

Teaching Series: 2 Timothy
Passage: 2 Timothy 1:1-7
Title: Preaching from the Position of Pain

2 Timothy 1:1-7 (NKJV) 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. 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, 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. 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.

A warm and wonderful introduction to this letter (which we call an epistle). But 4:6, Paul says his departure is at hand, death is imminent. What we know historically is Paul is in a brutal Roman prison, and he would be executed. This is Paul's last letter he will write (most scholars agree).

2 Timothy 4:6 (NKJV) ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

As warm and as wonderful this letter begins, as we will read and see, Paul is writing, speaking, preaching from a position of pain. Paul writes (preaches) from the position of pain, yet so interesting as we read the letter his pain is not directed at, or from, Rome or the Jews. This whole road he has traveled, years of his first imprisonment was because the Jews who falsely accused him, and had him arrested on trumped up charges. Paul would be released (obviously found not guilty), only to be rearrested some time shortly later by the Romans, and this time not under house arrest but in a brutal, horrendous conditions of a Roman prison (which I will discuss all these things in more detail in our next study).

But Paul is writing, speaking, preaching from a position of pain. Paul writes (preaches) from the position of pain, yet so interesting as we read the letter his pain is not directed at, or from, Rome or the Jews but those close to him who have personally hurt him. He says to Timothy in verse 4 that he is mindful of Timothy's tears and thus pain.

2 Timothy 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,

Has someone close to you hurt you?

Paul was preaching from a position of pain. It's hard for a person, especially us, to preach from the position of pain because it hurts. There's a pain in our heart. There's a pain in our emotion when we preach from a position of pain because the pain is real and the pain is fresh and the pain is alive and lingering in our very being, piercing the heart, piercing the emotion, piercing the soul. Yet Paul is going to preach from this position of pain and preach one of the most powerful messages ever heard. It's called the Second Letter to Timothy.

Have you ever poured yourself out, given everything? This is what Paul has done for the sake of others, and yet here's Paul in prison. And as we read all that he gave and all that he poured out ended in abandonment by some, by many. Yet as he writes to Timothy to finish well, he preaches from a position of pain as he's going to give Timothy these final charges to finish well to hear those same words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," that Paul soon will hear as he's in his last days. Yet Paul in his pain will be remembering all the critiquing that was put against him, all the wrong and all the unfairly attacks against him. And as he writes, Timothy will see them coming alive as he preaches from a position of pain.

Has someone close to you hurt you?

Yet in his pain, he speaks these powerful words that we should all home in on. He says to Timothy, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind." So the words spoken to each and every one of us that's applicable to us today is there's still power in pain, there's still love in pain, and there's still a sound mind in pain, and God uses them in the position of our pain.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

5 Reasons Personal Hurts are in this Epistle

5 Reasons Paul's farewell letter would use precious ink, precious space, speaking to Timothy about the wounds of the people who hurt him (Paul)

First: To Contrast - Well, the first reason is it contrasts who is faithful to Him as we'll see in Luke would stay with Him when everybody else would abandon. Can I ask you, are there any Luke's in the room today, who stayed by even when all flee and abandon others when they're in their greatest time of need? The Lord, through the inspired word of God here, lets it be known that Paul has a treasure and Paul's treasure is the name Luke. I pray you'll be a Luke in somebody's life and if you have a Luke, treasure them. Let them know it and then be a Luke to someone when everybody else is leaving them and abandoning them. Maybe it's not even anything to do with personal sin, failing. But if so, that's even more so why we need to come and stand beside them. But just those who are lonely, maybe feel they're all alone in a closed room, like a prison cell and all forgotten them. They'll treasure a Luke who comes and stands with them.

2 Timothy 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

2 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

2 Timothy 1:16–17 (NKJV) 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.

2 Timothy 4:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰ for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

2 Timothy 4:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

You are verse two, a beloved son by Paul, in verse five, your mother and grandmother and above all by God who holds you in His hands, in His heart. Oh, I pray you know

how you are loved even if your family doesn't love you. But I'm praying that they do. But you are loved. I pray you find it here. I pray and plead we love each other and we are continually reminded we are loved by Him. As we take communion, we'll hold a cup that declares in Hebrews chapter 12, verse one and two, for the joy that was set before Him. That's why He endured all to have us. On the night that He was betrayed, preaching from a place and position of pain, yet He came to a place and position of power.

