

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Note: This morning we are going to start on a brief series on 2 Timothy. This letter has been called Paul's last will and testament. It is a very personal letter to Timothy who was someone Paul mentored in the faith. It includes some powerful verses which gives us great insight on how we are to live for Christ.

I. Paul gives a clear indication that he understands who he is. 2 Timothy 1:1–2 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, For Paul the fact that he was an apostle was very important. It meant he had the authority from God to preach the truth. One of the themes of this letter concerns sound doctrine. Folks in church don't want to hear sound doctrine. The life which is in Christ describes Paul's assurance as he is writing this letter from a Roman prison. The Opening Up commentary describes it this way: *It brings us into the very life of God himself. A new life-principle enters into the centre of our being as the Holy Spirit directs our hearts and minds, and enables us to interpret our human existence from God's view of things.* We learned that on Monday and Tuesday as we discussed living according to the power of the yoke.

1. Paul's Apostolic greeting reminds us of what God has given us all. ² To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Grace is God's unmerited favor. We are saved by grace, sustained by grace, encouraged and empowered by grace. Mercy comes into play when we sin and peace comes from maintaining a close conscious contact with Jesus.

II. Paul offers thanksgiving for Timothy. (3-5)

1. Paul reminds us of the blessings we receive as we love the brethren. 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; ⁴ Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; Notice he says I thank God that I get to include you in my prayers. Your testimony brings me joy. It gives me the inspiration needed to keep going. It is very encouraging to see believers grow especially if you have had a part in it. There are some folks here that are a great encouragement to me. God is working mightily in their lives.

2. Paul shows the importance of a Godly heritage. (5) 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. Notice the grandmother was saved, the mother was saved and they shared their faith with their children. Is that the testimony of the modern church or is it one of complacency toward God? You will recall the story of the Jewish people after Joshua had led them to the Promised Land. **(Judges 2:10) And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.** How do we know they were complacent? Their children did not know about God and his miracles. **(Deuteronomy 6:4-9) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.** God wants his people love him with all their heart and soul and might. But He doesn't want this devotion to stop with that generation. **Verse 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when**

thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. This generation failed to teach their children. They did not obey God's command. What does this look like in the modern day church? It's when the kid's sense that God is not important to Mom and Dad. That prayer and bible reading isn't important and that living your life according to God's word isn't even considered. It's Mom and Dad compromise with the culture around them because it's easier than insisting on rule listed in **Joshua 24:15c** *but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.*

III. There are times when we need to fan the flame. (6-7) *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* Timothy was not a natural born leader but God had given him gifts and empowered him to use them. Paul says remember I ordained you and sent you; don't be afraid to use those gifts. Remember you have the Holy Spirit **Romans 8:15-16** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* Paul says Timothy stir up that gift. The three meetings this past week the Holy Spirit was all over those meetings. We talked about being yoked to Jesus and how it led to rest for your souls. Yes it taught about victory over addictions but it also taught about victory over sin. The concept of a sound mind means discipline. In order to get God's best you need God inspired, God empowered discipline. The lack of support from this congregation disappointed me. At first I took it personal because it is and as I was writing this message I was reminded it is always about him and not me. At the meetings especially Monday there were tears of joy. Those tears of joy were the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirits that we are a child of God. **Zephaniah 3:17** *The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.* This verse is God telling the nation of Israel that one day He would restore them to the land, forgive their and reestablish their relationship. The joy here is that the restored relationship will cause God to rest in His love; it will bring joy and cause Him to sing. When we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and God uses us for His glory it brings Him joy. When a sinner comes to the Lord it brings Him joy. Think of it like this. When one of our earthly children do something really well there is a sense of great pride and joy. Abba Father is a two way relationship, Yes, I have the benefits and blessings of a son but I also have the opportunity to bring joy to the Father. Let's face it, this life is a battle. **Jim Cymbala's book; Spirit Rising** *"The Christian life is a choice, and I choose daily to remain in his presence. I practice joy by being thankful and grateful for all that has been given to me. And I find joy in the fact that I am still learning and growing. I know that a lot of people feel entitled to hang on to their anger and bitterness. I believe in entitlements too. I am a child of god, and I am entitled to his love, peace, and joy, and most of all his grace. I want every good thing he has planned for me."* These meetings were an opportunity to put a song in God's heart, to bring him joy. For all of you who attended that is exactly what we did. Our message to God was you are important enough for me to be there. We were saying Lord we really want to make a difference for you. God really showed up and stirred us up. Paul knew Timothy would need the fire that comes from a spirit filled life so this letter was his way to encourage him. He reminds him his gift and his power to serve comes from God.