



ENTRUSTED: OWN YOUR FAITH  
2 TIMOTHY 1:1-5



CONNECT

Do you have anything special that you inherited from someone? Is owning that item precious to you?

WORD

2 Timothy 1:1-5 (ESV) - <sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>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.

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

After Paul was released from the Roman imprisonment mentioned at the end of the book of Acts, he enjoyed a few more years of liberty until he was re-arrested, and imprisoned in Rome again. While writing his second letter to Timothy, Paul is again in prison in Rome and awaiting execution. The “promise of life” that he mentions in verse one is undoubtedly very precious to him as he sits chained waiting to die. 2 Timothy is the last letter we will have from Paul and

there is a note of urgency to it that we might expect from a man who is on death row.

In these final moments before his death, a condemned man will think of the family that he is leaving behind and for Paul it is the same. For Paul, his thoughts turn to his spiritual family - to Timothy, a beloved son; and to his true forefathers, those Jews before Paul's time that genuinely followed God with a pure heart, not in the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.

Timothy and his family came from the ancient city of Lystra, where Paul visited on his first missionary journey. On the first trip, enemies of the gospel cast Paul out of the city and stoned him. But God miraculously preserved Paul's life, and he carried on (Acts 14). On Paul's second missionary journey, he came again to Lystra - and there met a young man who had come to Jesus, and was devoted to serving the Lord. This young man was Timothy, and he is described as having a mother who believed, but his father was Greek (Acts 16:1).

So, Timothy's mother and grandmother were believers, but his father was not (at least not at first). In the Roman world, fathers had absolute authority over the family, and since Timothy's father was not a Christian, his home situation was less than ideal. But his mother and grandmother either led him to Jesus or grounded him in the faith! God wants to use parents and grandparents to pass on an eternal legacy to their children and grandchildren!

2 Paul has seen evidence of "sincere faith" in Timothy's life and the remembrance of it is comforting to him while he is being persecuted in prison. Timothy's family bestowed something on him that was tremendously powerful and

that no one could take away. His faith was a prized possession. It was an inheritance that would continue to benefit him throughout his life. Too often we think of our faith as something that we rent through good works or compliance with a set of rules. Stray too far from expectations and the rental agreement is violated and our faith is revoked. But true faith is a personal thing that can never be taken away. Whether you inherited it from your biological family or from your spiritual family, it is an inheritance that “moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:20)

When we take ownership of our faith it becomes a pleasure to do things that will enhance our faith and increase its value. Doing so increases the value and equity of our faith property. What greater gift can we pass on to the next generation of believers?

#### SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today’s message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- Read vs. 1 again. Paul had a role to play in God’s plan for reaching the world for Jesus Christ, and his role was apostle - a unique ambassador from God to the world. Just as Paul had his role to play, we all have our role to play - what’s yours? What do you do “by the will of God”?
- While in prison, there wasn’t much that Paul could do except pray and we are told that he does this day and night. Paul had a heart to do the most for the Lord that he can wherever he is. He didn’t let

prison become an excuse for not serving. What can you do right now given the limitations and the freedoms of your present circumstances?

- Timothy was fortunate to inherit a legacy of faith from his mother and grandmother. What kind of faith legacy are you passing on to the next generation?

#### NOW WHAT

How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about owning your faith? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does Paul's letter to Timothy change the way you feel about your relationship with God?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? What specific plan will you put in place to follow God's plan for owning your faith?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?