2 Timothy 1:2 (NKJV) ² To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV) 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.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Verse three, speaks of the forefathers. I think there's a place to honor our forefathers, not just the forefathers as we adore them as Charles Spurgeon and Pastor Chuck Smith and Pastor Joe Focht and Pastor Dave Guzik. But I'm talking to forefathers, such as godly mothers and fathers, godly and influential brothers and sisters who stand beside each and every one of us. There's a place that they deserve honor, we should give them honor. I think it's a great place to even speak honor on to them and of them to others and to them directly.

2 Timothy 1:3 (NKJV) 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,

Secondly: To Acknowledge, it acknowledges that people close to us, hurt us and to be honest, we can be the ones who do the hurting and let us be reminded of that and Paul is saying, "Don't be surprised and don't be disillusioned, Timothy. What happened to me will happen to you because, as Jesus would say, the servant is not greater than the master and as it happened to Jesus, He speaks." But we have the continual power behind it. Disillusionment will call us to quit. Disillusionment may call us to depart and Paul's reminding and putting forth to Timothy expect it. Acknowledge people close to you will hurt you.

"But oh the wounds of a friend," as Jesus would be wounded by Judas who He called a friend. He considered Judas a friend in the wounds of a friend. And you know the question, why does Paul's farewell letter address these things? The personal wounds that will read of friends like Alexander, the coppersmith, Demas, who forsakes him and the others that we'll see here. Why would he address it, give ink and space to these and those who hurt him?

Proverbs 27:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Matthew 26:48-50 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." ⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

Hurting is a dangerous, emotional place to be. It's a place many people quit. It's a place that many people, because of disillusionment, believe the part. But Paul doesn't and he is reinforcing to Timothy so he doesn't either and so we see a place of power in our passage today and the weeks to come as we study this book preaching from the position of pain and the power that comes in the midst of the pain.

Paul will say to Timothy that God has not given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. Paul would say those words to Timothy because he would know that Timothy is fearful about something. And so he calls to remind not to be fearful, to remember the power of God and the promises of God. I am reminded of Abraham after he stormed the gates with 300 men there against the five kings, valiant, daring night raid, victorious. But then after when the emotions settle, God would come and speak to him and say, "Fear, not Abraham." The reason he would say that is because Abraham would be fearful. "Are the kings going to regroup and rally, get reinforcements and now come and track me down and strike me down?" So God speaks to him, "Fear not." So God speaks to Timothy because God had spoken to Paul, because God had spoken to Abraham and because God speaks to us. "Fear not. I'm not giving you the spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound mind. Fear not, for I am God."

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Genesis 15:1 (NKJV) ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Thirdly: To See, God sees those who hurt you. Whether literal tears or emotional tears, God sees. Jehovah-Rohi as he would speak that to Hagar. I see you. I see your pain. I see your tears and I catch them in the bottle. You don't cry alone and no tear ever drops to the floor alone or absorbs into the pillow alone. Every tear that you've ever shed in your life, think about this, transports itself into Heaven, into a bottle that God holds, Psalm 56, verse 8. Every tear we think they get absorbed in our natural water system, evaporation, I don't stretch the truth when I say they're teleported to a place in Heaven in a bottle that God holds and sees our tears in his bottle of remembrance. As Paul would say to Timothy, "I'm reminded of your tears."

Genesis 16:13-14 (NKJV) ¹³ Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

Psalms 56:8 (NKJV) ⁸ You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Fear is the literal word "timidity". It's a wordplay there in verse five and six, as it is Paul reminding is who you are, genuine faith. You're gifted, Timothy. You are Timothy, a beloved one. You're not timid. You're Timothy, a beloved one, a beloved of God.

Fourthly: To Promise, back to verse one, there is a promise of life. The word there is Zoe life. We speak it often here. It's the abundant life. It's the God life. It's a life that is beyond the life of this world. It's the life that Jesus lived and the disciples lived. As the devil would come to steal, kill and destroy and so we see the heart of pain as Paul preaches through pain from a position of pain and yet we see the counter of the promise and the power of the abundant life of those who shed tears, of those who heart are ached and harmed. God sees.

