



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:10

COLORADO

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Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 82135-1088/303-345-8830 / filefamily@centurytel.net

Timothy needed to be reminded of God's saving purpose for him and that God had been at work before the world began. It wasn't because Timothy earned a place in God's kingdom purpose; no it was all undeserved, unearned kindness from above. And it is the availability and sufficiency of God's grace that can strengthen and enable weak and wavering believers to a resolved, courageous and unapologetic witness for Christ. The ability to suffer and live godly is rooted in God's gracious provision of His sovereign grace granted in Jesus Christ. And it is to this end that Paul reminds Timothy and every believer, of the truth of God's calling and purpose.

I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL!—2 TIMOTHY 1:10

2 Timothy 1:8-10, "Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering 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 granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, (10) but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

When death comes to pay a personal visit, life boils down to one very critical, important relationship; the one we have with God the Father. Everything else is temporary. The only relationship that determines our eternal destiny is the one we have or don't have with God through our Savior, Christ Jesus. No one earns salvation by works; the good things they do or the bad things they don't do. Salvation was given to us from all eternity, according to God's purpose and grace. Through Jesus Christ, the gospel has now been revealed clearly to the world...it is the power of God for salvation!

A. "REVEALED BY THE APPEARING OF OUR SAVIOR"—2 TIMOTHY 1:10A-

So from 2 Timothy 1:9, we learned that God's grace in salvation was conceived before the beginning of time and now in 2 Timothy 1:10 Paul shows that the gospel has been "revealed", made known, made visible at the "appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus."

"appearing" Greek **%epiphaneia** to appear, the unveiling.

The epiphany most often is used of Christ's 2nd Coming, but here it refers to our Lord's first coming. God's grace in salvation became visible when Jesus Christ came as "our Savior", at His Incarnation. Jesus Christ's appearance here on earth made visible God's intent to save sinners through Christ's atoning, historic death on the cross and resurrection. God's purpose in eternity was to provide salvation (1:9) and Christ's appearance in time reveals God's plan for that salvation (1:10). This is the gospel. And what are the effects of the gospel?

B. "WHO ABOLISHED DEATH: – 2 TIMOTHY 1:10B-

In the Greek, the word for death implies both physical death and spiritual death. Physical death refers to the separation of the soul from the body and spiritual death refers to exclusion from the presence and favor of God. Death does not refer to extinction in any way. Through the atoning death of Christ on the cross and His resurrection, death was abolished.

"abolished" Greek **%katargeo** to destroy, render inoperative, ineffective.

Physical death was not eliminated, no, for this is a consequence of our sin, but it has been rendered ineffective and powerless by Christ's death and resurrection. Through salvation in Jesus Christ, we awake from death to eternal life in heaven. In John 11:25-26 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Physical death still exists but it is no longer a threat or enemy for believers in Jesus. Romans 6:28 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In Ephesians 2:1, Paul writes, "And you were dead in your transgressions and sins" referring to our spiritual death, separation from God. But through the saving work of Christ and the forgiveness of sins, spiritual death has been destroyed and Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ." In that historical, atoning death of Christ on the cross, Jesus abolished death. Death does not have the last word for believers. Death does not have victory for Christians. But it doesn't stop there.

C. "BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT"—2 TIMOTHY 1:10C-

More than just abolishing death at His first coming, Jesus Christ made clear that life and immortality came as a result of the gospel and a relationship with Him. Life was not hopeless. We were not lost in eternity without a Savior, without salvation. No, it is provided through Jesus Christ alone. And it is Christ Who made this reality clear through His first coming as Savior. "Life", spiritual and physical, were brought about by Christ's death and resurrection. "Immortality" means incapable of decay or corruption.

"to light" Greek **%photizo** to make known, to make apparent, to inform fully, to disclose, to reveal, bring to understanding.

BIBLE STUDIES

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

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

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THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:10

Only after Jesus came as Savior, did God make completely and fully known the truth about immortality and life. In Christ, the soul of a believer and the body also will become immortal on resurrection morning. Listen to Paul's familiar words from 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, *"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law, but thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Here in Christ God reveals the complete truth about eternal life and immortality. Jesus not only abolished death, but brought eternal life and immortality.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ following His atoning death on the cross made immortality a certainty and demonstrated the truth and reality of life beyond death. While this was only partially understood to the Old Testament believers, it has become clear to us through the gospel. This is our great hope as Christians. (a certainty, not a wish- Hebrews 11:1) And this is our abundant joy found only in Jesus Christ our Savior!

D. "THROUGH THE GOSPEL" – 2 TIMOTHY 1:10D- *"but now has been revealed by the appearing of our savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."*

The benefits of Christ's atoning work, operative in the world is brought through the "gospel". In 1 Timothy 1:11, Paul calls this *"the glorious gospel!"*

"gospel" Greek **"euaggelion"** bringing good news, or good tidings.

The gospel is the good news about which Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, *"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."*

Romans 1:16 tells us that the gospel is all powerful and it can save everyone who believes! It is the good news of God's plan of salvation for all mankind found in Scripture!

Jesus Christ is the One Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light when He appeared on this earth to die on the

cross as our substitution in payment for our sins. We can live forever. We can have eternal life. We can know our eternal destiny is heaven and not hell. No wonder Paul could live his last days in light of the glorious gospel while facing certain death. He knew that for him, the sting of death had been abolished. Eternal separation from God had been done away with and he would spend eternity in heaven.

You too can know. Do you know where you will spend eternity? What will happen when you die? Heaven? Hell? Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Luke writes with urgency in Acts 4:12, *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."* It is not that we *"can"* be saved; it is that we *"must"* be saved for we are hopelessly and eternally lost without Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-9 says, *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come he might show the surprising riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."* What great words, *"But God..."* We were eternally lost and separated from God. There was nothing that we could do to restore our relationship with God for we could never meet His standard of holiness. We were hopelessly doomed for eternity in hell. *"But God, being rich in mercy..."* provided our atonement, our payment for our sins through Christ's finished work on the cross *"abolishing death and bringing life and immortality to light through the gospel."* (2 Timothy 1:10)

What must you do to be saved? That question was asked and answered in Acts 16:30-31, *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved, you and your household."* Paul wrote to the Romans, and each of us, *"that if you confess (agree with God that you have sinned and are in need of a Savior) with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe (trust wholly and only in Christ for your salvation) in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved, for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."* (Romans 10:9-10) Now is the time to repent and received Christ as your Savior. Do not wait! What is the power of the gospel? It is the power to save! And if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, give thanks for His glorious gospel that saved you! And remember, we live in a world that desperately needs to know Jesus Christ. Live it and share it!