

The Pastoral Epistles

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus

2 TIMOTHY 1

PASSING THE TORCH...

Setting and Context

- Very different time and tone than first letter to Timothy
- Paul in REAL prison, a dungeon in the ground
- Nero persecuting Christians, active opposition to Christianity throughout the Roman Empire
- First letter – encouragement and instruction to new pastor
- Second letter – here's how you stand firm in a world that's falling apart around you

Setting and Context

- Last recorded words of the Apostle Paul
- Paul passes the torch to Timothy
- Message of new life in Jesus never wavers

Introduction and Encouragement to Stay Faithful in
Dangerous Times
(2 Timothy 1:1-7)

2 Tim 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Establishes his authority; "...an Apostle of Christ"

Introduction and Encouragement to Stay Faithful in
Dangerous Times
(2 Timothy 1:1-7)

- "...the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus" (vs 1)
 - Paul's entire life summed up in that phrase
- "Grace, mercy, and peace..."
 - Grace = God ***giving*** us what we ***don't*** deserve
 - Mercy = God ***withholding*** what we ***do*** deserve

Introduction and Encouragement to Stay Faithful in
Dangerous Times
(2 Timothy 1:1-7)

2 Tim 1:3-7

"³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

Introduction and Encouragement to Stay Faithful in
Dangerous Times
(2 Timothy 1:1-7)

- "Clear conscience" = "cleansed conscience"
- Prays "constantly" -- 4 Reasons
 - Remembered Timothy's Tears (vs 4)
 - Timothy's sincere faith (vs 5)
 - Timothy's spiritual gift (vs 6)
 - Timothy's God-given spirit of **power** (NOT a spirit of timidity!) (vs 7)
- Don't forget those spirits of LOVE and SELF-DISCIPLINE (because, as we'll see, Timothy is going to need them!)

Introduction and Encouragement to Stay Faithful in
Dangerous Times
(2 Timothy 1:1-7)

- That's the point of the letter: "Timothy, you must stand firm while the world crumbles around you and the enemy lurks within"

THOUGHTS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- 2 basic things for Timothy (and us!) to do to stand firm and overcome the challenges he will face:
 - Verse 8 – "Don't be ashamed in testifying about our Lord..."
 - Verse 14 – "Guard the good deposit (truth) that was entrusted to you..."

2 Tim 1:8a

"⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel..."

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- **Ashamed?**
 - Don't like that word; negative connotation
- **2 Definitions**
 - "Feeling shame, guilt, or disgrace"
 - "Feeling inferior or unworthy"
- Now that makes more sense...

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- How should Timothy (and we) overcome this tendency to be ashamed?
- **2 Resources:**
 - Verse 8: "the power of God"
 - Verse 13: "the pattern of sound teaching"

2 Tim 1:8b-9

"...by the power of God, ⁹ who 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. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time"

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- The gospel **IS** the power of God
 - If, by faith, you believe, what is more powerful?
- This power of God has been demonstrated for us (9a)
 - First, He saved us
 - Second, He sanctified us
- Saving and sanctifying work does not originate in us
- God decided BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN to put in our lives those things that would allow us to make those decisions

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

2 Tim 1:10

“¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

- Jesus did **2 Things** for us
 - He destroyed death and brought life
 - He brought life and immortality to light through the gospel
- Life: we’re no longer the same person
- Immortality: life that goes beyond this earthly place

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- The Bottom Line: it is the power of God that brings certainty and hope to a believer – SO WHY BE ASHAMED OF IT?

2 Tim 1:11-12

“¹¹And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹²That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”

- We’ve heard this one before...
 - I’m not ashamed, you shouldn’t be
 - I’ve been through what you’re going through
 - Those same resources I’ve had, you have

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

2 Tim 1:12b

“...Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”

- Bottom Line: God is the first (and primary) resource for overcoming the tendency to be ashamed

2 Tim 1:13

“¹³What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.”

- The word of God is a strong tool in defending our faith

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- What should a believer do when all around are giving in?
 - **READ YOUR BIBLE!**
- This, then, is the first way Timothy is to overcome challenges
 - **Don't be ashamed** – call upon the power of God and lean upon the Word

THOUGHTS/QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- Second thing Timothy must do to overcome challenges/stand firm

2 Tim 1:14

“¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”

- “Good deposit” = Gospel = Truth
- Means by which we guard this truth is the indwelling Holy Spirit
- Detour...

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- Warning about what the times are like

2 Tim 1:15

"¹⁵ You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes."

