

## Second Timothy

### Endure

Week 01: Challenge to Be Faithful

#### Scripture

II Timothy 1:1-7

#### Information (What They Need to Know)

**Authority** - Paul's Authority is found in Christ and his authority is being questioned. A lot of time in prison. A lot of attacks. Paul seems like a foolish old man who is abandoned. Where is your God?

Today we face continual attacks and challenges to God's authority. Where is your God? Did God really say \_\_\_\_\_? Honestly these attacks seeking to drive a wedge between people and God have gone on from Man's arrival in the garden all the way through to today.

**2 Timothy 1:1-2 (ESV)** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,  
**2** To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul open's this final letter much like all the others. Yes, this was a personal challenge to Timothy in Ephesus. But this letter like his others was to be read, studied and pondered like each of his other letters.

Paul's authority was not in carefully detailed credentials or degrees. He had all those. In the 3rd chapter of Paul's letter to the church in Philippi he carefully describes all his carefully cultivated credentials. Verses 4-6 he tediously lays out all the things that the world would think as important. Then he hits you with his comments in verses 7 and 8...

**Philippians 3:7-8 (ESV)** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Paul had the finest resume. He knew all the right people and by Jewish cultural standards he did all the right things. He had all the pedigree, training, degrees, certifications, associations and none of that mattered. Because God is not impressed with us. Paul got this.

**Abraham** - the father of the Jewish people - was a nomad who family made and sold idols. Was God's chosen man who kept

selling out his wife and could not fully grasp that he and his wife Sarah were going to have a son.

**Jacob** - One of the great founding patriarchs the first to be called Israel. He was a jerk to his wives and a lying scoundrel.

**Moses** - man chosen by God to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land was not even allowed to enter himself.

**David** - The man after God's own heart could not control his own family and he stole another man's wife and had him murdered.

None of these men and many others I can list where what we would call all-stars, champions, heroes. They have been sold to us that way in lessons and books. But any greatness in these or any other men was all God. Even as a nation, Israel, was not a mighty or strong. It was all God. God set them free and crushed the Egyptian army. God brought down the walls of Jericho and gave them every victory.

Paul understood that whoever he was it was by the hand of God.

**I Corinthians 1:26-28 (ESV)** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

With all the questioning and attacks he was facing he begins with Jesus alone. Jesus was the only great one.

We face our world side by side with our church family and many others who have trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Over the last two thousand years the church has faced every imaginable false teaching and attack from within the church and from political leaders and cultural icons. Every attacker has passed into dust.

But Jesus and his Church is still standing, loving, reaching, giving, and changing lives every day all around the world.

**Appreciation** - Paul goes further into this but he has a special relationship with Timothy who he disciplined and mentored.

**2 Timothy 1:3-5 (ESV)** I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Paul mentions his clear conscience. With the accusations leveled against him by the political leaders and even those within the church Paul knows that he is innocent.

Paul's appreciation is for his dear friend, Timothy. We know that when Paul departed from Ephesus in Acts 20(v.37) that there were tears shed after 3 years of side by side ministry. Timothy had traveled with Paul and served side by side with him. Now, he was leading his beloved church plant. Paul knew that it was not an easy ministry position (See I Timothy). But he knew Timothy's foundation and strength.

Paul is seeking to uplift and encourage his young friend. Reflecting on the faith foundation that he received in his beloved family. His mother and grand mother playing their pivotal spiritual roles in his life. It look like Timothy was struggling (health problems, church problems, growing persecutions). The enemy loved to sink those who love Jesus. Fear, discouragement, loneliness, threats & attacks, overwhelmed with responsibilities. It is easy. So easy to take your eyes, your focus, your heart off of Christ. Satan can be like a dump truck in our lives just helping it all on (physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, relationally) He comes sometime and dumps and pours, and overwhelms so that God feels a million miles away. The Word of God no longer feels like a refreshing pool but a dry dusty canyon.

Have you ever felt like that? God's Word was once a beautiful deep flowing river (cool, pleasant, satisfying, refreshing, fulfilling)

and now it seems like death valley (impossible, difficult, burdensome). We can get to a point when the evil one distracts, dumps and pours so much that it is easy for him to create a mirage that God's Word seems impossible, unattainable, foreign. But it is a mirage.

**Ember** - At the bottom of the fire. When you are no longer stoking the flames with fresh dry wood and all the wood has all burned away there are fiery embers glowing in the bottom. If left alone those embers can burn out or some wind could reignite them.

Our hearts are a lot like a fire. We can stoke it by putting in material to burn and grow. Or we can leave it unattended and the embers sparkle and glow waiting to either burn out or reignite.

**2 Timothy 1:6-7 (ESV)** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

How is your heart? Have you allowed the enemy to just leave your heart as embers or are you filling yourself with God's Word the fuel that enlightens, strengthens, guides, and encourages?