

Endure
A Study of 2 Timothy
Week 02: Partaker of Suffering

Scripture

2 Timothy 1:8-18

Review (Where We Are)

Here's where we are in history...

- Second letter to the young pastor, Timothy (Timothy has been ministering in the churches at Ephesus for 4 years)
- Final writing from a Roman prison and before his death (martyred in AD67)
- The Roman Emperor, Nero, blamed Christians for the great fire in Rome (burned half of Rome in AD64) and they came under great persecution
- Purpose was to encourage Timothy to **endure** trials and hardships

“The second letter to Timothy offers a picture of Paul at the end of his ministry, just before his death. Certain personal details in the letter reveal a man settling his accounts and preparing for the inevitable. It is as if Paul were giving Timothy a ‘state of the church’ address, updating Timothy on the current state of their acquaintances and friends so that the young pastor could carry on after Paul’s departure.” - Charles Swindoll

2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV) “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

All of us struggle with managing expectations.

Lies we tell ourselves regarding expectations...

- Life should be fair
- Everyone should think like me and agree with me
- People will understand me
- People, things, and possessions will make me happy

But have we ever considered expectations concerning faith - what does God expect?

Information (What They Need to Know)

One of the ways we can manage expectations - **Listen to those who've gone before us (Paul writing to Timothy).**

Expectations as believers of God and the Gospel...

Expect suffering for the sake of the Gospel (2 Timothy 1:8-12)

- **Don't be ashamed to identify yourself with the Lord**
2 Timothy 1:8 (ESV) ...do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God...
 - Identify with the message of the Gospel (hold fast to it)
 - Identify with the messengers of the Gospel (endure with those suffering)
- **Don't forget what the Lord has done for you (grace should lead us to endure)**
2 Timothy 1:9 ...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began... **12** which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.
 - **God saved us - justification** (rescued us from the power and penalty of sin)
 - **God called us to a holy calling - sanctification** (process of living out faith)
 - **God guards us - glorification** (final stage of redemption - removal of all sin/eternal life)

Expect to stay faithful (2 Timothy 1:13-18)

2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV) Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit [*the whole of truth; Scriptures*] entrusted to you.

- Remain in the truth (know it and hold onto it)
Colossians 2:6 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught...
- Example of those who did not endure with Paul
2 Timothy 1:15 (ESV) You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.
"Nothing else is known about these two men, who apparently had shown promise as leaders, had been close to Paul, and were well known among the Asian churches, but deserted Paul under the pressure of persecution." - John MacArthur

- Example of one who did endure with Paul

2 Timothy 1:16 (ESV) May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, **17** but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— **18** may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

Application (What They Need to Do)

How do we stay on track with the expectations God has for us?

- Be careful about the company you keep and the sources of truth

Psalm 1:1 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers...

- Delight in and meditate on the word of God

Psalm 1:2 (ESV) but his delight is in the law [*instruction*] of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. **3** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.