



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

APPOINTED FOR THE GOSPEL! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:11-12

COLORADO

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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 is not hopeless. We are 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 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.

I. APPOINTED FOR THE GOSPEL!—2 TIMOTHY 1:11-12

2 Timothy 1:10-12, “(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. (11) for which I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle and a teacher. (12) For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed for I know Whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

Paul was clear not only about his commission from Jesus Christ but also his relationship to Jesus Christ. He was willing to suffer all for the sake of sharing the good news, the greatest news that could ever be told about salvation found in Christ alone.

A. THE GOSPEL...FOR WHICH I WAS APPOINTED—2 TIMOTHY 1:11

Paul understood he was divinely appointed by God to faithfully preach and teach with authority, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“preacher” Greek **%kerux**” a messenger, herald on behalf of a ruler, one who sounds for the evangel, the good news.

“apostle” Greek **%apostolos**” sent with a specific commission from and with authority.

“teacher” Greek **%didaskolos**” ability to explain clearly for all to understand.

Paul knew he was given a divine commission by Jesus Christ for the gospel. First, he was called by God to preach the gospel. This meant that he was a messenger on behalf of Jesus Christ who would proclaim the greatest news that could ever be told with boldness. He would publicly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ regardless of dangers or suffering to kings, magistrates and all people. He would herald the message of salvation found in Christ alone through faith in Him alone, calling people to repent and be saved. 1 Corinthians 9:16 says, “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under

compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.” This was Paul’s great ambition and passion; to share the greatest news to the world. Wherever God placed him, even in Nero’s dungeon, his purpose was to preach and proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ.

Secondly, Paul was called by Jesus Christ as an apostle, sent with a specific commission from God for the gospel. Apostles were unique men whom Christ called and to whom God revealed the gospel, the evangel, the greatest news. Mark 3:13-19 tells of our Lord’s appointment of the disciples who would later become apostles. Now Paul would not be called until later and we find his appointment by Christ in Acts 9:1-9 where he was travelling to Damascus “*breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord,*” to arrest both men and women who were Christians and return them to Jerusalem. However, as he travelled, He met Christ personally on the road and his life was changed forever. As an apostle, (1 Timothy 1:1, 2 Timothy 1:1) Paul, along with the other apostles, was used by God to establish and build the church. (Ephesians 2:20) Paul’s apostleship emphasized authority given by God.

And third, Paul was called by Jesus Christ as a teacher. Paul was given not only the responsibility of preaching but the gift of teaching as well. He had the ability to explain the gospel clearly and communicate in a way for all to understand. We too are the recipients of Paul’s teaching through the Epistles he penned. In these letters, the great truths and doctrines of our faith are proclaimed together with the call of the gospel to grow and mature in that faith.

Paul understood his duty as a believer. He understood that his duty was a result of his great salvation found in Jesus Christ. His divine appointment and call by God to preach and teach the gospel with authority was his duty, resulting from his great salvation.

This duty Paul understood stemmed from a heart of gratitude for all that Christ had done for him in salvation. Paul says in Romans 1 that he was “*under obligation*” to all men to preach the gospel. (Romans 1:14) He was compelled to share the good news of salvation found in Jesus. He was also “*eager to preach the gospel*”. (Romans 1:15) It was his chief aim and ambition in life now. And then in Romans 1:16, he again says, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel*”. Nothing could deter Paul from his passion and pursuit in life to serve Christ and share the gospel to the world. He understood his duty and was calling Timothy to the same understanding, mission and pursuit.

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

APPOINTED FOR THE GOSPEL! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:11-12

This message is no different for all believers today. God has divinely called and divinely equipped us to serve Him according to *“His own purpose”*. (2 Timothy 1:9) Do you realize your duty to Jesus as a result of your great salvation? Is your ambition, your passion to serve God and share the gospel? Are you eager, willing and available to share the truth about salvation found only in Christ? Is it the heartbeat of your life to speak of the good news of what Christ has done to those around you? Or are you ashamed of the only One Who can save your friends, family and neighbors? Are you afraid of what others might think or do if you speak of the cross, sin and repentance? Do you possess a heart of gratitude to God for all He has done? Realize that God has appointed you and equipped you to serve Him. You have been divinely commissioned by God and called to His purpose for you. Recognize your divine duty and responsibility and you will find there is no greater privilege and joy found in this life than serving Jesus Christ. And remember, every divine resource is yours given by God to carry out His calling of you.

B. THE GOSPEL...FOR WHICH I SUFFER THESE THINGS – 2 TIMOTHY 1:12A

2 Timothy 1:10-12a, “(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. (11) for which I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle and a teacher. (12) For this reason I also suffer these things...”

Often, the price for divine duty is affliction by the world. In fact, Paul reminded Timothy that suffering will be the inevitable cost of godly living. He wrote a few paragraphs later that *“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”* (2 Timothy 3:12) He wrote to the Philippians, *“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”* (Philippians 1:29) This remains a continual emphasis for Paul to all who believe.

Paul faithfully preached the whole gospel even if it would cost him his life. As a preacher, apostle and teacher of the gospel, he would suffer and eventually be martyred for the cause of Christ. But Paul suffered because the gospel was the only hope for a lost world. This is the reason why Paul was willing and able to endure such hardship and suffering. To Paul suffering was such a small price to pay for proclaiming and heralding the greatest news ever of salvation found in Jesus Christ alone.

2 Corinthians reminds us of the many afflictions Paul was asked to endure for the sake of the gospel: 2 Corinthians 4:8-18, 6:4-10, 11:23-28. See also Galatians 6:17 and Philippians 3:10. Paul counted it a privilege and not a sacrifice to suffer for Jesus Christ.

Paul puts suffering for the cause of Christ into perspective when he wrote, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”* (Romans 8:18)

The Apostle Peter wrote, *“but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.”* (1 Peter 4:16)

Paul was entombed in a dark, cold dungeon below the ground waiting imminent execution for sharing the greatest news that man could ever know. Paul suffered because he faithfully proclaimed the gospel. He suffered because he faithfully proclaimed the divine truth with authority. He suffered because he faithfully taught these truths clearly without compromise.

Paul didn’t feel sorry for himself and he was not ashamed of his imprisonment. Why? Our next study will answer that critical question. But for this week, consider these things:

- ❖ Do you recognize your duty to Jesus Christ as a result of your great salvation?
- ❖ What gifts has God equipped you to carry out His purpose in you?
- ❖ Do you possess a heart of gratitude to God for all He has done in saving you?
- ❖ Is it your greatest joy and privilege to serve Jesus Christ and share the gospel?
- ❖ You have been divinely commissioned and appointed by God. What an honor. What a privilege. What kind of a herald have you been for Jesus Christ?
- ❖ Are you eager, willing and compelled to share the gospel of Jesus Christ? If not, why?
- ❖ Is your life about the gospel of Jesus Christ or are you consumed with other things?

Paul was saved by the good news of the gospel and he was then appointed by God to share that good news with others.

Recognize your divine duty and responsibility and you will find there is no greater privilege and joy found in this life than serving Jesus Christ. And remember, every divine resource is yours given by God to carry out His calling of you.