

Teaching Series: 2 Timothy
Passage: 2 Timothy 1:1-6
Title: Paul's Impenetrable Prison

Summary: Paul is writing his last letter before his death, from a brutal Roman prison. Everyone at some point feels imprisoned, bound by something beyond their control, yet as we study today Paul is captive with love and joy. How could that be? We will see Paul built and impenetrable prison cell, where the enemy of his heart and mind could not reach, but only Jesus. Join us as we see how we can do the same when faced with painful circumstances outside of our control.

Outline 2 Timothy 1:1-6

- God has a Will for Every Person Here Today (1:1)
- There is Power in Being Childlike (1:2)
- God Always a Specific Word for You and You Alone (1:2)
- God's Greeting of Peace (Shalom) and it's Fullness in It (1:2)
- Paul Turned His Prison into a Temple (1:3)
- Paul's Prison Was Impenetrable (1:3)
- Catching Other Peoples Tears – Being Like God (1:4)
- The Gift of Passing on the Faith (1:5-6)

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.

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

God has a Will for Every Person Here Today (1:1)

Verse one. Paul, an apostle. Apostle means sent one and Paul, an apostle, was sent by the will of God.

Paul had plenty of reasons that could question and challenge “are you sure you an apostle by the will of God” because I would have expected a life way more “smoother” than the life you lived. Hey understand this beloved, the words are true, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

2 Timothy 3:10–13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

The word for “life” here is the word “zoe” which we have studied and knows means “abundant life”:

*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.*

Too many people miss the abundant life that's promised to them because they do not first see and believe by faith that God has a will, a determination for their life (I've come that they may have life and that more abundant, and that I have a future and hope for you). In Paul's case, it was to be an apostle, a sent one, sent out from him who called him. God has a specific will for each and every one of us and it doesn't necessarily mean it's singular and one thing only. Let me explain what I mean by that.

*Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)*¹¹ *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

There are elements of the will of God. We even see a progression in the will of God but each of the elements are part of the will of God for our life. Too often we think the will of God is that thing that we do or that thing that we are. But it's way more than that as we look at the elements and the progression of the will of God.

We see that in the womb, the gospel, the transformation, the discipleship, the mentorship, and then in Paul's case, the doing, the sent-out one.

- The womb. Says we were formed in our mother's womb.
- And then the second we see in these elements of the progression of the will of God becomes the gospel, that God opens our eyes to the gospel to see a need for the Savior and that our sin separates us from the holy one. But God's great love that he traded places with us, took our sin so that we might take sons and daughtership with him.
- Thirdly, we see the transformation. I begin a life of living transformation from the old man to the new man. Romans Chapter 7 Paul will speak of that transformation, that process that was happening in his life, all part of the will of God in his life.
- Fourth we see along that way; discipleship is the will of God for Paul's life as he studied 14 years in Arabia.
- Then after that, we see a mentorship as he came up to Jerusalem and met with the apostles. Then we see Paul's calling here as an apostle, as a sent-out one, that Paul was sent out. Maybe you can see these elements of the progression of the will of God in each and every one of our lives.

*Psalms 139:13 (NKJV)*¹³ *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.*

*Psalms 139:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

*Romans 5:8 (NKJV)*⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Romans 7:23–25 (NKJV)*²³ *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.* ²⁴ *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?* ²⁵ *I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

*Galatians 1:15–17 (NKJV)*¹⁵ *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,* ¹⁶ *to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,* ¹⁷ *nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.*

*Galatians 1:18–19 (NKJV)*¹⁸ *Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.* ¹⁹ *But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.*

Paul was sent out, Paul was sent out to be an apostle. Maybe you're called to be sent out into the boardroom of Corporate America, maybe called to be sent out into the healthcare to show the compassion and the heart of God. Maybe you're called out to be sent out to be a guard or a police officer. Maybe you've been called out to be a father or mother. Maybe you've been called out on your campus and sent out. All of us have an apostleship in a sense that God sends us out somewhere because he sends us not just out, but sends us to a people who are in need of the living God, to hear the promise of life and the offer of the abundant life to them. So first is to believe, then it's to receive the Word of God inspired by his Spirit and then to go. There's a process in the will of God for each and every one of us.

