

## **Text— 2 Timothy 1:3-14**

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The epistle from which our sermon text is taken opens with the following words: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” (2 Timothy 1:1-2) Thus, the apostle Paul penned the words of our Scripture selection to a young man named Timothy, who Paul considered his spiritual son, since Paul had instructed him in the Word of God and thereby prepared him to be a preacher of God’s truth.

You see, it happened at earlier points in time, that Paul and Timothy had traveled together doing mission work as Paul taught him what he needed to know to properly attend to that important work, that being: showing folks their sin and their dire need for a Savior from sin; and then, proclaiming the fact that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is the only Savior from sin. Thus, Paul and his student Timothy preached God’s Law in its full sternness and the Gospel of Christ in its full sweetness. Hence, Paul and Timothy had become close friends and real Christian coworkers.

Indeed, it is so, for the apostle Paul, in reference to himself and his fellow preachers of God’s truth, plainly states in 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, “we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” Yes, for it is the apostle Paul who also wrote, by inspiration of God, in Galatians 4:4-5, “when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” So, there is no doubt what Paul preached and what he taught Timothy to preach.

Fellow Christians, we can all spiritually benefit

from carefully considering the words of our Scripture selection, for with the help of God we can:

“LEARN FROM PAUL’S WORDS OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) What are Paul’s words of thanks and why they are significant
- 2) What are Paul’s words of encouragement and why they are significant

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Verses 3-5, ----- (2 Timothy 1:3-5)

Before Paul became an apostle of Jesus Christ and a preacher of the Gospel, he was an enemy of the Lord, for in 1 Timothy 1:12-15 Paul writes, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemers, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” Additionally, in regards to Paul, we learn in Philippians 3:5-6, he was, “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.” So, Paul was brought up knowing who the true God is; but unfortunately, Paul was also brought up to believe that one can save one’s self by one’s own works.

Thankfully, after Paul’s conversion, he positively knew that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, the Christ, true God and true man, the only Way to God and heaven, “the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

So, the apostle Paul in writing to Timothy said: *I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

Oh, Paul the Christian could and did in honesty say, in writing to Timothy: *I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience.* Paul's conscience no longer constantly accused him of sin, since he had full forgiveness of sins, as he had been graciously gifted with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was also thankful for his young associate Timothy; and, Paul quite regularly prayed for Timothy and desired to see him, knowing that Timothy deeply cared about the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word; and, Timothy cared about his elder brother in the faith named Paul. Paul knew that it was God who enabled him to properly pray, yea, to do anything which is actually good and right.

Observe from the words of our text that Timothy shed tears, as Christians often do in repentance and in concern for spreading God's truth and in concern for their fellow Christians and all other human beings.

Oh beloved, when we see the true God and His true Word ignored, mocked and trodden under foot in these last days, it causes us to shed tears as we pray to the Lord, asking Him to wake up the masses of sinful, pride-filled people who are spiritually asleep and stuck on themselves. Hence, we can relate to what the apostle Paul says in our sermon text, understanding the significance of the words.

Paul thanked God for the ability to pray. Paul thanked God for Timothy, a fellow laborer in preaching God's truth, the glorious Gospel of

Christ. Paul regularly thanked God, looking forward to seeing Timothy, that he might have joy in meeting with his son in the faith once more.

Notice that if Paul would see Timothy, Paul would be joyful as he would *call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that was in Timothy, the same true faith in Christ which dwelt first in Timothy's grandmother Lois, and Timothy's mother Eunice; and, as Paul was persuaded, in Timothy himself also.* Thus, Lois and Eunice and Timothy all had true faith in the Lord, the faith of Jesus Christ, faith residing in the heart, mind and soul, not a fake faith of the mouth.

It's interesting to note that Timothy's grandmother and mother were women of sincere faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Yes, in Acts 16:1 we learn that Timothy was, "the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek." Accordingly, it was apparently Timothy's mother and grandmother that saw to it he heard the Word of the Lord.

My friends, we who have, or have had, a Christian mother who taught us about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, from the Holy Bible as we grew up, should thank God for such women. Likewise, we should be grateful to God if we have or have had believing dads too, men who shared God's Word with us. Let us never forget that Romans 10:17 says: "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Therefore, we have reason to be thankful to the Lord for those folks who have shared God's Word with us and have believed, as Paul was thankful for those who shared God's Word and believed.

Let's look ahead at verses 7-10, -----.  
(2 Timothy 1:7-10)

Fellow Christians, we note from our sermon text that thankfulness is due God for the Holy Spirit He has given us, who with power has *saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world*

*began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

Paul knew that it was the case with himself and with Timothy that God does the saving, all of it. Likewise, it is the case with every Christian, that one is a Christian only because God chose one and called one to faith in Christ, through the Gospel. Jesus Christ kept God's Law perfectly for all people and then He paid for our lack of keeping God's Law, for Jesus shed His holy and precious blood while nailed to the cross of Calvary to pay for all the sins of all people. Yes, looking at Jesus Christ with the eyes of faith, we, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

Fellow Christians, our own works do NOT save us in whole or even in the least part, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them." (Galatians 3:10-12) And, John 3:36 followed by Ephesians 2:8-10 states, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." All thanks and praise be to our gracious Lord and God!

