

Faithful Living

2 Timothy 1:1-18

Timeline:

- Released from first Roman imprisonment around AD 62.
- 1 Timothy - AD 64-65 following his release from house arrest and writing from Macedonia.
- Paul is rearrested within a year or two.
- 2 Timothy - AD 65-67, Paul writes his final farewell before his martyrdom (AD 67-68).

Context: Time has passed.

The circumstances of Paul's life have changed.

- Paul is in prison in Rome (1:16-17, 2:9).
- He has already had a preliminary hearing (4:16-18).
- He is waiting for his final trial and the outlook is bleak (death is expected, 4:6-8).
- There have been some who have cared for Paul while in prison (Onesiphorus, 1:16-18).
- The proclamation of the good news of Jesus has been chaotic (some have been sent out while others have abandoned Paul and the cause, 4:10-12).
- It appears that things in Ephesus have only become worse. There are still very loud and influential false teachers at work (1:15, Phylgelus, Hermogenes / 2:17-18, Hymenaeus)

vs. 1, For the sake of the promise of life in Christ Jesus

- Experience the "first fruit" of Christ in life right now.
- Experience the filling of hope that will come in the promised resurrection.

vs. 3-7, Reflection:

Prayer	Encouragement
Appreciation	Resolve

vs. 5, Don't forget your roots

vs. 6, rekindle the gift of God
Blow gently to bring it back into flame.

vs. 7, Do not be a person of fear.
Instead, because of the presence of the Spirit be a person of

power
love
sound judgment (thinking clearly and discerning)

generosity
self-giving love
grace.

This is especially true of leaders.

Question: How can you build these patterns into your life?

-> When the vice grip of life is bearing down these are the things that help us deal with the pressure.

vs. 8, So don't be ashamed...
Feeling shame, odd, out of place, unwelcome, a refugee in a foreign land?

Honor / Shame culture

Paul has repeatedly spoke against those in power.

The royal message of the Roman Empire was Caesar as Lord.
It was Caesar's power that would save the world.
There was great hope in the royal appearance of Caesar.

Paul is out of favor with the power brokers of the day.

Question: What / who are the power brokers of our day? How intoxicated are you by their power?

Social Media - attention
AI - affection

Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God.

-> What is the power of God? (**vs. 9-12**)

- He has saved us.
- He has called us with a holy calling.
- His grace has been made evident through the appearing of Jesus, our Savior.
- Jesus has abolished death.
- Jesus has brought life and immortality to light.
- Jesus is my protector.

God's power overrides all earthly power.

Does your life demonstrate the above statement to be true?

Question: How are you daily witnessing God's power? Are you tuned in enough to understand the power of God at work?

vs. 13, I have been a model.

Guard by avoiding the erosion of false teaching (1 Timothy 6:20).

Guard through the Holy Spirit (**vs. 14**).

- Become more and more familiar with the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

vs. 15-18,

1. There is real opposition to the good news of Jesus.
2. Even when darkness seems to be all around, the light of Jesus is still at work through his people.

There is a very real and prominent cultural narrative.

It promotes and tries to convince you who / what saves, rescues, delivers, gives meaning, brings acceptance, builds identity.

Is this the narrative that is shaping our lives?

-OR-

Is Jesus and his kingdom shaping our lives?

If the resurrection is real...

And if the promise of your resurrection is assured...

Then your entire world of values is turned upside down.

Practically speaking

- There are things that you are currently proud of that if transformed by Jesus you will repent of.
- There are things that you are currently ashamed of that if transformed by Jesus will give you great joy and zeal!