- God has designed you in the mother's womb and his ways are perfect and you are perfect in the way that he has designed you. We can all buy the lie of the world, wish we were more of this and

less of that, change this, change that. God has made you perfect because God is the master architect. You are fearfully and wonderfully made by God himself.

- And then secondly, when you're sent out, you have to remember this, the very gospel that changed your life has the power to change others' lives. If it could change you, you know it can change others. If it grabbed hold of you and rescued you from darkness and brought you into the marvelous light, you know the power of it. You know that there's people just like you out there waiting to hear it, waiting to receive it and waiting to be delivered and waiting to be embraced and loved by God himself.
- Thirdly, as we speak of this transformation, the vessel has to hold water and I mean the water of the living water of the Holy Spirit and therefore God has to do a transforming work of taking and conforming from the old man into the new man and so there's part of the process of the elements of the will of God that he's doing in our lives.
- Fourth, there's also along that way this discipleship, the Word of God working in us first as good farmers and then secondly, outward to those that we're sent to but God's word is in the midst of God's will. The two are inseparable and so he has to pour the word in before he pours us out. The vessel has to hold water as it's transformed and then it has to be filled by the living God himself.
- Then fifthly, mentors for us get us from A to B faster than we can do it alone. And so the power being sent out to a brother or sister to mentor them and to grow them, to invest in our failures, to hopefully deliver them from a future failure that we've already stepped on.

Verse one. The promise of life only comes from the only way of life. John 14:6, as Jesus would say, I am the way the truth and the life and no man comes to the father except by me. The only way of life is through a union with Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

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

There is Power in Being Childlike (1:2)

Verse two. Beloved son. The word son literally means child. Paul is calling this man Timothy, who my guess is probably in his mid-thirties, a son as in a young child of a son. And there's a special bond that we see between Paul and Timothy. Paul will tell Timothy, don't despise your youth. And so we know Paul's not talking down to Timothy, but he's talking a special bond to Timothy, a special heart connection with Timothy as a father and a son.

And you know, Church, Christian, there's a power in childlikeness. Paul is speaking a power along with a special bond to Timothy. We know the scripture, come as a child for such is the kingdom of God. I find it ever so interesting, and I find it ever so powerful, that God calls the children of Israel, the children of Israel. When they go to war, often we read the children of Israel went to war. They're called children even though they were adults and even though they were warriors and I find a great peace and power that that is my position, a child of God. Even in the midst of war and battle and long roads of resistance, the attacks of the devil and the world, though I've fought many battles and feel I still have a lot left in the tank to fight many more, I take comfort in all my battles that my ultimate title and position is not passed or warrior, extreme fighter, but my ultimate position is child of God because then I know dad doesn't let me fight any of these alone.

Mark 10:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

1 Kings 6:13 (NKJV) ¹³ And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

Not one battle does he say, go get them son. Every battle is a joint effort. And then every battle we get to as sons and daughters to simply look at the battle that's before us. What battle might be before you, Christian? Depression, financial criticality, hopelessness, ready to quit, employment, maybe just something big that you don't even know how to tackle and face? What a beautiful place as children of

God that we get to say, dad, you got this. Right? You got this dad, for I can't do this one alone. Oh, what a beautiful place and position of power.

As a child with a loving father, remember not one tear drops apart from him as we read in Psalm 56. I don't have to be the mighty man all the time because if you live in this world long enough, there is much to be heartbroken over and he ministers in my weakness and brokenness. I'm sure doctors would say not so, but I believe the reservoir for our tears is somewhere in our hearts that x-rays can't see but when my heart breaks, sometimes a trickle, sometimes a flood, but he catches them all.

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

First Thessalonians 2:7. Paul reflects that heart of God as he likens to a nursing mother under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And we read in Isaiah 49:15, can a nursing mother forget her child?

