

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 1 - 2 Timothy 1:1-14
A Blueprint for Living
“Unashamed”

As you read Paul’s two letters to Timothy, you begin to understand the problems of this young minister. For one thing, he hesitated to face matters squarely and settle them according to the Word of God. There was “fear” in his life, perhaps the fear of man that “brings a snare” (Prov. 29:25). He faced the usual temptations of a young man and certainly did not feel adequate for the task.

Paul was facing persecution, yet he took time to pray for Timothy. He assures Timothy of his love and prayers and of his good remembrance of him night and day. He reminds Timothy that there is much to be thankful for, in spite of the problems he was facing. He reminds him of his godly heritage and of the faith that God has given him, not only for salvation, but also for daily living and Christian service. What a blessing it is to have praying friends! What an encouragement it is to pray for others and to help them along in their spiritual lives.

One of Timothy’s problems was cowardice. His youthfulness probably contributed to this. Paul reminds Timothy that he was neglecting the gift God had given him and that he needed to stir it up, as a man would fan into flame of a dying fire. Paul was not suggesting that Timothy was losing his salvation, but that he was losing his zeal for the Lord and enthusiasm in the Lord’s work. Paul is writing about the Holy Spirit in vs. 7. The Spirit does not generate fear in us, but rather power, love, and a sound mind. Every Christian needs all three! When the Spirit is in control, we will experience peace that surpasses all understanding.

The people at Ephesus knew that Timothy was Paul’s friend and co-laborer, but Paul was now a Roman prisoner! “Don’t be ashamed of me or of the Gospel!” Paul would say. “Our suffering is all a part of our heavenly calling as ministers.” When Christians suffer, they suffer with Christ. The same power that saves us also strengthens us for the battle.

What an encouragement it is to know that Christ is faithful and able to keep His own. “I know whom I have believed!” was Paul’s confidence not “I hope” or “I think.” Paul is saying that he knows he can trust Christ to protect him; but he is also saying that he knows Christ will enable him to keep what He has committed to him.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and answer the following questions.

Ever since he became a Christian, Timothy has been devoted to his mentor Paul. Now the mentor is chained in prison, and the young man faces a flock of immature Christians and a wall of trials on his own. Paul couldn't be with Timothy, but he knew what a fearful leader needed to hear.

1. Who was inspired to write this letter? Explain the work of an apostle and what was necessary for a man to become one?

2. Define the following words:

a. Grace

b. Mercy

c. Peace

3. How often did Paul pray for Timothy?

4. What was said about Timothy's grandmother and mother? How would you define "genuine faith"?

5. What influence can godly parents and grandparents have on a person?

6. What is “the gift of God which is in you”?

7. Think about the spirit we have been given (verse7). Why are power, love and a sound mind all important for those who want to serve God?

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-12 and answer the following questions.

8. In verses 9-11 Paul outlines the gospel he has received from God and entrusted to Timothy. What key points does Paul mention?

9. Why is it important that God both “saved” and “called” us not because of anything we have done?

10. In verse 1 Paul mentions “the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.” How does he explain this promise in verse 10?

11. This promise was important to Paul as he faced execution in Rome. Why is it important for us to focus on this promise today?

Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14 and answer the following question.

12. What was Timothy to hold fast to?

Eunice A Mothers Legacy

Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5) was Jewish, but apparently her father was not very orthodox. He had violated one of the clear commands of the law in arranging a match for his daughters with a Gentile. Later when Timothy was born, he wasn't circumcised. So it seems that neither Eunice's father nor husband were observant of Judaism. But Eunice was. Paul praised her for her "genuine faith" which she shared in common with Lois, her mother (2 Tim. 1:5). Eunice imparted that faith to her son, Timothy, and more than anyone else equipped him for a lifetime of usefulness for God.

Eunice is an encouragement for every woman faced with the task of nurturing the spiritual life of her children, especially if she can't count on the help of a strong male. Eunice may have had no formal religious education and little encouragement from her family, except for Lois. But she had two crucial things going for her that offer hope for mothers today: The inherent power of being a mother and the dynamic power of a loving God.