



**Sunday May 07, 2017**

**2 Timothy Series**

**Chapter 1 : Do Not be Ashamed to Witness for Our Lord**

[LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE : Starting this Sunday, the Life Group Study Guide will be at the end of the Sunday Sermon Notes. This is for us in Life Groups]

### **Introduction to 2 Timothy**

Once Paul returned to Rome, he was imprisoned a second time, around A.D. 67 - A.D. 68. Imprisoned and death imminent Paul wrote his last epistle, 2 Timothy as his final words of instruction to his son in the faith. He also gave details of other people being positioned for Kingdom work and requested Timothy to come soon. Paul was martyred shortly after writing this Epistle, about A.D. 68. Tradition reports that he was beheaded. Since he was a Roman citizen, it is unlikely he would have been put to death in any other manner

We have just completed our reading and study of 1 Timothy, which was Paul's instruction to Timothy on how to lead the local community of believers at Ephesus. 2 Timothy is more personal, where Paul is sharing specific instructions to Timothy on how to live his life as a minister of God.

### **Read 2 Timothy Chapter 1**

Now lets go through this chapter.

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

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

Paul is keenly aware of his impending death, as he mentions later on in this Epistle. And yet, he locks in to the truth that we have been promised life (Greek zoe, eternal life, the God kind of life) in Jesus Christ.

Grace, mercy and peace come to us from our God. He is the Source, the Giver, the One who blesses our lives with grace, mercy and peace.

**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,**

I serve God with a pure conscience - in his earlier Epistle Paul emphasized "pure/good conscience" at least three times. And now he states the same, in relation to how he has been serving God. What a lesson for all of us who desire to serve God - that we serve God with a clear/good/pure conscience. We can only have a clear conscience when we live right before God and man.



Paul's forefathers - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and on down the lineage - they walked righteously before God and man, and walked in the revelation that they had at that time.

Paul's affection for Timothy was so great that he was continuous in his prayers for Timothy.

**4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, 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.**

"the genuine faith" that is passed on as a heritage through the generations.  
This is what God desires (Isaiah 59:21).

But this does not happen automatically - we have to work towards ensuring that this happens. We need to be careful to first of all model before our children and grand-children what "the genuine faith" looks like in everyday life. In the classroom things are "taught". At home, more things are "caught" than "taught".

**6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.  
7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

It seems to appear that Timothy might have been reluctant to exercise all his spiritual gifts, perhaps intimidated by people older than him. Hence in 1 Timothy 4:12 Paul encourages Timothy not to let his 'youth' hold him back and also exhorts him to exercise his gift:

#### **1 Timothy 4:14**

**Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.**

Once again in his second Epistle Paul encourages Timothy to 'stir up' the gift of God in him.

*stir up = to kindle aflame, to fire up alive*

Some of simple ways we stir up God's gifts is by spending more time in worship and prayer, more time in the Word, associating with others who are flowing in similar gifts, and using what we have.

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

Spiritual gifts can be imparted and activated (get initiated or started) by one believer into another believer.

The reason we can be stir up and step out on the gifts God has given us is because the Holy Spirit whom God has given us fills us with power ('dunamis'), love ('agape') and a sound mind (self control, discipline, moderation, self-governing ability).

Interesting that Paul mentions these three : power, love and self-control in the context of using the gifts of God.



The gifts of God must be exercised in the power of God with the love of God and in a self-controlled manner.

Fear must not hold us back in any way.

**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,**

In view of the Spirit that God has given us don't be ashamed of speaking about the Lord. Don't be ashamed with identifying with genuine ministers of God, even if they are suffering for the sake of Christ.

Share in the sufferings for the Gospel.

God's power (dunamis, miracle working power) is what enables us to take on our part in the sufferings for the Gospel.

This is another very important dimension of God's miracle working power - the ability to endure suffering (persecutions, hardships, oppositions) for the Gospel.

**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,**

The is a powerful and 'loaded' verse. So much here in this one verse.

If you are saved, you are also called.

This is a 'holy calling' or a call to holiness, a morally pure life in Him.

God has called us to His own purpose and grace.

