



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

RICH RELATIONSHIPS...RICH FAITH! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-5

COLORADO

JANUARY 28, 2014

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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 thirty years of ministry and will enable Timothy to finish well!

I. RICH RELATIONSHIPS...RICH FAITH! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-5

2 Timothy 1:1-5, "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. I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is you as well."

Paul, caught up with a mission of serving Jesus Christ, was so unconcerned about his own welfare and circumstances. Remember, he was chained in a dark and cold Roman dungeon, awaiting eminent execution. Yet Paul would not be distracted from his purpose.

Oblivious to his own pain and concerned only with passing the baton of faith to another generation, Paul's thoughts are directed to Timothy, his son in the faith who pastors the struggling church in Ephesus. Concerned that Timothy would remain strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and remain faithful to God as he preaches the word, Paul writes this letter to encourage and exhort him in his faith.

A. THANKFULNESS – 2 TIMOTHY 1:3

2 Timothy 1:3, "I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,"

Even though Paul was in prison for being a Christian, his thoughts are on a sovereign God and His will. Certainly Paul's situation was unfair, yet Paul's attitude was not bitter but thankful and he trusted God with his life. As he sits in that cell, chained with other criminals, Paul is so mindful of Timothy so he pens this letter.

1. PAUL SERVES WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

First Paul wanted to assure Timothy that he was not in prison because of anything he had done wrong. And so he says, *"I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience,"*

"clear" Greek **%katharos** clean, pure, no pollution, sincere, upright.

"conscience" Greek **%suneidesis** the faculty of self-judgment, what condemns or doesn't condemn you as you live, one's own witness.

All accounts were right with God and his devotion was to Christ was undivided. Paul served God with a clear conscience.

2. PAUL SERVES THE WAY HIS FOREFATHERS DID

Paul did not view his faith in Jesus Christ as a break with his Jewish fathers but rather in continuity with their faith. And he was mindful of all who had gone before him faithfully serving God. Unwavering faithfulness...some who had died in the same way Paul was about to.

3. PAUL CONSTANTLY REMEMBERED TIMOTHY

Paul says that he constantly, without interruption, consistently, always, night and day remembers Timothy in his prayers. Can you imagine how that must have encouraged Timothy to know that even though Paul was in a dungeon for his faith near the end of his life, he prayed for Timothy. By using the word "constantly", Paul reinforces his devotion by strongly emphasizing his continual prayers for Timothy. The word for prayers refers to a petition and pleading to God. So Paul says, "Timothy, I am fervently pleading to God for you all the time. And remember, James wrote in 5:16, *"The fervent prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."*

B. PAUL LONGED TO SEE TIMOTHY – 2 TIMOTHY 1:4

2 Timothy 1:4, "longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy."

Paul longed to see Timothy again. This longing reveals an intense desire, a yearning, a deep affection. After years of ministry together; travelling together, suffering together, in prison together, preaching the word together, hardships of every kind they endured together for the sake of the gospel, this bonded Paul and Timothy together in a rich and rare relationship. They were more than close and the dangers, trials and persecutions they endured for the sake of the gospel knit their hearts together. Paul deeply loved Timothy and there was a bond that existed between the two of them that's rare and treasured. In fact, Paul probably thinks back to the last time he saw Timothy and they wept at their departure. Acts 20:36-38 gives us some idea of their parting. But even the thought of his son in the faith, it brought joy to his heart.

Yet, Paul writes, *"longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy."* And the implication is that Paul is sad. It's not that he doesn't have a thankful heart, but he misses Timothy deeply and yearns to see him maybe one more time before he dies. Paul had a rich and rare relationship with Timothy. Maybe you have been fortunate to have those kinds of relationships. I have and though I miss working with my brothers in Christ deeply, the bond we share will never be broken. I miss doing ministry with them. We went

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through so much together as we labored in ministry; with joys, sorrows, battles, losing all on this earth for the sake of the gospel. And I thank God for them, I pray for them and think of them all the time. Those relationships are indeed rich and rare.

C. PAUL REMEMBERS TIMOTHY'S RICH FAITH – 2 TIMOTHY 1:5

2 Timothy 1:5, "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is you as well."

As Paul thinks about Timothy there in that dungeon, he remembers his faith. What kind of faith does Paul affirm Timothy with?

1. TIMOTHY'S SINCERE FAITH – 2 TIMOTHY 1:5

Paul describes Timothy's faith as "sincere".

"sincere" Greek *anupokritos* means without hypocrisy, no phoniness, unfeigned, genuine, inexperienced in the art of acting.

Paul confirms that Timothy's faith was true, genuine and real. It was a genuine saving faith. Timothy didn't say he believed in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior but then lived differently. His faith was a sincere faith that wasn't fake but rather real and genuine. This would stand in contrast to others mentioned at the end of the first chapter of 2 Timothy.

2. TIMOTHY'S RICH HERITAGE – 2 TIMOTHY 1:5

Not only was Timothy's faith real, but it was also rich. Timothy stands as an example of how godly homes can have a powerful influence.

In Acts 14, Paul travels to the area of Galatia on his first missionary journey. It was at this time, it appears, Paul came to know Timothy's mom and grandmother when they were transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were Jewish women who became believers during the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. When Paul returned to Galatia on his second missionary journey recorded in Acts 16, he finds young Timothy who has come to know Christ as well. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:15, *"from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* Timothy's mom and grandmother taught Timothy God's Word and it led to Timothy's salvation. Timothy had not only a sincere faith, but a rich and godly heritage.

3. TIMOTHY'S FAITH AFFIRMED – 2 TIMOTHY 1:5

Finally, Paul affirms Timothy's faith by assuring him that he has no doubts, he is convinced, persuaded that Timothy has received a rich, real and genuine faith that has been passed down from his mom and

grandmother. Paul had a tremendous impact on Timothy's life as his spiritual father as well and he wants to encourage Timothy in his rich heritage and sincere faith.

II. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

As you consider these three short verses of greeting from the Apostle Paul to his son in the faith Timothy, ask yourself the following questions about your faith.

- ❖ Are you serving God with a clear conscience? Is your devotion to Christ undivided? Are all accounts right before God? If not, why not? What do you need to do to make accounts right with God?
- ❖ Think about your prayer life in light of Paul's example.
- ❖ Are you thankful to God regardless of your circumstances or hardships? Is your situation any worse than Paul's?
- ❖ How has your family influenced your faith? Maybe you are as fortunate as Timothy to have a godly heritage. If so, have you taken the time to thank them?
- ❖ Is your faith "sincere" and without hypocrisy? Is your faith true and genuine or phony and fake? Are you good at acting or inexperienced?
- ❖ Who are you investing your life into? Paul had years of ministry with Timothy and they had a rich and rare relationship. Not only did Paul invest in Timothy's life, but Barnabas, Luke, Silas and the list goes on. Are you investing in the next generation in the lives of those who will pass the baton of faith in Jesus Christ on to others?
- ❖ Paul was caught up with the mission of serving Jesus Christ and sharing Him with the world. Is that our passion? Do we live to serve Him in whatever station of life we find ourselves?