



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

WORDS FROM A FATHER TO A SON! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-2

COLORADO

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Could you say you have kept the faith regardless of the cost? That's a life of no regrets. That's a life of purpose. That's a journey of serving and pleasing God. He has a plan, a purpose and a course for your life. Fight the good fight for it is a noble one worth contending for. Finish the course, though hard and painful. Finish the race God has planned for you. Finish well. That's what this study is about. It's about Paul, his words and his life so that you too may be able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" when God calls you home!

I. WORDS FROM A FATHER TO A SON! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-2

2 Timothy 1:1-4, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved son; grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Paul labored for more than 30 year proclaiming the good news of salvation found in Jesus Christ alone and bore the brand marks of a servant of Christ. (Galatians 6:17) As he sat in a cold Roman dungeon, waiting for his execution, Paul's thoughts and prayers were directed to his son in the faith, Timothy and the church Timothy pastored in Ephesus. Paul left Timothy there to carry on the work of ministry, but Timothy was heavy on Paul's heart. Paul had one last letter to write his disciple reminding him of crucial matters in ministry. There is urgency to Paul's message that while others quit, you must remain faithful to fulfill the ministry that God has given you. You, Timothy must be faithful in spite of hardship, to guard the treasure of the Gospel you have been entrusted with and faithfully live, preach and proclaim it to a lost and dying world.

A. PAUL'S POSITION, AUTHORITY, PURPOSE – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1

2 Timothy 1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,"

Immediately we know who the author of this great letter is; Paul. In the Greek, Paul means "little". Paul's Hebrew name was Saul but when he began his ministry to the Gentiles, his name from that point forward was only Paul. Could it be that Paul realized in light of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he humbly understood his weakness and God's greatness in saving him. Paul was a man transformed by God with a mission and a message to the world.

1. PAUL; AN APOSTLE OF CHRIST JESUS...HIS POSITION

What does Paul remind Timothy as he opens this letter? First Paul reminds Timothy that he was an Apostle of Christ Jesus. Now an apostle was a sent one, one who was commissioned with a message

and carried the full authority of the one sending, an emissary, ambassador, envoy. Paul knew he had been commissioned by Christ, sent by Christ. He stood in the place of Christ and spoke the words of Christ to the world. He was an ambassador of Jesus Christ, commissioned by God.

2. PAUL; BY THE WILL OF GOD...HIS AUTHORITY

Paul was an apostle because that was God's will. From Acts 9 it becomes clear that Jesus Christ Himself called Paul. He was divinely commissioned. When Paul writes here in verse one, "by the will of God", that refers to the deep desire of God. Clearly Paul had a tremendous understanding of his divine purpose and call, so he comes to Timothy with words that are not suggestions, but rather exhorts with authority as a spokesman from God.

3. PAUL; ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE OF LIFE...HIS PURPOSE

Then lastly Paul refers to the Gospel as the "promise of life" referring to the promise that he lived for and was called to proclaim. His purpose and passion was to share the message of promise for eternal life in Christ alone. This was the truth Paul proclaimed and the promise he was about to receive himself as well, for his death was eminent.

Was Paul reminding Timothy of something he didn't already know? Of course not, but Paul can never forget the noble work to which he has been called. And, in spite of the love he has for Timothy his son in the faith, it would not preclude the authority behind the message he would deliver to him. You see, Paul was not offering brotherly advice to Timothy, but rather Divine counsel. We would do well to remember that this letter is written to us with that same authority and Divine inspiration.

