The current Bible study begins a new exposition in the book of 2 Timothy. Capitol Commission provides an open-to-all Bible study every Tuesday during session from 12:00-12:45pm in 318 CLOB, with in-person attendance and Zoom. Scripture is taught verse-by-verse (so please bring a Bible or have access to a mobile version) with everyone having the opportunity to comment or ask a question.

Due to several weeks of committee work days (and for sake of consistency), the members’ only Bible Fellowship will be held on Tuesdays this session from 7:00-7:50am in 133 CAP (Ways & Means Committee Room). The Capitol Commission Bible study and the Members’ Bible Fellowship are both nonpartisan and non-denominational.

For archives of past Bible studies (dating from 2010), please visit http://www.capitolcom.org/georgia/studies. I pray that this study will be edifying to you. The sole intent of the ministry of Capitol Commission is to serve you, as a resource for pastoral attention, counsel, and prayer. The present Bible study is just one aspect of that desire to serve.

— Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study
TUESDAYS @ 12 NOON in 318 CLOB (& ZOOM)
(IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

Second Timothy 1 – “Faithful Service”

Anglican minister John Wesley (co-founder of the Methodist movement with his brother Charles) was approximately 21 years old when he attended Oxford University. He was reared in a Christian home, and was known as a handsome man with a keen intellect. In his youth, however, he was somewhat sarcastic and snobbish. One night, something occurred that changed Wesley profoundly.

While speaking with a porter, he learned that the man only possessed one coat and lived in such impoverished conditions that he did not have a bed. Nevertheless, the porter was unusually happy, and as a believer in God, he was a thankful man. Immature in his youth, Wesley thoughtlessly joked regarding the man’s misfortunes. “For what else do you thank God?” he asked sarcastically.

Psalm 9:1 – I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.

The porter smiled and with meekness and profound joy said, “I thank Him that He has given me my life and being, a heart to love Him, and above all a constant desire to serve Him!” The man’s perspective on life greatly impacted Wesley as he realized the porter knew the true meaning of gratitude.

At the age of 88, as Wesley lay on his deathbed many years later, those gathered around him recognized that he had truly learned to praise God in every circumstance. Even though he was extremely weak, Wesley began to sing the hymn, “I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath.” Like the porter, it is good to praise God in everything. Wesley learned from him the sufficiency of God’s grace, and that being reconciled to the Creator — by grace through faith in Jesus Christ — that he had much for which to praise God.

Second Timothy 2 begins with thankfulness for the tremendous heritage of faith that a Christian home provides. Faith does require a bold commitment, as one may experience suffering for the sake of the glory of God, yet the provision that the Lord provides is his grace and power. Therefore, the faithful believer is able to respond to the gifts of God with faithful service.

BE FAITHFUL

(2 Tim 1:1-7) Paul began his epistle by identifying himself as “an apostle of Jesus Christ” (v. 1). Literally, apostle means “sent one.” The term can refer to the few disciples (the twelve and Paul) whose calling was unique because they laid the foundation of the church (Eph 2:20) and worked miracles in a way that believers today do not (Acts 2:43; 2 Cor 12:12). In another sense, all believers are “apostles” in the sense that the Lord Jesus sends his followers on a mission of faithful service.

Paul was unjustly accused by the Jews and falsely imprisoned (cf. Acts 25:11). He appealed to Caesar and was thus taken to Rome and kept under guard for two years (28:30). He was released from prison (ca. AD 62) but arrested once again (ca. AD 66). While confined to a jail cell, Paul penned his second letter to Timothy (2 Tim 1:2; 2:8-9). With great emotion for his “beloved son,” Paul offered to Timothy “grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Following the typical salutation (vv. 1-2), Second Timothy begins with an encouragement to be faithful (1:3—2:26). The opening section of the epistle is very personal in that it contains various suggestions for maintaining faithful service (1:3-7). Paul was reflective of his heritage of faith (v. 3), and reminded Timothy of the substantive legacy that he also possessed (v. 5). Remembering one’s heritage inspires courage and the resolve to be faithful to one’s calling and obligations. Paul was thankful for Timothy’s past faithfulness to God and encouraged him to continue being faithful, especially in response to ever-increasing apostasy.

... THE LORD JESUS SENDS HIS FOLLOWERS ON A MISSION OF FAITHFUL SERVICE.