1 Thessalonians 2:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.*

Isaiah 49:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *"Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.*

Paul's unleashing power in Timothy's life by reminding him.... Child of God

Verse two. Timothy, it means he who honors God. Last week we talked about Luke being with Paul as everyone else forsook him and last week I said, are there any Luke's in the room? Treasure them in your life. Be one to another. And today's question would be any Timothy's here? Anyone whose identification is he who honors God. Look, I know at any time on any Sunday with the number of people here, somebody is face-to-face with a situation that you are at a decision point. Am I going to honor God in this situation or am I going to compromise? Maybe in trying to convince yourself you are an exception or you have some justification in your cause, I pray you choose to be a Timothy, he who honors God regardless of the price or the pain that has to be parted with.

Why do it? Why live a life that honors God? Simply because he's worth it. Why do it? Because God's honor is at stake and every decision and in every action God's honor in your life is at stake, staked in the ground as a flag for the whole world to look and see. Will they honor God? Did they honor God? Preach your greatest sermon through a life that honors God not through words. As the Amish say, if all else fails, use words. Don't wait until heaven to join the choir we see in Revelation, sing it and live it today

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

God Always a Specific Word for You and You Alone (1:2)

Verse two. Mercy. It's only added in First and Second Timothy introduction as Paul writes a greeting to Timothy. All the other of the Pauline epistles he simply says grace and peace to you, the common greeting, but for Timothy he says grace, mercy and peace. Why for Timothy is that third word added, mercy? I believe because it was inspired. Of course we know it is because verse 16 of chapter 3 says this book, all these words of God is inspired. And it was a word to Timothy that Timothy needed to hear in that day for whatever reason in his life, this period of these letters to, over a period of probably four years, Timothy needed to hear that word mercy. You know, that word mercy was specific and unique to Timothy for whatever he was going through. It was a specific word to him. You know, Christian, God has a specific word he desires to speak to you, to me each day and in our lives wholly.

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

I wonder if that's what Timothy's life verse was, grace, mercy and peace? I know my life verse that God spoke to me, Matthew 6:33, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will

be added unto you, and I must constantly continually remember that. Do you have a life verse? God gives life verses. God gives specific verses. God gives specific words for the day to each and every one of us.
Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³ *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Just as he spoke to Timothy, just as he'll speak to us, I have a specific word that I'm weaving and it's ever so subtle here to Timothy as we see mercy slipped in with the common greeting of grace and peace, but it was a special word just for him and God has a special word just for you. It's special and it's different for you and it's special and different for the person to the left of you. It's special and different to the person to the right of you. It's not common. It's not something that's just words that are put out there, but it's an inspired word that God wants to speak and give you in your time of need or what you need to hear, not even knowing that it's the need for the moment, but God speaks unique and specific words to each and every one of us just as he does Timothy here.

Oh, and I pray Christian, you'll just slow down and know every morning there's a special word for you. Can you imagine Timothy opening up this letter and whatever state he was in and he begins to read? It starts with grace, mercy and peace and the uniqueness of it and the specialty of it just for him to hear just what he needed to hear for that day in that moment. How many times he might've went back to hear it over and over again, to read it over and over and again, Paul said to me from the heart of God, grace, mercy, and peace. And I pray that we'll slow down to know that every morning God would open up a special word and speak to us uniquely inspired, for this word is what you need today as specific and uniquely and what you need to hear for that day.

Or maybe it's a word that continues on for weeks and months and maybe it becomes a life verse, but God does that in an ever so wonderful and beautiful way for each and every one of us. This word written to the masses and yet we can open it and read it as it was written to us individually. That we can read that it wasn't written to Timothy, that it was written to Ray. It wasn't written in 67 AD, it was written in 2021 and it wasn't delivered in Ephesus, it was delivered in Pasadena, Maryland and it was from the heart of God inspired to say, Ray, this is your word for today. To say to the Christian, this is your word for today so get it and grab it.

God's Greeting of Peace (Shalom) and it's Fullness in It (1:2)

Verse 2 that word peace in the Hebrew, that word is Shalom. And if you walk through Israel each morning or passing by or to the gift shops, if you've been on the tours in Israel, you'll hear it over and over. Shalom. It's a beautiful word.

