit of Fear... mind

B)Stir one another up to not be ashamed of Jesus - but to be Bold in Jesus

C)And when the world around us is constantly challenging and distorting the truth

D)Let's be men and women - who unashamedly HOLD FAST to the truth! - Amen!!!!