- Paul's point: Realize, your job (Timothy, and us) is to guard and defend the truth when the whole world is turning away from it...
- Yet he still sees hope in some...

Instructions in Standing Firm

(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

2 Tim 1:16-18

"¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus."

- At least one guy helped him and Timothy should support him until "that day"
- Why did Paul put this in his letter?

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- Encouragement again – not all is doom and gloom

THOUGHTS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

2 TIMOTHY 2
PASSING THE TORCH...PART II

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- Paul completes his instructions on how he can stand firm and guard the truth

- **4 Specific Things Timothy (and we!) should do**

1. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus

2 Tim 2:1

"1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

- If you want to strengthen others, strengthen yourself through the one who gives all strength!

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

2. Entrust it to others

2 Tim 2:2

"2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

- What's this tell us?

- You guard the truth by **PASSING IT ON**

- This is God's plan for supporting, upholding, and spreading the truth

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

3. Earnest commitment to the cause....

2 Tim 2:3-7

³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”

- **Dedication** of a soldier
 - Don’t get distracted by worldly things

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- **Discipline** of an athlete
 - No shortcuts, not cutting corners, no bending the rules
- **Diligence** of a farmer
 - No autumn harvest without hard work in spring and summer

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

4. Trust in God's staying power...

2 Tim 2:8-10

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory."

- Jesus is the risen Christ
- Jesus is the human Christ

Instructions in Standing Firm
(2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:13)

- Suffering in the cause of Christ will be followed by glory

2 Tim 2:11-13

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

*If we died with him,
we will also live with him;*

*¹² if we endure,
we will also reign with him.*

*If we disown him,
he will also disown us;*

*¹³ if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself."*

How To Avoid Churchwide Gangrene (2 Timothy 2:14-19)

- Paul turns to the tactics of the enemy
- The 2-front war facing the church in Ephesus (sound familiar?)

2 Tim 2:14-17a

¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene."

How To Avoid Churchwide Gangrene (2 Timothy 2:14-19)

- Church was dividing itself down the middle over "word battles"
- **4 Specific Actions**
 - 1. Warn them** (vs 14)
 - It will ruin (destroy) them
 - 2. Handle the scriptures correctly** (vs 15)
 - Don't give in to one faction or another
 - Don't try to please all people all the time
 - Only scripture interprets scripture

How To Avoid Churchwide Gangrene (2 Timothy 2:14-19)

3. **Avoid godless chatter** (vs 16-17a)

- Only leads to more unhealthy debate, spreads like “gangrene”
- Paul digresses (recalls a perfect example for avoiding godless chatter)

2 Tim 2:17b-18

“...Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.”

How To Avoid Churchwide Gangrene (2 Timothy 2:14-19)

4. Remember God’s solid foundation stands firm (vs 19)

2 Tim 2:19

“¹⁹ Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

- God, and His truth, are unchanging – He’s got your back

THOUGHTS/QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

What it Takes to Be Used by God
(2 Timothy 2:20-22)

2 Tim 2:20-22

²⁰In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

²²Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

- God is sovereign; he can and will use each of us, believer or not, whether we offer ourselves or not

What it Takes to Be Used by God
(2 Timothy 2:20-22)

2 Tim 2:21

²¹If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

- Talking about personal, human choice
- Not in **whether** God will use us, He's sovereign...
- ...but rather in **what** God will use us (noble or ignoble)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What it Takes to Be Used by God (2 Timothy 2:20-22)

- Specific things to do to turn away from ignoble things (vs 22)
 - **Flee** from evil desires of youth
 - **Pursue** righteousness, faith, love, and peace
 - **Drag** with you all the others who love the Lord
(Paul always has us running and physically exerting ourselves!)

- Doesn't mean we should ignore non-believers, but we must not forego fellowship with like-minded believers

Reinforcing the Message –Handling Controversies (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

2 Tim 2:23-25a

"²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct"

- Does this mean we should completely avoid conflict and differences of opinion?

- NOOOO!

Reinforcing the Message – Handling Controversies
(2 Timothy 2:23-26)

- Proper Controversies
- 5 Ways to Deal w/Proper Controversies
 1. Lord's servant shouldn't be quarrelsome
 2. Be kind to everyone
 3. Be able to teach
 4. Don't be resentful
 5. Gently instruct those who oppose you

Reinforcing the Message – Handling Controversies
(2 Timothy 2:23-26)

2 Tim 2:23-25a

"...in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

- God can change attitudes, help them do a 180 from their position
- When he does, He'll lead them to knowledge of truth
- And when they repent and know truth, God will help them escape the traps of the devil

THOUGHTS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?