It's a word that would be coupled in power, as Jesus would be called the Prince of Peace, God would be called Jehovah Shalom, the God of Peace. And when that Prince of Peace and the God of Peace used it, when Jesus walked this earth and spoke the words in John 14:27, that word Shalom peace, when Jesus spoke it, *meant the total wellbeing and inner rest of spirit that comes from fellowship with God*. He didn't say it in a casual greeting, a passing by Shalom. But when God spoke it in John 14:27, "The peace that I leave you, the peace that I give you," he was pouring out all of God as he said that. When someone says, "Hello, how are you?" I have to process if they're actually are just saying, hey, greetings to you in the morning, or do they really care how I am? Sometimes I'm ready to go into a whole explanation of how I am. Sometimes I do, and at the end I can look in people and they just want to say, I just wanted to say hello. I wasn't asking for all of that.

John 14:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

But when God says Shalom, he was giving all of that of John 14:27. When God would say Shalom from himself, he was pouring out all of the inner peace of God. The total wellbeing, the inner rest of the spirit that comes from the fellowship with God. It was an invitation, it was a beautiful invitation into intimacy with him. It was more than a greeting. It was an invitation of intimacy.

As Paul would be inspired here in Verse 2, and as Jesus would be inspired in John 14:27, they're saying more than just a hello. It's the full orb of the heart pouring out. Pouring out of a true how are you? A deep I'm here for you. It's God's power out to you through these words: my grace, my mercy, my peace. I give it

on to you. Psalm 81 Verse 10, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it," He says, and He's speaking here as in Verse 2 to Timothy, and as Jesus speaks to us, Verse 27 of John 14, "Drink it in receive the banquet provided for you, prepared at the table of my heart for you to dive in, to dine in and to have." Shalom the beautiful invitation from God, way greater than just a greeting from God.

Psalm 81:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

John 4:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

(2 Timothy 1:3 NKJV) 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,

Paul Turned His Prison into a Temple (1:3)

Where is Paul, he is in a prison. Instead of complaining, he prayed, night and day nonetheless. Instead of complaining that if he wasn't in that prison he could have been doing so much more for the Lord, he prayed. He turned his prison into a temple.

Maybe you feel imprisoned, why did I marry him or her, I could have been in the ministry or mission field, instead I'm vacuuming, doing laundry, cooking for him. If that is the case, then use that time to pray. Use that time vacuuming, folding laundry to pray. Maybe if you were a missionary or in the ministry full-time, you wouldn't have that time cooking, cleaning, etc to pray. Do you have a boring, no brainer job, then pray.

You can pray for the unsaved, for family, fellow believers, for missionaries across the world, world leaders. Use the most powerful weapon we as Christians have, the power of prayer.

Paul used his prison praying for Timothy night and day.

Verse 3, Paul turned his prison into a prayer room. And in it, we see the passport of prayer. It's in His name is our passport on to the holy place. I need a passport to go here and there, to India and to Israel. They view it and they say, come on in, I see your passport. You can pass this port. And so too, when I use my passport in His name, I can boldly, confidently come to the throne of grace because my passport is in the name of Jesus. It's in the relationship in the fellowship, it's in the full rest and it's the full acceptance of Christ that I have.

(John 16:23 NKJV) "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give 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.

Take whatever situation God puts you in, and find a way to turn it into a temple, and pray.

Paul's Prison Was Impenetrable (1:3)

Verse 3. Paul's impenetrable prison. Paul turns a prison into a temple. He turns it into a place that the devil can't touch him in. And the question will be, how can we do the same thing? And I could say, well, let's go back and review those five elements of the will of God and that would be true. I could say, let's go and look at what Paul is saying right here as he's remembering Timothy. He's giving thanks for Timothy we'll read in the next verses. We see his care of catching tears, and these are the things that will turn our prison into a prayer room. But I think there's something way more here. Something way deeper here that I want to share with you.