Unless more oxygen and wood is added to a fireplace, the flame will eventually subside. For similar reason, it is necessary to “kindle afresh” the gift of God, which is a reference to the Holy Spirit who indwells every genuine believer (v. 6; John 14:16-17). Spirit baptism is the work of Jesus Christ whereby each believer receives the Holy Spirit into one’s body (making it a “temple,” 1 Cor 6:19) and incorporates the believer into the body of Christ and identifies him or her with Christ Jesus’ death and resurrection. The flame of the Holy Spirit is not weak nor does it need to be sustained by human effort; rather, He works in cooperation with those who seek his enablement.

GOD NEVER COMMANDS ANY ACTION FOR WHICH HE DOES NOT ALSO GRANT HIS ENABLEMENT.

Having confirmed the indwelling Holy Spirit, every believer should have a spirit “of power and love and discipline” (v. 7). If “timidity” is not restrained, the spirit will deteriorate into cowardice. “Power” is the enablement to do as the Lord requires. God never commands any action for which He does not also grant his enablement. “Love” is always directed foremost to God, then to others; it is the distinguishing quality of God’s people (John 13:35). “Self-discipline” is judicial, vigilant thinking; it is the ability to think distinctly with the understanding and wisdom that God bestows.

BE UNASHAMED

(2 Tim 1:8-18) Having just referred to the divine power inherent within each believer (the enablement to achieve whatever God calls one to accomplish, the capacity to love God and others, and the ability to think wisely), there is no reason to “be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” or even of Paul in his imprisonment (v. 8). There are three dynamics characteristic of public identification as a follower of Christ Jesus. The first is a difference in how a believer lives and speaks. Another is unity with fellow believers, especially those who suffer on behalf of the Lord. The last is identifying with the message of God’s Word, the Holy Bible, and the life of Christ.

As a reminder of all that God does for his people, verse 9 recalls the marvelous “grace” of God by which they are saved. The same one who “called . . . with a holy calling” is He who also saves. God’s calling is the application of sovereign grace resulting in forgiveness of sin and eternal life; it is not the result of human works but simply “according to His own purpose” (his good pleasure) and the grace He gave that resided “in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” No one seeking to be a faithful servant to the Lord should disregard the meaning and purpose of God’s work.

Paul knew he was “appointed” (called) by God, and that is why he was suffering (vv. 11-12). Nevertheless, he was able to endure because he knew Him who He believed as being entirely trustworthy. His confidence was in God, not a religious system or even his own ability. Believers are those called by God prior to the creation of the world, whose present life and work is preserved by Jesus Christ, and whose destiny is a resolute future with God.

Truth produces health, resulting in godly behavior and proper thinking, which is why it is absolutely vital to “retain the standard of sound words” – the Holy Bible – for it is “the treasure” (deposit) given by God (vv. 13-14). Phygellus and Hermogenes were ashamed of that message and thus were unfaithful (v. 15). By contrast, Onesiphorus (“help-bringer”) was not ashamed and remained faithful (vv. 16-18). The importance of the choices a believer will make is that there is no neutrality in life. A person is either for Christ or against Him. There is either apostasy or faithfulness.

Considering one’s heritage of faith impresses the responsibility of faithfulness. Life can make it difficult to live a biblical faith, which is why believers need to know their identity in Jesus Christ. If a person is dependent upon friends, status, wealth, or anything else for a sense of identity, it will be impossible to endure adversity or to serve faithfully. The basis of faith and identity for God’s people is always the work of the Lord through Jesus Christ. The risen Lord is the One who enables his people through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and He bestows grace that is sufficient for all life.

Thank you for the privilege in providing you with the Capitol Commission Bible study. If we can serve you in any manner, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Scripture calls the church to pray for the salvation of our leaders, resulting in them having knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:1-4). As churches are faithful in prayer and proclaiming the gospel of God’s grace, our society and government will be impacted. Capitol Commission is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and promoting the mandate to pray for those in the capital communities throughout the United States and the world.

Romans 10:14-15 affirms, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? . . .”? Please notice the reverse progression. If we desire anyone, including our government leaders, to (5) call upon the Lord and to seek Him and His Word for life decisions, they must prior to that (4) believe in Him, which means they must previously have (3) heard the Word of God, which means prior to that someone needs to (2) preach to them, which requires that others have first (1) send someone.

Capitol Commission is committed to the second part: preaching (proclaiming) the good news of salvation, yet this cannot occur without someone doing the first part: sending. All funding and prayer for this work comes from people who want the light of the gospel of God’s grace brought into our State Capitol. As you do #1 and we do #2, we can rejoice together as the Lord accomplishes in the Capitol what only He can produce in someone: #3, #4, and #5. What an exciting co-mission! Please join us in this ministry!

this week’s Capitol outreach sponsored by:
Senator Blake Tillery
Georgia Senate District 19

NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDY:
Tuesday, 1st of March @ 12 Noon