B. TIMOTHY, MY BELOVED SON – 2 TIMOTHY 1:2

2 Timothy 1:2, "to Timothy, my beloved son; grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Paul is concerned not just for the work of ministry, but for Timothy as well. Timothy was dearly loved by Paul as a son. And Paul writes to exhort and encourage Timothy to carry on the work of God's kingdom. You see, Paul left Timothy at the church in Ephesus as their pastor to lead, instruct and shepherd the flock of God. Nearly five years had passed and Paul was concerned for Timothy in this difficult time with some challenging issues in the church. Paul wants to encourage Timothy to persevere and remain faithful to carry on the work of ministry and so he pens this last letter from his cold dark cell. How does Paul encourage Timothy?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

WORDS FROM A FATHER TO A SON! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-2

1. TIMOTHY; MY BELOVED SON – 2 TIMOTHY 1:2

There is an intimacy expressed in Paul's words. Though Paul was under urgent orders, sent by Jesus Christ, to give Timothy this second letter, yet clearly he had such a concern and devotion to Timothy. Concern because Paul was passing the baton to Timothy to carry out the work of ministry to a new generation and he knew what lay ahead for him. Also, Paul saw that Timothy was being pressed with hardship, persecution, difficulties in the church and Timothy was young. He didn't want to see Timothy have any cause to shrink back from fulfilling the ministry to which he was called. So, Paul expresses the love and affection he has for Timothy at the beginning.

2. TIMOTHY; GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE – 2 TIMOTHY 1:2

Paul begins his letter by encouraging Timothy with the very best that God has to give. He begins with "grace".

"grace" Greek **%*charis***" unmerited, undeserved favor, favor done without expectation, unearned favor, receiving what we don't deserve.

Paul reminds Timothy of God's grace given for *every* need. It is a saving, keeping and empowering grace. It is God's undeserved favor that covers our sins with undeserved forgiveness. It affects our sinfulness and not only forgives but enables us to live the calling by transforming us from the inside out. Paul was reminding Timothy of the grace from God extended to him for every need, in every hardship, with every conflict that will enable him to fight the good fight of faith.

Paul then reminds Timothy of the "mercy" granted to him.

"mercy" Greek **%*eleos***" compassion, special regard to misery which is the consequence of sin, passing over deserved judgment, not receiving what we do deserve.

God has a special regard for us as a result of the misery which is the consequence of sin in general as we live this life. And we do not receive what we deserve. Mercy is God's loving, benevolent pity for us as believers. It is freely given and actively demonstrated by God. And it is mercy and compassion we deeply need to finish this difficult course of life.

Paul encourages Timothy with the "peace" which comes from God.

"peace" Greek **%*eirene***" harmony, the opposite of dissension and strife, the tranquil state of the soul.

Peace that comes from God is the tranquil state of the soul assured by salvation. It is the result of grace and mercy in our lives. It is being set free from the condemnation of sin and reconciled to God. It is a blessing which God Himself is the Author alone. As believers we can have a peace that dominates our lives in spite of chaos, unsettling circumstance, questions without answers, and hardships with no end in sight. It is peace that we need to keep the faith in the turbulent life filled with uncertainties, fears, doubts and worries. And since grace, mercy and peace come "from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord"; we can be assured that these are very best that God has to give. They will indeed be what we need to fight the good fight, finish the course and keep the faith as Paul did. Equating God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord as the source of such blessings gives evidence of being equal as Deity and one. So Paul writes to Timothy beginning with the very best that God has to give him; saving, keeping and empowering grace, mercy and peace to sustain and enable him to fulfill God's calling upon his life. Paul knows what is needed because this is what has kept him through 30 years of ministry and will enable him to finish well.

II. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus spoke these words just prior to ascending into heaven. Keep in mind these verses are often called the Great Commission. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." This charge was given by the Lord Jesus Christ not just to Paul and Timothy, but all God's people. It is our responsibility to a lost world; calling for decisions for Christ and making disciples of Christ. We are to go with Christ's power, Christ's program and Christ's presence. Paul was commissioned for the work of God. Timothy was commissioned to the work of God. As believers in Jesus Christ, we too have been commissioned to the work of God by God based on Matthew 28. It is a noble calling and we have been sent with a message. Is this calling one you have taken seriously? Paul had a sense of mission and he never forgot his noble calling from the Lord. What about you?

How do you view the Word of God? Do you see it as God's Divine counsel for your life or more like good suggestions? What authority does Scripture have over your life?

God has given the best that He is and has by extending grace, mercy and peace to believers. If that's God's best, how will they enable us to remain faithful to the end like Paul?