



2 Timothy 1

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

2 Timothy 1.

Topics.

- The promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.
- The gift of God, in Timothy through the laying on of Paul's hands.
- God has not given us a spirit of fear.
- God called us, because of his own purpose and grace.
- Christ is able to guard what has been entrusted to me.
- The Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

INTRODUCTION: this letter was written by Paul (A.D. 64–68) as he was being held in a Roman jail. Despite all the hardship Paul was facing—and the abandonment by most of his friends for fear of persecution—he faithfully directed his spiritual son Timothy to the hope that is in Christ as he exhorted Timothy to boldness, endurance, and faithfulness in the face of false teaching. Paul showed his customary concern for sound doctrine. He told Timothy all Scripture is inspired by God and therefore is sufficient in all things pertaining to the faith, eternal life and the lifestyle of Christians (3:16-17) and therefore older believers should be eager to pass on their knowledge of Scripture to those who are younger in the faith (2:2).

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

2 TIMOTHY 1:1

The Promise of Life that is in Christ Jesus.

- **2 Timothy 1:1:** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus.

The words, "The promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus" clearly shows that eternal life in Christ and not intellectual head knowledge, no-one can be saved without trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and being devoted to him in love. It is by love that a brother or sister is said to be in Christ, or born again. Christ showed how much he loved us in that he laid down his life while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8) we show our love toward him by our faith and devotion and it is in this love that we are said to be in Christ and thereby saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said to religious Jews who believed in God, read the Old Testament Scriptures daily and held fast to keeping every religious rite, law and tradition:

- You do not have God's word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (John 5:38-40).

These words of Jesus clearly show that the purpose of Scripture is to bring us to Christ. David in prayer and in faith echoing Christ wrote:

- Blessed are those who put their trust in the LORD and make the Lord their trust (v3-4).

Then speaking of himself, but echoing Christ says:

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (v7).

And concludes his prayer with:

- You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! (v17) (Psalm 40).

These verses clearly show that the security David had for his salvation to eternal life was not in doctrine, but in his daily and faithful relationship to God the Father and the coming promised seed of Abraham, Israel's Messiah the Christ. Thousands of years later the author of Hebrews in his letter cites the words of David, "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book'" (Heb. 10:7) to prove to the unbelieving Jews the following two things:

1. Salvation to eternal life is not in intellectual knowledge of the Scripture, but in a devoted living and faithful relationship with the Father and with His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The purpose of all Scripture is to deliver a sinner from the kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of light by bringing them into this fellowship with Christ and with his Father.

When we all stand before the Lord's judgment seat Christ will not sit us down to do a written doctrinal exam, but he will examine our lives to see if our religious actions stemmed from a devoted and loving heart toward him and his Father or from self, ego, and pride and will measure us against the Royal Law, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (i.e., did we treat others with love, kindness, compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness especially our brothers and sisters in Christ).

NOTE: this does not mean that studying the Scriptures is of no value, quite the contrary, since the more we understand the Bible the stronger our faith and our hope grows and the more we learn of the nature, character will and the heart of the one we love.

To give a simple example: a young man may meet a girl that he is attracted to, so he takes her out on a few dates and finds she has a pleasant personality and caring nature, now, he knows this girl, no-one can say anything against her that he would believe because he knows her nature and her character, but if he never takes her for another date, it won't be long before that relationship will dissipate and other things will take its place. So it is with the Scriptures they are our date with Christ and through them we gain eternal and heavenly insights into treasures of God that touch our hearts in a manner that nothing in this world can.

2 TIMOTHY 1:2-5

Timothy's Grandmother Lois and Mother Eunice and his Sincere Faith.

- **2 Timothy 1:2-5:** To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Lois: was a Christian woman and Grandmother of Timothy commended by Paul for her faith (2 Tim. 1:5) (this is the only mention of her in the Bible).

Eunice: was a Jewess and Timothy's mother (Acts 16:1) (2 Tim. 1:5) her name means victorious, the means of success, well done and good (these are the only verses that mention her in the Bible).

Timothy: means, dear to God.

I remember your tears, I long to see you (v4), these endearing words of Paul, clearly show that he had a great love for Timothy he was like a protective father to him. This no-doubt was because Paul had shared much with Timothy and Timothy was also a man of integrity, a good

conscience and had a sincere faith as well as being educated in the Scriptures from childhood, it is certain they had some exciting times of fellowship together as they shared their knowledge and experiences with each other.

