

2 TIMOTHY INTRO

First & Second Timothy, AND the book of Titus are called the **Pastoral Epistles** by Bible students.

In contrast to the letters to the Thessalonians, which were the first books of the New Testament written, **These letters are Paul's last.**

He is old and broken in body... He has suffered greatly at the hands of Jews and Gentiles alike. He has been imprisoned, stoned, betrayed, starved, and yet he is full... **full of joy.** He writes the Second letter to young Timothy from the prison cell in Rome - a ghastly, dark, dank putrefying place where he will ask for warm clothing to be brought to him.

Things have changed a bit since the Apostle's first letter to Young Timothy. During the writing of FIRST Timothy, he was under arrest, but was widely supported by many people. Paul's friends came and visited, brought him things he needed..... That all changes during his second arrest.

Christianity became an illegal religion within the Roman Empire - Due to the neurotic Nero and his blaming Christianity for the burning of Rome in 64 A.D. Rome was a dangerous place to be Christian and so **Paul was basically abandoned** during his last imprisonment.

His prison cell was nasty. Dark, cold and a part of the Roman sewer system. You can visit the cell in the Roman Forum. Several years ago, Lynette and I got to spend quite a long time there praying and thinking about the life of Paul. Tricia Phenicie was able to visit it a few weeks ago.

It would be the last place on earth that you would expect to get an encouraging letter from..... But that is exactly what happened. The Apostle does NOT expect to be released from this imprisonment. He thinks this is the end and indeed it will be. He asks Timothy to visit him before the end of his life....

Paul writes this letter to a young man he calls his "Beloved son."

Who was Timothy? Timothy was a young man who probably helped save Paul's life after the Apostle was left for dead under a pile of rocks that the religious leaders had hurled at him in Timothy's hometown of Lystra. That record is in Acts 14.

The Apostle recovers and then returns to Lystra where he meets the young man Timothy in Acts 16. The Apostle recognizes the call of God on his life and very much wants Timothy to join him on his missionary journey...

Years later, Paul asks Timothy to stay in Ephesus and to establish the Church there. The Ephesian Church was a difficult situation however and the Apostle will send two letters of encouragement and exhortation to his young protégé.

Towards the end of this letter, Paul will ask Timothy to come to Rome and basically replace Paul in the role of Bishop. THAT shows the confidence the Aging Apostle had for this Timid Timothy...

- So, let's listen in to the second letter from Paul to Timothy...

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise **of life** which is in Christ Jesus,

- **Courson** - I love this opening salutation. Knowing he's probably only days away from his death, **Paul talks about life**. What kind of life? Eternal life. He's ready to pull up stakes and move on. He's not downcast or depressed because he sees the bigger picture—the promise of life.
 - The day he died last week, **David Crosby**, the Rock & Roll legend, tweeted that “**he heard that heaven was overrated... cloudy.**”
www.yahoo.com/entertainment/one-david-crosbys-final-tweets-034151024.html
 - Friends, PLEASE take eternity more seriously than that!

PAUL CONTINUES...

2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Why grace before peace?**
 - And of course, Paul always added the word, “**Mercy**” to his Pastoral letters, knowing that they needed it more than most!

GUARD THE DEPOSIT ENTRUSTED TO YOU

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, (**CCSV, You are all prayed for, day and night!**)

PAUL WAS...

4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of **(Remembering)** your tears, **(Tears when they said, "Goodbye.")** that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

- Timothy was blessed to have been brought up in the Lord, AND in the Word. Do your kids and grandkids the same favor, CCSV.
 - Get them in the **Word**. Get them to **camp**. Get them to **Church!**

STIR IT UP!

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up **(Stoke)** the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. **(Ordination)**

- We ALL need to be stoked every now and then!

BE FEARLESS

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound **(self-controlled)** mind.

- I love that the Lord has not gifted us all the same. You may never minister with a **microphone** in your hand. Perhaps your calling involves a **spatula**, or a **hammer**, a **remote control**, a **casserole** dish, or an **oil draining** pan...
- Whatever it is – **STOKE IT UP! Be brave!**

BE NOT ASHAMED

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

- IE, When the going gets rough, Lean in on God!

ON GOD...

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, **(GRACE!)** 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death **(spiritual death)** and brought life and

immortality to light through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed a **preacher**, an **apostle**, and a **teacher** of the Gentiles.

- **COURSON** - Although we know we're saved by grace, why is it that we have a tendency to think we can only be blessed through works? Yes, James says faith without works is dead (Jas 2:20).
 - However, blessing comes neither from faith **and** works,
 - nor from faith **or** works,
 - but from faith **that** works in response to the grace God has already bestowed upon us.
- Paul knew this about himself: He was a **preacher**, an **apostle**, and a **teacher** for the Lord. Sometimes he was paid for his ministry and sometimes not.
 - What did he do for pay when the ministry wasn't paying?
- So... Let's each ask ourselves, "What is MY part to play?" What desire is in my heart? Who is my mission field? Or where is my mission field? Who is on my prayer list?
 - If I put away my fear... What would I be doing for Jesus?
 - When you know your calling you can say like Paul... **For this reason...**

DOXOLOGY OF PAUL

12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

LIKE THIS...

13 Hold fast (**Follow**) the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

- **CEV** - Now follow the example of the correct teaching I gave you and let the faith and love of Christ Jesus be your model.

14 That good thing (**Spiritual gifts**) which was committed to you, keep

by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

THE PHALL OF PHYGELLUS

15 This you know, that all those in Asia (**Turkey**) have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. **ONLY MENTIONS**

PRISON MINISTRY

16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; 17 but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me.

- Why is this worth mentioning? Because it was a capital offence to be a Christian in Rome at this time.
- In spite of the danger, Onesiphorus searched and searched for Paul's cell to visit him and be a blessing. I have searched for that cell too...
- "Dov'è la cella di Paolo?" Che Cosa?

TO PAUL'S HELPERS...

18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

CCSV, Let us find how many ways we can be a blessing to the Lord... To His People... AND to Simi Valley!