CALL, PURPOSE, GRACE

God calls us to His purpose. And He gives us the grace to walk in the call and purpose He has called us to.

This was something God planned even before time began. Refers to God's fore-knowledge of all things (Romans 8:29).

**10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour.

He has abolished (completely and definitely caused to cease) death and instead has given us life ('zoe') and immortality (incorruption, unending existence) through the Gospel.

While death has been defeated, and we have 'zoe' life now (1 John 5:11-12), we also know from other passages in Scripture that for us believer to experience immortality 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 must take place first. This is the wonderful blessing of the Gospel.

We cannot use this Scripture verse to teach 'immortality now' as some erroneously teach.

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



Paul states his calling to the Gentiles.

**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.**

The Christian's call is not exempt from 'suffering' hardships, oppositions, and persecutions.

Earlier in this chapter Paul encouraged Timothy not to be ashamed.

Now Paul makes his own statement on WHY he is not ashamed to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

Obviously, in addition to the fact that Paul is empowered supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, he also states two additional reasons:

"...I know whom I have believed..."

"...I know He is able to keep what I have committed to Him...." (guard what I have deposited with Him)

The second part of this verse could be rendered both ways, and indeed are true both ways:

He is able to guard what has been committed by me to Him...

He is able to guard what has been committed to me by Him...

Whom have you believed?

In whose hands is your life, present and eternity?

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

An important instruction to a minister of God.

The key to avoiding error and deception is to stay with "the pattern of sound words" which I have taught you.

From 1 Timothy we recall, that one of the reasons Paul assigned Timothy to Ephesus is to protect the church from all kinds of false teachings that were going on around.

Secondly we also learnt in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 that there are seducing spirits that give rise to doctrines/teachings of demons that will seek to infiltrate the Church and draw people away from the faith. Many errors in teaching in the Church are actually the work of evil spirits through well meaning ministers who have been seduced or deceived.

So Paul once again reminds Timothy to stay with the teachings Paul has given Timothy.

Keep it simple. Stay with walking in faith and love in Jesus Christ.

**14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.**



Guard what has been committed to you (a repeat of 1 Timothy 6:20) with the help of the Holy Spirit.

You also need the power of the Holy Spirit to guard the Word within.

It is the anointing within (1 John 2:20,27) who will teach us what is right and wrong.

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

It appears that many believers from Asia Minor deserted or abandoned their friendship/association with the apostle Paul because of his imprisonment. Phygellus and Hermogenes are two names, men who seemed to have abandoned their friendship with Paul. We do not know anything more about these two.

It is no wonder Paul, firmly encourage Timothy not to be ashamed of speaking for the Lord, or being associated with Paul, earlier in this chapter.

**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.**

**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.**

Onesiphorus is not mentioned elsewhere, but what a wonderful affirmation of this man, and of what he did for Paul.

He ministered to Paul at Ephesus

He came to Rome, searched and found me out in Rome

He often refreshed me

He was not ashamed of my chain

Will we do something similar for those who are being persecuted for the Gospel's sake?

**Hebrews 13:1-3**

**1 Let brotherly love continue.**

**2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.**

**3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.**

### **KEY TAKE AWAY**

While there are several important lessons in this chapter, we would like to emphasize as our key take away:

**2 Timothy 1:8 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,**

Do Not be Ashamed to Witness for Our Lord!

**MINISTRY TIME**



# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

## 2 Timothy Series

### Chapter 1 : Do Not be Ashamed to Witness for Our Lord

This is a simple guide for use in the Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours.

#### Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) available online at [apcwo.org](http://apcwo.org). You can also review the Sunday Sermon PDF notes. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

#### **L**ISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: 2 Timothy Chapter 1

#### **I**NVESTIGATE God's Word Together

#1, Make a quick itemized list of all things Paul encourages Timothy to do as a minister of God in this chapter

#2, Make a list of everything Paul discloses about himself as a minister of God, in this chapter.

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learnings from the Scriptures read today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **F**ELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **E**NCOURAGE by praying and ministering to one another



Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Close by getting back together as a group and thanking God together.