Paul serves God with a clear conscience: Paul's statement, "I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience" (v3) shows us the following two things:

1. Paul did not view himself as a sole disciple working for the Lord, but mentally viewed himself as a disciple working for God alongside all the faithful who had gone before him such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and all other faithful Old Testament prophets and kings of Israel.
2. Paul unlike many religious leaders of his day who lived a life of hypocrisy and pretence had a clear conscience before God and before man there was nothing hidden or secret in his life.

NOTE: this does not mean that Paul was without sin if that were possible for any of us to attain then Christ died for no reason. Rather it means that Paul was not hiding any behaviour that would dishonour God, the Lord or bring a bad report to the Christian faith, and that he is not serving the Lord from selfish ambition, ego or pride and the desire for power, control and wealth as many religious leaders were doing at that time.

2 TIMOTHY 1:6

The Gift of God, in Timothy through the Laying on of Paul's Hands.

- **2 Timothy 1:6:** 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.

It was the practice of the apostles to lay their hands on a person before they sent them out to minister in the Lord's name, obviously Timothy was gifted with the knowledge of the Scriptures, but Paul's words, "Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands" cannot be referring to Timothy's knowledge since no-one can receive the knowledge of the Scriptures simply by another person laying hands on them, added to this Timothy had been well versed in the Scriptures from childhood (2 Tim 3:15). The gift Paul is encouraging Timothy to fan into flame that is in him through the laying on of his hands most likely refers to the authority and approval he was given by Paul and the approval he was given by the council of elders who laid their hands on him (1 Tim. 4:14) to proclaim the Gospel to the churches. Paul refers to this as a gift because in Paul's eyes it was an honour and privilege to be called of God to serve the Lord. The words, "Fan into flame" (v6) means take with passion the authority he has been given and share the Gospel with zeal to the churches and to the world.

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2 TIMOTHY 1:7-8

God has Not Given us a Spirit of Fear.

- **2 Timothy 1:7-8:** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and a sound mind (self-control in the ESV). ⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.

A sound mind: denotes a person of wisdom and foresight and of discretion and carefulness who has sound judgment and a clear understanding that shows itself in right conduct and behaviour. It refers to a mind that is well balanced and under influences that causes it to see things in their true light, their true importance and just proportions and clearly understand the majestic and eternal value of the Gospel and therefore does not easily give way to the enemies of Christ or decline in faith for fear of them. The words, "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of

power and a sound mind" (v7) is sandwiched between Paul telling Timothy to fan the flame of his ministry (v6), and of not being ashamed of the testimony of the Lord or of Paul being a prisoner and suffering for the Gospel (v8). The testimony of Christ that Timothy was not to be ashamed of was that Jesus suffered and died as a common criminal by the hands of his enemies, and the testimony of Paul that he was not to be ashamed of was that Paul was in prison because of the Gospel these are the things Paul is telling Timothy not to be ashamed of. No doubt there were those (especially the Jews) who mocked and made fun of Timothy saying, "The Lord he preaches died as a common criminal and his great mentor is in prison." This is most likely why Paul told Timothy, "God gave us a sound mind" in contrast to believing a foolish story or fable as the enemies of Christ were probably intimidating Timothy.

This no-doubt is why Paul was encouraging Timothy to share in the suffering (i.e., the suffering of intimidation, the fear of appearing intellectually foolish and of suffering persecution) because the Gospel of the Lord is not a fable, but has the power to dramatically change a person's life for the better and the power to lead to eternal life and everlasting glory and those who do believe it do have a sound mind in contrast to those who believe in idols and other gods and religions invented by man. The power of God in this context is love. This is the reason Paul says, God called us not because we are worthy in ourselves, but because of His own purpose and His grace which He lavishes upon those in Christ. The Gospel is a Gospel of love and there is nothing that will do more to dispel fear of others and empower a person to courage than love. The love of a sweetheart, a wife and children make the most-timid bold when those they love are threatened or attacked. Likewise, it is the love of Christ and love of a dying world to see them saved to eternal life that dispels the fear of persecution and suffering in those who are devoted to the Lord in love and desire to see the lost saved.

It is because of this love they overcome their own fears even unto death and are not easily intimidated. Added to this it is God's love in Christ that sustains them in their deepest sorrows. Basically, fear comes from self-preservation it stems from caring more for our own reputation than the Gospel and being more concerned about our own life than standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ. The most common fear for the Christian manifests itself in being ashamed or embarrassed to talk about the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ for fear of appearing intellectually foolish or childish the fear is driven by the craving to preserve our own reputation and popularity before those outside the Kingdom of God. But the stunning thing is that God by His Spirit gives joy and mental strength (power) to those who do overcome this fear and stand up for the Lord or share their faith and the Good News of the Gospel.