I love the power that I see when I look at Paul's in prison and the temple that he made out of it. As I see Paul and I think of

- Daniel in his prison, the lion's den,
- as I think of Paul and Silas in prison beforehand, singing praises,
- I see Peter in his prison time sleeping.

Daniel 6:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Acts 16:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 12:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

I think it's a mistake of the enemy when he finds men, women of God who know how to take a prison and turn it into a temple. We look at Daniel. We see Paul. We see Silas. We see Peter and we see peace, peace and peace. We see them lifting praise, praise and praise. We see them lifting prayer, prayer and prayer. They're literally saying, "Though the world may slay me, yet will I praise You," just as Job would say, even directing it at God. Though you slay me, yet will I praise you. What's their saying in their peace and in their praise and in their prayer is that I trust you that much.

Job 13:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

But I titled this message Paul's Impenetrable Prison, and it is a word of power and peace for each and every one of us. I don't mean Paul's prison was impenetrable by those trying to come and spring him out, the zealots to rescue and deliver. Though, that is true, a Roman prison was quite impenetrable.

What I mean, impenetrable was Paul was in prison. Yet, he was filled as we read and we see with joy and peace and I ask and we must question, how could that be and how could that be for me? What would the Lord show us today that this is available for us to be in a deep, dark depression of a prison and yet still be filled with joy and peace.

How can we find peace, praise and joy in our times of prison? Well, first, we see like Paul's physical prison, so too can our mental and emotion prisons be. [Someone or something puts us in prison](#). In Paul's case, it was a combination of the Jews and the Romans. In our case, someone who may be hurting us or someone who's coming against us and all we can do is think about what they've done and what they're doing or what they're going to do or maybe it's cancer or depression or hardship or a heartache and it puts us into a prison of depression, binds us up and what I see with Paul, his impenetrable prison, I see for me and I see for you that we can find this peace and praise as well.

It was who wasn't in Paul's prison? The Romans and the Jews were not as he will say in chapter four. Only Jesus stood by me in my first stand and you can be sure Jesus is standing by him right now in this prison and the point being made is everybody was out of Paul's prison but Jesus and that is why it was impenetrable by the enemy of doubt, depression and defeat and why he could turn it into a temple, a place of peace, of joy and praise.

2 Timothy 4:16-18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ 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!

Becoming self-confident means that you don't have to lean on another human for approval. Even in difficult situations, you can respond confidently from the core of who you are. In other words, you have good ego strength — solid self-awareness that you don't have to draw your value from other people.

As for us, that someone who's hurting us, coming against us, that something, cancer, unemployment, illness, we must say you can't come in here. You can't come and sit next to me and speak, speak, speak and that's all I'll hear is you and not Jesus. You don't control my every thought, my every response. You are on the outside and Jesus is on the inside.

You who are hurting me, this conversation is over. I will not dwell on you, but Him who stands with me and when we say out you go and in He comes, Jesus Christ and we do not let what's hurting us and

what's crushing us to control us. But we sit and have this sweet place with Jesus, lifting praise, scripture and glory onto him and truly our prison is impenetrable.

Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego. And I'm in the midst of the fiery furnace. And Jesus is in the midst, with me. And King Nebuchadnezzar says, "Come out." I'd be like, "I'm not coming out. Why would I come out? Jesus is in here. Why would I leave where Jesus is?"

Daniel 3:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

And we can turn any prison into a temple, into the house of the Lord, by inviting Jesus in and excluding others from coming in, such as King Nebuchadnezzar, where we're in the sweet fellowship with him. And when the world or the people who imprisoned us say, "You're bad. You're a terrible person," we respond by he who's in with us, "You're precious. You're beloved." When they say you're worthless and you'll never amount to anything, we respond and say, "I was bought with a price, the blood of Jesus Christ. I am priceless, and I am precious in the sight of the Lord." When an illness says, "This is your life. You'll never be whole, again," we say, "He who made me whole keeps me whole, and I'm wholly his. I've been set apart by him. And regardless of what's in this body that's imprisoned right now, I know my Redeemer lives. And hence, and thus, the key to turning any prison into a temple or the house of the living God, a praise and worship center, is to stop the words from coming in. But anytime that they do, we simply counter them with the words of life and the words of the promise of the abundant life we have in him.