Thanks be to God for the glorious Gospel of Christ, for through it He works in our hearts and minds, "for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

Let's look ahead for a moment to verse 14, -----.  
(2 Timothy 1:14)

Notice the apostle Paul in speaking to Timothy mentions the indwelling of the Holy Ghost *in us*, that is, in himself and Timothy. My friends, ALL true Christians have the Holy Ghost dwelling in them, for we read in 1 Corinthians 12:3, "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." Therefore, fellow Christians, let us thank God the Holy Ghost for dwelling in us, thereby working in us to keep us in the faith of Jesus Christ and enabling us to be fruitful in the same. Let us never forget how significant God's gracious work is, for without the Lord and His work we would all be lost and damned. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15)

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text, let us see what are Paul's words of encouragement and why they are significant.

Verses 6 & 7, ----- (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

By the laying on of the apostle Paul's hands, Timothy was ordained into the ministry. Furthermore, the apostles of Jesus Christ, with the laying on of their hands, had the ability to grant the Holy Ghost who empowered the recipients to be able to speak in foreign languages – tongues – which they had never studied, so they could preach the Gospel of Christ in the various languages of the world. For example, in Acts 19:6 we read, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Accordingly, Timothy, upon being ordained by Paul, had received special gifts of God the Holy Ghost; and, Paul encouraged him to make use of those gifts no matter what outward afflictions he had to face, for, said Paul, *God hath not given us*

*the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Oh, Timothy dwelt in sinful flesh, just like you and I dwell in sinful flesh which urges us to be timid and fearful; but, God's Holy Spirit urges us to be bold and loving in witnessing to God's truth. Thus, it is significant for us to realize that even with the extra special gifts Timothy had from God the Holy Ghost, he still needed to fight against his sinful flesh, as we all must do. May we be encouraged by the words of our Scripture selection to stand up for Jesus when we have opportunity to do so.

Verses 8-11, -----. (2 Timothy 1:8-11)

Timothy was tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ and of the Lord Jesus and of the apostle Paul who was imprisoned for proclaiming God's truth. Timothy was no different than any of us, for, as I mentioned moments ago, we ALL dwell in sinful flesh, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

Paul encouraged Timothy to go so far as to be a *partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God*. Yes, Timothy needed to remember that the power of God would remain with him even in afflictions that would come upon him because he preached and taught the Gospel of Christ. Fellow Christians, we also need to remember that the power of God is with us whenever we must suffer afflictions for standing firm in Christ and His Word. Indeed, we Christians are assured by God in Hebrews 13:5-6, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

We Christians, like Paul and Timothy of old, need to never forget how good and gracious God has been and is to us, for God *hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our*

*Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto Paul was appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

My friends, we should certainly be encouraged by knowing the fact that God Himself saved us and called us to faith in Jesus Christ. God loves us undeserving sinners so very much! Additionally, God's marvelous mercy and love is so very evident in the fact that our Savior, Jesus Christ, indeed appeared on earth and accomplished His mission of mercy, our redemption, exactly as foretold of old in the Holy Scriptures. Eternal life is ours, thanks to the Gospel of Christ by which God gifted us with faith in Jesus— the very faith which personally receives the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation.

It's wonderful that Jesus is the Savior of the whole world and not only the Hebrew people, for Paul was appointed a preacher and teacher of the Gentiles, the non-Jewish folks. In 1 Timothy 2:4-6 it is reported that God our Savior, "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." Thanks and praise be to our gracious Lord and God!

Verse 12, -----. (2 Timothy 1:12)

The apostle Paul knew that it was because he was a preacher and teacher of the Gospel of Christ that he suffered imprisonment and afflictions. But notice Paul's confident, God-given and sustained faith, for he boldly declared: *nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*. Hence, Paul's confidence was in Christ the Lord! Paul knew the great day of Judgment will come, at which time Jesus will visibly return in glory, raise all people, and take His own to the mansions of heaven, where they will enjoy perfect bliss and happiness

according to both soul and body. The case for all Christians is stated in Philippians 3:20-21, where we read, “our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” Fellow Christians, let us learn from Paul’s example to be confident in Christ Jesus our Savior, looking forward to the great day of His visible return in glory.

Verse 13, ----- (2 Timothy 1:13)

Note the importance of having God’s true Word and making use of it to sustain one in the true faith, for Paul encouraged Timothy, saying, *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

Observe that even the very FORM of SOUND WORDS, the HOLY WORD OF GOD, is NOT to be changed! Words express thoughts, and GOD’S THOUGHTS ARE EXPRESSED IN THE WORDS HE GAVE, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:21) Furthermore, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states in no uncertain terms, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Therefore, God’s Word is NOT to be changed and altered! We have a faithful and reliable translation of God’s Word in English in the King James Version, for it is based upon the pure, preserved, received Greek and Hebrew texts, while, on the other hand, all modern English translations are paraphrased perversions based upon corrupted Hebrew and Greek texts. We do what God directs us to do when we *Hold fast the form of sound words... in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

Verse 14, ----- (2 Timothy 1:14)

The closing words of our sermon text are words of encouragement from Paul to Timothy, for Paul said: *That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.* That good thing – faith in Christ and having His blessed Word, His Gospel in particular – was committed to Timothy; and, Timothy needed to keep it with the gracious and powerful help of God the Holy Ghost.

Fellow Christians, we too need God the Holy Ghost’s gracious and powerful help to keep us in the true faith of Jesus Christ; and, to keep us holding fast to God’s pure, preserved, Holy Word, especially the Gospel of Christ.

Let us learn from Paul’s words of thanks and encouragement which we’ve considered, for the truths taught are significant.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins. Let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. And, let us go forward, holding fast to God’s true Word, the Holy Bible. Amen.

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