

## II Timothy Introduction: Handbook of a Life's Work; Retaining the Standard and Passing the Torch

**Author:** Paul the Apostle

**Date:** 68 B.C.

### Setting:

- The book of Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome during his 1st imprisonment. Evidence suggests that he was released, traveled and was imprisoned a second time in Rome under Nero.
- This is Paul's Last Will and Testament: "*Do your utmost to come before winter...*" [4:21]
- Nero blamed the burning of Rome in 64B.C. on Christians torturing and/or executing many including Peter.
- Many deserted Paul and only Luke was with him as he wrote 2 Timothy [4:11]
- Paul's relationship as Timothy's "Spiritual" father began at the start of Paul's second missionary journey, of which there were three total.
- Timothy was spiritually fed by his mom and grandmother as his father was Greek and most likely a non-believer
- Though timid, Timothy was Paul's representative in Thessalonica [1 Thessalonians. 3:2] and Corinth [1 Corinthians 4:17].
- Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to confront false teachers and wrote to 1 Timothy at that time to encourage him in his faith

**Purpose:** Encouragement

## II Timothy Outline: Handbook of a Life's Work;

# **Retaining the Standard and Passing the Torch**

## **I. Affliction of/for the Gospel, Chapter 1**

- A. Introduction, Chapter 1: 1-7
- B. Persevering with an Eternal Perspective, Chapter 1:8-11
- C. Security of the Gospel Anchor, Chapter 1:12-18

## **II. Illustrations of Active Service, Chapter 2**

- A. A Son, Chapter 2:1-2
- B. A Soldier, Chapter 2:3-4
- C. An Athlete, Chapter 2:5
- D. A Workman, Chapter 2:15-19
- E. A Vessel, Chapter 2:20-23
- F. A Servant, Chapter 2:24-26

## **III. Instruction for the Man/Woman of God in the Last Days,**

### **Chapters 3:1-4-5**

- A. View of the Last Days, Chapter 3:1-9
- B. Scripture Will and Believers Should Remains Faithful and True in Last Days, Chapter 3:10-17
- C. Orders for the Last Days; Preach the Word, Chapter 4:1-5

## **IV. Allegiance Encouraged/Paul's Deathbed Testimony,**

### **Chapter 4:6-22**

- A. Deathbed Testimony 4:6-8
- B. Last Words, Chapter 4:9-22

# 2 Timothy Chapter 1: Retaining the Standard and Passing the Torch

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

## 2 Timothy Chapter 1

### Introduction:

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

- **"...the promise of life"** eternal
- To my **Beloved son**: Grace, Mercy and Peace given to Paul by the Lord Jesus and extended to Timothy
- **Apostle Paul**: Sent one; **Apostle proper**: signs and miracles. Witness of and commissioned by Jesus Himself to preach

1. Accomplish the murder of Stephan the first Martyr

**Acts 7:58** ...they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the **feet** of a young man named **Saul**.

2. This caused the scattering of Christians in Jerusalem, forcing them to do what Jesus commanded... "Go out!"

**Acts 8:1** Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria...

**James 1:1** James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

3. On Paul's way to Damascus to continue his rampage against Jesus...he was commissioned as an Apostle:

**Acts 9:5** [Read] [Paul said] said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."... **15** But the Lord said to [Ananias], "Go, for [Saul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. 19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then

Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. 20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. 21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem

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

- How could this man consider himself a anybody's mentor no less father?

**1 Corinthians 6:9** [Read] Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor **covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. [Murder a given]

1. **Grace:** Undeserved kindness
2. **Mercy:** Not receiving the punishment we deserve
3. **Peace:** Peace with God

**Romans 5:10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

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, 4 longing to see you, even as I **recall your tears**, so that I may be filled with joy. 5For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

- Paul's love in view: "...recall with tears"
- Paul emphasizes "faith transmitted" from generation to generation
  1. From Paul's forefathers to him through the Scripture
  2. Timothy's mother and grandmother to Timothy

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. 7For God has not given us a **spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline**.