NOTE: this does not mean that a brother or sister in Christ has to be proclaiming the Gospel every day all day or impose and force it upon everyone they met, not all are called to be evangelist, nor are all able to share the Good News of Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with everyone they meet, but it does mean that we should not be hiding our faith before others and that we do share it whenever the opportunity arises.

2 TIMOTHY 1:9-10

God called us, because of His Own Purpose and Grace.

- **2 Timothy 1:9-10:** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began (before the world began in KJV), ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Paul is not saying that God before the ages began chose who would be saved to eternal life and who would be condemned to eternal death since that would totally violate God's gift of free-will and the law of justice since

no-one could be held accountable for rejecting the Lord if they had already been programmed by their creator to do so. Here Paul is teaching that God before the world began purposed that those who would be saved to eternal life would be saved in Christ and in Christ live a godly life. It is the plan of salvation and the type of lifestyle those who are saved would be called to live that God planned and purposed before the ages began and not who would be saved and who wouldn't.

The wonder, glory majesty of God's eternal plan of salvation: here is the glory of Christian salvation, no one is saved because of any worth in themselves, it is not because of our good works or lack of them that anyone is saved, but for God's own purpose and by His Grace. This is because God purposed and promised that salvation would be in the seed of Abraham, He confirmed this promise with Isaac and Jacob and made the same promise to David. Now if this promise depended on us attaining to the high standard of the law to attain to holiness God's plan and promise would fail since not one of us can attain to the perfect standard the law demands. This is because we all live in a corrupted fallen body full of sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that limit us from satisfying the demands of the law, thus the reason God understanding the limitations of human nature in His eternal wisdom and before the ages began purposed that salvation to eternal life would be by grace and not works and in this way He could guarantee the promise. For further information concerning predestination, see the title:

- Predestination (ON WEBSITE MENU).

In the Old Testament immortality and eternal life was believed, but it was not clear how it would come about, the Gospel has made the way to immortality and eternal life and how it will come about clear.

2 TIMOTHY 1:11-12

Paul was appointed a Preacher, Apostle and Teacher.

- **2 Timothy 1:11-12:** for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹²which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle and teacher by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. When Paul encountered the Lord on the Damascus road, Jesus told a godly man named Ananias to tell Paul that he was a chosen instrument of the Lord's to carry his name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel (Acts 9:3-16). This is why Paul suffered as he did for proclaiming the Gospel. Paul's words, "I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed" (v11) means that Paul was not ashamed to proclaim the Gospel to whoever he came in contact with regardless of whether they were Casers of Rome, religious leaders of an entire nation or soldiers who had the power to imprison or torture him, when people stood in front of Paul no-one was going to leave his presence without hearing the Gospel. This is what Paul means when he says, "He is not ashamed of the Gospel" no one intimidated him because "He knew the one he believed in" (v12). This clearly shows that it is not teaching intellectual knowledge, rules, regulations and laws that will motivate a person to change their live or serve the Lord, but bringing them closer to God's love in Christ. The way to encourage and motivate brothers and sisters in Christ is to make them fully aware of the great love the Lord has for them and aware of the boundless grace God grants those who are faithfully devoted in love to His Son.

Christ is able to guard what has been entrusted to me: Paul's words, I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me (v12) does not mean that everyone who responds to Paul's message will never fall away. If this was the case Paul would not have had to spend so much of his time warning brothers and sisters of

the dangers of being deceived, of temptations and of false prophets. The thing Paul is confident God will guard until the Lord returns is the Gospel which proclaims whoever believes in Christ will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory. It is this glorious promise and this majestic message that Paul is confident will never fail. Paul in his letter to the Romans stated the same thing by quoting the following words of Isaiah:

- As it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; And whoever believes in him *will not be put to shame*" (Rom 9:33) (Rom 10:11).

Isaiah speaking as the voice of God thousands of years before Christ appeared prophesied this with the following prophetic words:

- Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes *will not be in haste (put to shame)*" (Isaiah 28:16).

Paul knew the one Isaiah spoke of and because of this he had full confidence that God would keep and guard the promise of the Gospel until the Lord returns.

2 TIMOTHY 1:13-14

Follow the Sound Words in the Faith and Love that are in Christ Jesus.

