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By Dan Maines

2 Timothy 1

2 Timothy 1:1

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

† Paul opens by affirming his calling as an apostle. His ministry is rooted in God's will and the promise of life in Christ, which stood as a sharp contrast to the coming judgment upon the Old Covenant system.

2 Timothy 1:2

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

† Paul writes to Timothy with the tenderness of a father to a son in the faith. He blesses him with grace, mercy, and peace, the true gifts of God's kingdom.

2 Timothy 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day.

† Paul roots himself in continuity with the faithful of old, serving God with a pure conscience. He assures Timothy that he is remembered in constant prayer.

2 Timothy 1:4

Longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

† Paul recalls Timothy's tears, likely from their last parting, and longs for reunion. The bond of true fellowship in Christ is both emotional and spiritual.

2 Timothy 1:5

For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelled in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

† Timothy's faith was nurtured by his family. The testimony of Lois and Eunice shows how faith is passed through generations, preparing Timothy for his calling.

2 Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God

which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

† Paul urges Timothy to stir up his gift, not letting it grow cold. The gift was given for service, and Timothy needed courage to use it boldly.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

† Timothy's ministry was not to be marked by fear, but by power, love, and discipline. These are the qualities that carry God's servants through trials.

† Chrysostom, in his Homilies on 2 Timothy, highlights this verse as proof that courage is the defining trait of God's people in the face of persecution.

2 Timothy 1:8

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.

† Paul calls Timothy to embrace the same suffering he endured. Shame was to be cast aside, for God's power upheld the faithful.

2 Timothy 1:9

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 granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

† Salvation rests in God's purpose and grace, not human effort. This holy calling was set in Christ before the ages, now revealed in fullness.

2 Timothy 1:10

But now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior

Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

† Christ's appearing revealed the victory over death. Through the gospel, life and immortality were made clear, fulfilling what the law and prophets had pointed to.

† Ignatius of Antioch, in his Letter to the Trallians 9, confirms this truth, writing that Christ's appearing destroyed death and revealed life, echoing Paul's words here.

2 Timothy 1:11

For which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher.

† Paul reaffirms his role. His commission was to proclaim the gospel, to instruct, and to carry the message to Jew and Gentile alike.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to protect what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

† Paul expresses unshakable trust. His life and ministry were committed into Christ's hands, with full confidence that God would vindicate him in the day of judgment.

2 Timothy 1:13

Hold on to the example of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

† Timothy was to cling to sound teaching, not be swayed by false doctrine. Faith and love were to be the framework in which truth was kept.

2 Timothy 1:14

Protect, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure

which has been entrusted to you.

† The gospel is a treasure entrusted to believers. By the Spirit's help, Timothy was to guard it faithfully against distortion.

2 Timothy 1:15

You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

† Paul laments betrayal. Many in Asia deserted him, evidence of the rising persecution and fear among believers. Their turning away revealed the cost of standing with Paul and the gospel.

† Eusebius, in his Church History 2.25, confirms that many deserted the apostles in times of persecution, leaving only the faithful to stand firm.

2 Timothy 1:16-18

The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me, the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day, and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

† In contrast to those who deserted, Onesiphorus remained faithful. He sought Paul out in Rome and ministered to him without shame. Paul prays for mercy upon him, recognizing his loyalty and service.

† Clement of Rome in 1 Clement 5 praised Paul's endurance and faithfulness even to death, echoing this theme of loyalty in the face of suffering.

Application For Us Today

† Paul's words to Timothy remind us of the same call to courage and faithfulness. We too must reject fear and embrace the spirit

of power, love, and discipline that God has given.

† Like Timothy, we must stir up the gifts God has given us, not letting them lie dormant. Faith must be active, used for service in His kingdom.

† The example of desertion and loyalty reminds us that true discipleship is tested in hardship. Many may shrink back, but the faithful endure, even when it costs them dearly. This applies directly to us today: standing firm in the fulfilled perspective often means being deserted or opposed by those clinging to futurism or tradition.

† Guarding the treasure means holding to sound doctrine without compromise. In our time, that especially includes defending the truth of Christ's fulfilled work and resisting myths and errors that distract from it.

† Above all, this chapter reminds us of the treasure entrusted to us, the gospel of Christ. We must guard it, hold fast to sound teaching, and live boldly in the assurance that Christ has abolished death and brought life to light.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Matthew 16:27-28 - Christ's appearing in that generation

† 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - Christ's victory over death

† Acts 20:28-30 - warning about false teachers entering the church

† 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - Paul's crown of righteousness at Christ's appearing

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.5.2 - false prophets during the siege

† Eusebius, Church History 2.25 - Paul's martyrdom under Nero, desertion of many

† 1 Clement 5 - Paul's endurance and labor

† Ignatius, Letter to the Trallians 9 - Christ abolished death and revealed life

† Chrysostom, Homilies on 2 Timothy - exhortation to courage

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