



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

BE STRONG IN THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST! 2 TIMOTHY 1-2:1

COLORADO

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2 Timothy is Paul's last letter written shortly before his death where he passes the baton of ministry to his son in the faith, Timothy. This is the second letter penned to Timothy, written in the midst of most difficult times when the penalty for faithfulness to Jesus Christ was death. Within this short book, we will find a treasure of the most valuable words of encouragement and necessary exhortations from a faithful man to his son of how to persevere until the end. Paul writes from a cold dungeon chained until he would be led to his execution, martyred for his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He had been faithful to his calling in spite of persecution and much hardship. He took seriously his responsibility to the gospel of Christ. Paul is fatherly, practical and very personal as he writes with a sense of finality to his words. His concern is expressed on every page exhorting Timothy to remain strong in the grace that is found only in Christ Jesus. What we can learn from Paul's letter will offer us a lifetime of wisdom for not only is the baton of faith being passed on to Timothy, but to every faithful believer.

I. "BE STRONG IN THE GRACE!"—2 TIMOTHY 1-2:1 REVIEW

2 Timothy 2:1, "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

Timothy was clearly discouraged as Paul writes this second letter to him facing unimaginable hardships as the pastor of the church in Ephesus. Maybe Timothy was even questioning his calling, purpose and abilities. So Paul writes in chapter one to remind him of his great salvation, his Savior Jesus Christ, the purpose to which he had been called and of God's divine provisions to carry out his calling which enables every believer to remain strong and endure.

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

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 that included persecution and hardship of every kind. Paul knew this is what will enable Timothy to finish well.

B. RICH RELATIONSHIPS...RICH FAITH: 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-5

Paul constantly remembers Timothy in his prayers and longed to see him again. After years of ministry together; travelling together, suffering together, in prison together, preaching the Word together, this bonded Paul and Timothy in a rare relationship. Then Paul affirms Timothy's faith that it is rich, real and genuine. Reminding Timothy of the legacy passed from his mom and grandmother, Paul seeks to encourage Timothy with his rich heritage and sincere faith.

C. FAN THE FLAME: 2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7

Paul reminds Timothy that when he received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, at that moment he was also gifted by God to serve Him.

But fear was keeping Timothy from fully using his gift and fear can paralyze every believer; keeping us from being bold for Christ. So Paul reminds Timothy of three divine resources God has given; *power which overcomes fear, love which casts out fear and a sound mind with sensible judgment.* Ephesians 1:18-23 reminds us of the power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that works within every believer! God empowers us to do the task He has called us to do. Secondly, it is because of God's love, Who laid down His life for us, that we can know there is nothing which comes our way but what is filtered through God's love. 1 John 4:18 says that it is this perfect divine love from God that "casts out fear". And lastly God gives us a sound mind which is a Spirit controlled life with sound, sensible, sober judgment not gripped with fear. Because of these divine resources, we can be productive and effective for Jesus Christ.

D. DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF JESUS CHRIST: 2 TIMOTHY 1:8

Now Paul calls on Timothy to keep the faith with a courageous, unapologetic and obedient witness for Jesus Christ no matter what the cost or consequence. Preach without compromise, teach without hesitation exhort without fear of reprisal from people. Do not be ashamed, even if people deride, ridicule or put you in prison for preaching Jesus Christ. "Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner..." Paul calls Timothy to an uncompromising commitment to Jesus Christ regardless of the difficulties because it is this testimony we declare which is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." (Romans 1:16). And then Paul invites Timothy to suffer together for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul saw hardship and suffering in this life as a privilege and not a sacrifice. Remember his words in Philippians 1:29, "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."

E. SAVED AND CALLED: 2 TIMOTHY 1:9

Paul encourages Timothy by reminding him of his salvation, his Savior and his purpose and calls him to stand tall and be willing to suffer. God is our Savior and has saved us from eternal death, sin and eternal misery in hell through Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross. Salvation can be found only in Jesus Christ; by His grace extended to us and through faith in Jesus Christ alone. (Ephesians 2:8-9) We are sinners and need to be saved but there is nothing we can do to earn that salvation. Jesus Christ, Who is God saved us from sin, death and hell through faith in His finished work on the cross making us children of God and heirs of heaven. Salvation can be found in no one else as Acts 4:12 says, "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." And then Paul reminds Timothy that God

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REMEMBER AND BE STRONG IN THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST! 2 TIMOTHY 1-2:1

Who has saved us has also called us to a holy calling. We are set apart by God for His glory forever! We have been invited by God Himself, welcomed into a relationship with Him and set apart for Him. This is a holy calling (1 Peter 1:15-16)...a high calling (Philippians 3:14)... a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:11). We no longer live for ourselves but rather for the God Who has called us.

F. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL: 2 TIMOTHY 1:10

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 and have eternal life. We can know our eternal destiny is heaven. 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. This is the power of the Gospel and the good news that must be spread.

G. APPOINTED FOR THE GOSPEL: 2 TIMOTHY 1:11

Paul understood he was divinely appointed by God to faithfully preach and teach with authority, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul was saved by the good news of the gospel and he was then appointed by God to share that good news with others, just as Timothy was and every believer. We must recognize this divine duty and responsibility and will find there is no greater privilege or 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.

H. I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED: 2 TIMOTHY 1:12

Paul was profoundly certain that his life was protected by the power of God; he had complete confidence not in what he knew, but in Whom he knew! Paul entrusted his life, his soul in salvation, his work, his mission, his ministry, his safety... his all, with God for His guarding. And Paul knew with certainty that nothing would be lost. God was able, could, and would guard, keep, and protect his soul and life's investment until the end. Our life, our work for the Lord that has His eternal purpose and significance will remain until that day when we stand before Him and lay down our life's work before Him. Until then, we must remain faithful knowing no matter what this life brings. To you Paul would say, stand unashamed for Jesus Christ for His glorious gospel demands nothing less.

I. RETAIN THE STANDARD: 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

Then, Paul calls on Timothy to retain that standard of truth that changed his life forever, because it is the Word of God that does the work of God in our lives. Our words are powerless, even the most effective words cannot save or change a life. Only the Word of God is effective in calling one to salvation, transforming a heart and

renewing the mind through its sanctifying work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. Any measure God's truth can be diluted, diminished, altered or reduced to a palatable message distorts the very gospel we are called to steadfastly adhere to and proclaim faithfully. Therefore we must hold tightly to the pattern of truth that God's Word teaches. And it is God's Word that teaches us about Who God is and offers the unshakeable pillars of truth we can live by and rely upon.

J. GUARD THE TREASURE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:14

We have been given a treasure and entrusted with a solemn duty from God; to uphold, defend and proclaim the good deposit of the gospel. The most solemn responsibility a believer has is to defend and uphold the integrity of God's Word. Look at our world today. Is this not a needed call; to guard the treasure of the gospel and retain the standard of sound words? A true treasure is worth guarding, worth dying for and worth sharing. We not only have been given the gospel which brought us to salvation, but the gospel is our treasure given to us to guard, keep, protect, defend, preserve and watch.

K. UNASHAMED COMMITMENT TO CHRIST: 2 TIMOTHY 1:15-18

Even though many will be unfaithful, Paul exhorts Timothy to remain loyal to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the face of desertion, do not become discouraged or disheartened by those who are unfaithful. Demonstrate courage and be like the few faithful believers who were willing to keep the faith like Onesiphorus with unashamed commitment to Jesus Christ.

L. BE STRONG IN THE LORD: 2 TIMOTHY 2:1

Paul commands Timothy now, to be strong and not weak. Be courageous and not disheartened by insurmountable obstacles. The sense is continuous, present, keep on being strong remembering that God is actively strengthening you and you must be actively cooperating with God. Our source of strength to do the work of God doesn't come from ourselves, but rather constant, dependent, trust and reliance upon His abundant, gracious provision.

Paul laid before Timothy the challenge, the hardships and the hard work of the gospel. He has encouraged him with his giftedness by God for ministry equipped with divine resources. He has reminded him of his salvation, his Savior and his purpose, and calls him to stand tall and suffer. He charges Timothy to retain the pattern of truth he has been taught and guard the treasure of the gospel. Now, he lovingly but sternly issues the command for Timothy as a faithful, fervent disciple of Christ to "*be strong*". To carry out the work of God it will require a constant reliance on Him to accomplish that work so be strong and not weak. You see, grace is the unmerited favor and gift of God to help! Nothing comes our way but what we have the grace of God to handle it... *no person, no pain, no tragedy*.