- **2 Timothy 1:13-14:** Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

The "Sound words" (v13) Paul is encouraging Timothy to follow refer to right Christian behaviour. In the previous letter Paul spent a lot of time teaching Timothy how the church should treat elders, older men, widows and single woman etc. He taught the kinds of attitudes brother and sisters should have toward each other and how they should treat those outside the Kingdom of God. It is these things Paul has in mind when he told Timothy to follow the sound words that he had taught him. The words, "In the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (v13) means that Timothy is to follow what Paul has taught him in faith and in love and cloth all behaviour and all teaching with the love that is in the Lord Jesus Christ contrasted to living a life of legalistically adhering to religious laws, rites, customs and traditions and trusting in intellectual head knowledge devoid of faith, love and grace as the path to God and the way to salvation as many religious leaders and their followers were doing at the time of Paul and Timothy.

The Holy Spirit who dwells within us: (v14) these words of Paul's clearly show that the Christian faith reaches far beyond intellectual knowledge and has a supernatural element. The words, "The Holy Spirit who dwells within" refer to the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God dwelling within the mind and heart of a brother and sister in Christ. This Spirit is manifest in the heart in the desire to do right before God and in a passion to live to honour the Lord Jesus Christ. Those separated from God have no zeal or passion in their heart or their mind to live a life that would honour the Lord Jesus Christ nor would they even consider making any sacrifices in their life for his sake. In contrast to this is the person who is separated from God but, humbles themselves in repentance and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their saviour and in doing so is, born again (i.e., converted to a new life in Christ) their inward passions and desires are radically changed by God's love and grace in Christ so that their hearts desire is to live a life that would honour the Lord Jesus Christ even in troubled times. This change of heart is the work of the Holy Spirit because it is a change that motivates those in Christ to do what is right before God and avoid what is wrong thus the reason this Spirit is called the Holy Spirit. This new passion and zeal in the heart is the Holy Spirit

of God. God does not change a person from the outside by forcing them to obey laws and rules rather God changes a person on the inside by His love and grace in Christ so that those who are devoted to His Son in love desire to do right from the inside and therefore their heart is in harmony with God and His desires in contrast to those who have laws and rules imposed on them and are forced to obey them against their will.

NOTE: this does not mean that Christians will live a life of perfection, they still live in a fallen corrupted body full of sinful dysfunctions and aberration that hinder us all from being the person we would truly love to be before the Lord, but it does mean that the inner man the spirit and hearts-desire is to do right before God. Worldwide people come to Christ from different cultures, different levels of education (especially religious), certain indoctrinations, past hurts and past baggage, but as they grow and mature in the love of the Lord and the grace of God they will be changed from the inside out by the Holy Spirit dwelling within and by the influence of the God's Spirit and the Spirit of Christ as they with their own minds in a humble and seeking spirit read the Scriptures (especially the words of Christ and of Paul) as they go about their daily lives.

The good deposit entrusted to Timothy: (v14) most likely refers to the ordination and the authority given to him to proclaim the Gospel to the churches when Paul and the council of elders laid their hands on him (1 Tim. 4:14). The word, "Guard the good deposit entrusted to you" means protect the position he has been given (i.e., don't do anything foolish that would bring a bad report against this authority that Paul and the elders have given him by the laying on of hands).

2 TIMOTHY 1:15

Phygelus and Hermogenes.

- **2 Timothy 1:15:** You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

These words of Paul are incredible, "All in Asia turned away from him", clearly this is the reason Paul is spending so much time in this letter in warning Timothy and by extension every brother and sister in Christ to guard their faith and protect the treasures and pearls that God has entrusted to them (this is the only verse that cites Phygelus and Hermogenes).

2 TIMOTHY 1:16-18

Paul Prays for the Household of Onesiphorus.

- **2 Timothy 1:16-18:** May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

Onesiphorus: means profit-bearer, he was a Christian of Ephesus, the only verses that cite Onesiphorus are (2 Tim. 1:16-17) (2 Tim. 4:19). When a person goes out of their way to show us affection and care we naturally have a special bond with them. There were not many that were prepared to identify with Paul when he was in prison being persecuted and suffering, but when they did Paul greatly appreciated their care and loved them with a kindred love.

Onesiphorus was such a person he was not ashamed of the Gospel or to identify with Paul when he was in chains in prison and suffering for Christ thus the reason for Paul's passionate prayer that God would grant mercy not only to Onesiphorus, but to all his family.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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