- **For this reason:** You have faith...develop your spiritual gift and your ability to share it with:
  1. **Power**
  2. **Love**
  3. **Discipline**
- God has not given us the spirit of timidity which stunted Tim's growth in these

three areas. Paul preciously made provisions for him:

**1 Corinthians 16:10** Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you **without cause to be afraid**, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am. 11 So let no one despise him But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.

**1 Timothy 4:12** Let no one **look down on your youthfulness**, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

- Timothy was shy, timid, young...Paul says **"let God be in control" and "Tim...time to grow up in your faith"**
- Spiritual Timidity "Slavish Fears" Matthew Henry
- **Timothy's Gift:** Faith manifested in Preaching and Teaching God's Word
- VIP: "Apostolic representative" of Jesus Christ Himself
- **Replace Timidity with...**

1. **Power** to speak God's Word and see lives changed (I will give you power to be My witness)

**Acts 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." [Note: Later Paul will talk about false-teachers denying the power of God!]

2. **Love** Timothy would need to confront the false -teachers in Ephesus with both truth and love:

**Ephesians 4:14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...

3. **Discipline:** Root "Disciple" learned from his mentor...

**1 Corinthians 9:25** Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. [C.f. 2 Timothy 2; athlete]

- Make your punches [effort] count; that is, redeem the time:

**Ephesians 5:15** See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

### Persevering with an Eternal Perspective

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,

**Romans 1:15** ...as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...

- Why? Eternal Perspective:

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 us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 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, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

1. He saved us
2. He called us by grace [undeserved kindness] to a Holy calling for His purpose granted by Christ from...eternity [perspective]

**Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

3. He abolished death
  4. Brought life and immortality [everyone has immortality]
- All of this... "Through the gospel"...get moving Tim.. join me in my suffering...the rewards are eternal!
  - **Salvation AND Suffering: Welcome!**

### Security of the Gospel Anchor

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 guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

- **For this reason:** Preacher, Teacher, and Apostle; I suffer as a target of Satan
- Jesus is trustworthy: Not w/out reward

**Matthew 25:21** 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

- I suffer: "Where art thou scars if you truly have been following?"
- My life entrusted to Jesus: Paul's soul and those he led to the LORD
- Paul continues exhorting and encouraging with **2 final main points:**

1. **Retain the standard** of sound words; i.e. doctrine
2. **Guard the treasure entrusted to you**, the gift of teaching and preaching

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

- Retain the "standard of sound words"

**2 Corinthians 4:2** ...but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God...

**2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

14 **Guard**, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, **the treasure which has been entrusted to you**.

- Guard the "Treasure entrusted to you": Gift of faith and teaching...souls

**Matthew 5:14** [Read]"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

- Paul remembers the faithful and those who he ministered to and with who deserted him

15You are aware of the fact that **all who are in Asia turned away from me**, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; 17but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me-- 18the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day--and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

## SUMMARY:

- Paul is introduced as Timothy's spiritual father, encouraging an eternal perspective as Timothy encounters opposition preaching in Ephesus
- Power love and discipline must replace timidity as the Eternal Gospel is worthy of suffering in light of God's purpose for us/the salvation of souls
- Paul encourages timothy to **"retain the standard"** of sound words; i.e.

correct doctrine

- Paul encourages Timothy to **"guard the treasure"** entrusted to him; his gift of teaching...leading people to Christ and correcting/rebuking false teachers
- 1. **Shine:** Allow God to develop your gift(s); the treasure entrusted to you
- 2. **Guard the standard:** regarding "sound" words and life lived. Don't let the world set your standard...you set the worlds with the WORD
- 3. **Charge at the work of God:** Don't let fear of suffering deter you; keep an eternal perspective w/ your eyes on the prize. Jesus will be with you. Walk by faith not by sight

**Deuteronomy 31:8** The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."