

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Lesson 2

2 Timothy 1:8-18

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace.

2 Timothy 1:9

This final letter from the apostle Paul to his beloved protégé Timothy was written from a Roman prison during the peak of Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome. Paul expected to be executed very soon, and he wrote to urge Timothy to faithfully persevere in proclaiming the good news of Jesus and to guard the accuracy of the gospel message.

1. Take about 10-15 minutes to read through the short book of 2 Timothy in order to gain an overview of the message of the book as a whole.
 - a. Put yourself in Timothy's shoes. Imagine yourself as Timothy, and you've just received this letter. What would be most striking about Paul's very personal communication to you in this letter?

 - b. As you read through the book, was there anything that was disconcerting to you, or jarring? Jot down the references you find.

2. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10. ***Be willing to suffer for the gospel.***
 - a. The message of the gospel is the foundation of the Christian faith. It's important that we understand what the gospel reveals. What aspect of the gospel message is stated in 2 Timothy 1:10?

- b. The term “*gospel*” means “*good news*.” What exactly is this *good news*? What do you learn about the gospel from the following passages:
- i. John 3:16
 - ii. Romans 5:8
 - iii. Titus 3:5
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 15:1-5
- c. Paul exhorts Timothy to join Paul in *suffering* for the gospel. What will that entail for Timothy? What may it entail for us? Timothy had a realistic expectation of what that would mean for him because he had observed the nature of Paul’s suffering. It is unlikely that we as 21st century Americans will face the sort of suffering that Paul endured, but we are called to embrace a life of godly purpose just as Paul did. We are to grab hold of our God-given purpose as Christ-followers and not shrink away from the gospel even if we may have to face suffering.
- For Personal Reflection:*** What sort of suffering may we encounter as we live out our life purpose in the context of our 21st century culture?
- d. Perhaps we wonder, “why me? Why have I received salvation through faith in Christ?” Why have I been given this heavenly calling? What do you learn from 2 Timothy 1:9? See also Ephesians 2:8-10.

3. Read 2 Timothy 1:11-14. **Guard the gospel!**
- a. What has been Paul's life purpose regarding the gospel? (See 2 Tim. 1:11)
 - b. What does Paul now commission Timothy to do? See also Paul's charge to Timothy in his prior letter to Timothy—in 1 Timothy 6:20-21.
 - c. Why does the gospel of Jesus need to be guarded? See 2 Timothy 4:3-5.

4. Read 2 Timothy 1:15-18 **Examples of Disloyalty and Loyalty**

Over Paul's lifetime, he endured bodily ailments, financial scarcity, emotional challenges, and physical suffering. We see in this passage that Paul also suffered the heartache of having friends who deserted him in his time of need. Even so, God ensured that Paul's needs were met through the kindness of those true friends who remained faithful to him.

- a. What is remarkable about the perseverance of Onesiphorus?
- b. What does Paul's prayer reveal about the impact of our acts of grace and kindness for God's servants? See also Matthew 10:40-42

My Prayer:

*Father, I realize that I will face a measure of suffering in my life.
Please strengthen me through your Spirit so that I will not fail
to be faithful to the gospel of Christ.*