

**Subject: *Dearly Beloved Timothy***

**Scripture: *2 Timothy 1:1-7***

All Scripture is a revelation of God. It reveals who God is and what God does. This first message in 2 Timothy is about Timothy, but it tells us more about God than it does about Timothy. We see how God works in our lives and how He blesses us and uses us for His glory. Psalm 103 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” Paul mentions three of God’s greatest blessings in the first part of this letter: our faith, our family, and fellowship with other believers.

In this short letter 29 people are mentioned by name, and in the first couple of verses we see the main ones: Paul the old man who is the writer, Timothy the young man who is the reader; and Jesus Christ the God-Man. He is the main character of every book in the Bible.

### **TIMOTHY WAS DEARLY BELOVED BY PAUL (vs. 1-4)**

Can you imagine what that would be like to have the Apostle Paul for a friend and brother in Christ?

- Paul wrote with the authority of an apostle (vs. 1)

This was a personal letter and Paul’s last letter. It was his last will and testament. Paul reminded Timothy that this was more than a friendly letter. It was an official letter with authority. Paul took his own calling as an apostle and Timothy’s calling as a pastor very seriously. He was an apostle, one of a select group of men. The word “apostle” means one sent on a mission by God. Paul knew this was “by the will of God.” He knew that God chose him to be an apostle from the time of his salvation (according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus).

Paul used the phrase “in Christ Jesus” seven times in this letter. In Christ Jesus there is the promise of eternal life (1:1). God’s purpose and grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began (1:9). Faith and love are in Christ Jesus (1:13). Grace gives us spiritual strength in Christ Jesus (2:1). Salvation is in Christ Jesus (2:10). All who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (3:12). Salvation is by faith in Christ Jesus (3:15). Every blessing in life comes to us in Christ, in our spiritual union with Him.

- Paul wrote with the love of a father (vs. 2)

He wrote to encourage young Timothy and remind him of God’s grace, mercy, and peace. These were more than just words of greeting. They expressed Paul’s desire for God’s best in Timothy’s life. What could be better than God’s grace? This is God’s blessing toward us as sinners. What could be better than God’s mercy? This is God’s pity toward us in our needs. We need grace in our guilt and we need mercy in our misery. But we also need peace for our problems. It is that inner tranquility, the peace that passes all understanding. God can calm the storm around us, but even better is when he calms the storm inside us.

- Paul wrote with the concern of a brother (vs. 3-4)

He was thankful for Timothy, prayed for him, and longed to see him. Paul was in a Roman prison on death row. Nero had burned down the city of Rome and then tried to blame it on

Christians. Paul was arrested in that persecution and wrote to his beloved Timothy. Paul had needs of his own, but his heart was on Timothy and his needs.

### **TIMOTHY WAS DEARLY BELOVED BY HIS FAMILY (vs. 5)**

Paul was thankful for the unfeigned (un-hypocritical) faith in Timothy. His faith was true, genuine, and sincere faith. Timothy was the real deal. Paul could tell genuine faith from the counterfeit. He had seen both. Paul knew that Timothy came from a family of real believers. Paul probably knew his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.

This reminds us of how God uses our family and especially our grandmothers and mothers. It has been said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. A mother and grandmother can write things on the heart of a child that the world and the devil cannot erase. What do we know about the faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother?

- Their faith was true

It first dwelt in them. You can teach what you know, but you can only share what you have.

- Their faith was tested

Paul first met this family when he and Silas were traveling on their second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-3). We know that Timothy's mother was a Jew who became a Christian, but his father was a Greek, a Gentile and apparently he was an unbeliever. This was spiritually mixed-up family.

- Their faith was taught

*2 Timothy 3:14-15* <sup>14</sup> But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; <sup>15</sup> And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Timothy learned Scripture from the time he was a baby. Mothers and grandmothers who love their children teach them the Word of God. In Deuteronomy 6 we find God's plan for the family: the home is the university; the parents are the professors; and the curriculum is the Word of God.

### **TIMOTHY WAS DEARLY BELOVED BY GOD (vs. 6-7)**

Paul reminded Timothy of his spiritual gift for ministry (the gift of God) and he reminded him of the Holy Spirit. God had been good to Timothy and blessed his life richly.

- Timothy needed to rekindle the fire

Timothy must have gotten a little lazy and lukewarm and so Paul told him to stir up the gift of God (fan the flame). This was a command, and it was Timothy's responsibility. Too often we are waiting around for someone to stir us up, to fan the flame in our hearts. But that's our job. It's not the preacher's job to fire you up. That's your job.

- Timothy needed to replace the fear

Apparently Timothy was afraid, but this fear didn't come from God. The Bible speaks of a healthy and reverential fear of God, but the word in this verse means acting like a coward or being timid. This was a shameful fear or a lack of confidence. How could timid Timothy remove the fear? He had to understand that the Holy Spirit provides power, love, and a sound mind (discipline). Power is the word *dunamis*, from which we get our word dynamite. It is effective energy or power to serve God. Love is *agape*, a divine love that God puts in us and flows through us. **Romans 5:5** ... *the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.* Agape is unselfish love that puts the needs of others first. A sound mind is self-control or discipline. It is the ability to keep our priorities in the right order. Power, love, and a sound mind are not natural traits and they can't be learned in a book or classroom. They are God-given resources to make our lives count for Christ and His kingdom.