Psalms 139:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

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

Catching Other Peoples Tears – Being Like God (1:4)

Verse 4. What were Timothy's tears? Why were they tears? Were they tears that's as they separated from each other, Paul and Timothy? Was it tears at Timothy knew what's next for Paul's life? Were they tears for Timothy for his loneliness, or what he knew was in store for him next? I'm not sure. Read lots of commentaries and you'll get lots of comments on what people would say. For me, I'm not sure. The rest of the letter really doesn't let us know either. Paul knew. And God too, of course. See God says, "I see your tears, Timothy." Paul is saying, "I see your tears, Timothy." So for us, whose tears do you see? Whose tears do you catch? Paul was catching Timothy's tears. God catches our tears.

Sometimes I wonder, I know people that I love, I know they shed tears and I don't even know about it or see it. They can be right in front of me. Maybe not all of them come in the form of droplets. They're just tears that are deep in the heart. It's aching. Are transported up in the heaven before they even make it out of our tear ducts. And so I asked myself and I ask you: whose tears have we saw today? Whose tears have we captured today and ministered to today?

Now it's amazing; God made the tear ducts to flush the dirt and pollutants from our eyes. But also tear ducts to release heartache and heartbreak. How many times I say to myself, I want to be more like God. Well, here's one of them. You want to be like God? Be a tear catcher. Psalm 56 Verse 8, capture someone's tears, minister to them.

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

How to look for them? I think it can be as simple as "How are you doing?" with the giving of full orb of Shalom. I'm asking you by pouring out of my heart full rest and acceptance from me. I really want to know how you're doing. I really want you to tell me how you're doing.

(2 Timothy 1:5 NKJV) 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.

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

The Gift of Passing on the Faith (1:5-6)

Parents the greatest gift or inheritance you will ever give your children, is a godly heritage. Those of you with godly parents know what I mean. How I wish when I was growing up that someone in my family could have told me about this loving God. They could have read this book to me when I was discouraged or broken. That they could have taken to the place where I knew that I knew I would always be accepted and loved. I was so mixed up and confused, like so many kids today, if only they could have shared these words of life with me.

Those of you that are parents, you are so blessed to know these things now, so that you can pass them on to your children now, that they may enjoy and reap the blessings that come from this personal relationship with the Lord of all Creation.

Hence why we put such an emphasis on our children dedication, as we come together and ask the Lord to pass this faith on to the next generation, and for God's help in so doing. We see the Biblical illustration of dedicating a child as Hannah dedicates her son Samuel to the Lord.

1 Samuel 1:24-28 (NKJV) ²⁴ Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Verse 6 - To stir - anazopureo, an-ad-zo-poor-eh'-o; to re-enkindle:--stir up.

Paul said Timothy rekindle that fire you once had. It appears Timothy was starting to wane somewhat and Paul is pointing back in the direction he needs to be going. Timothy God has given you all these gifts, don't let them sit on the shelf, don't let them go to waste, use them for the glory of God.

Conclusion

Passage: 2 Timothy 1:1-6

Title: Paul's Impenetrable Prison:

Summary: Paul is writing his last letter before his death, from a brutal Roman prison. Everyone at some point feels imprisoned, bound by something beyond their control, yet as we study today Paul is captive with love and joy. How could that be? We will see Paul built and impenetrable prison cell, where the enemy of his heart and mind could not reach, but only Jesus. Join us as we see how we can do the same when faced with painful circumstances outside of our control.

Outline 2 Timothy 1:1-6

- God has a Will for Every Person Here Today (1:1)
- There is Power in Being Childlike (1:2)
- God Always a Specific Word for You and You Alone (1:2)
- God's Greeting of Peace (Shalom) and it's Fullness in It (1:2)
- Paul Turned His Prison into a Temple (1:3)
- Paul's Prison Was Impenetrable (1:3)
- Catching Other Peoples Tears – Being Like God (1:4)

- The Gift of Passing on the Faith (1:5-6)

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.