2 Timothy 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

In 2 Corinthians, we see Paul list the things that were intended to break him. But isn't it amazing the things that were made and thought to break him, made him unbreakable and once again, there's a promise through all the pains, things meant to break us, actually make us unbreakable?

2 Corinthians 11:22–29 (NKJV) ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

Fifthly: To Show— To Show you, that nothing, and no one can stop the work of God that He has purposed and destined you for.

2 Timothy 4:16–18 (NKJV) ⁶ At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Verse six, Timothy has a gift stirred in him, the laying on of hands and his reward was Act 16, that he has to be circumcised to go on the mission field with Paul. I find that ever so amazing in that Timothy willingly and willfully did that for the sake of the gospel. Timothy is young and faithful and what a wonderful example, regardless of age. Young physically, young at heart, both of them have a calling and a beauty that follows in faithfulness.

2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

The call is the finish. This is what Paul is in his last days and he's given a writing here to Timothy to finish and to finish well. To finish well is to finish faithfully and when the Lord speaks, "Well done, good and faithful servant," the keyword there is faithful. May we be faithful to the end.

2 Timothy 2:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

In verse 4, Paul says forefathers and he's proud of the forefathers and the lineages. And I've come to appreciate and find the power in the lineages of the forefathers. Because you know what? There's a built-in promise. There's a built-in power when you study them and look at them and ponder them, the boring lineages, so to say. But you know what? It proves nothing can stop the Lord Almighty. Israel cannot be wiped out. The lineages proves that God preserved them. And here, 2,000 years later, they still stand, the only nation to exist without a homeland for 2,000 years, and here they are. As Zechariah prophesied in chapter 12, they would come back into the land, a nation born in the day. Ezekiel 36 and 37 said the regathering of Israel, written 2,500 years ago. And yet here we are seeing the regathering of Israel from the four corners of the earth.

The boring lineages proves that nothing can stop the Lord Almighty. The gospel cannot be stopped.

The lineages to the Messiah, as many times as they were tried to be wiped out, whether it was Haman or Herod, the gospel could not be stopped, the lineage of it. And Jesus Christ was born exactly as ordained by the scripture's prophecy, and lineage. And when the third H, Hitler, tried to wipe out Israel, they still stand. Even with such a mad man, three mad men, yet none of them could stop the Lord Almighty.

And as I read that in Genesis 49:25, "By God of your father, by the Almighty." And that word there Almighty El Shaddai. Psalm 89:18, "For our shield belongs to the Lord, the Holy one of Israel" The Holy one of Israel speaks two words, Holy and Israel. Israel means God prevails. As Jacob wrestled with God, God prevailed. Israel is his name, as it was changed. Holy means set apart. And so we have a lineage of the set apart God who prevails. And so the promise that we see through the forefathers for us, no one, nothing can stop the Lord Almighty. Nothing can stop Philippians 1:6, that he who began and a good work will be faithful to complete it until that day. As we read the other passages of the promise of his appearing, nothing can stop the Lord Almighty coming back and coming for us.

Genesis 49:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

Psalm 89:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For our shield belongs to the LORD, And our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

5 Reasons God Reveals Personal Hurts in the Epistle of Second Timothy

- First: To Contrast (Who is Faithful)
- Secondly: To Acknowledge (Close People do Hurt Us)
- Thirdly: To See (God Sees Who Hurts You)
- Fourthly: To Promise (Still There is a Promise of Abundant Life)
- Fifthly: To Show (Nothing Can Stop the Lord in Your Life)

Conclusion

So Paul, his pain isn't against Rome who's imprisoning him. It isn't against the Jews who falsely accused him that started this whole mess in his life. His pain is about the false prophets coming to deceive the church. His pain is in the personal relationships that have hurt him and wounded him. It's not what we would have thought. We would've thought his pain would've been against Rome, the tyrant governing authority. You would've thought it'd been bitter at the Judaizing Jewish countrymen, but it's not, and hence speaks a deep story for each and every one of us of what this passage, what this four-chapter book means to us as Paul preaches through pain. And yet his pain comes in power and speaks a story to us because all of us suffer some type of pain through this world. And God has a story and a word for us as we start this new study in this glorious book of II Timothy.

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

