



Second Timothy

We're All Pastors: Equipping the Next Generation

Follow the Cove on Facebook for weekly updates, podcasts or post a question. Search for CRB Cove and “like” it to share with your friends!

“Thanks for the Memory – and Mentorship”

II Timothy 1:1-5

November 18, 2018

Dr. James D. Smith III

Theme: Thanksgiving! Paul’s first letter to Timothy emphasized that “We’re all pastors” – and found “equipping the Next Generation” a vital priority. In II Timothy, we hear both the apostle’s closing word to a beloved disciple, and “famous last words” approaching death by Roman martyrdom. He begins by thanking God for their deep friendship, *remembering* faithful ones in life’s story – setting the stage for a baton-pass *exhorting* Timothy to Spirit-led ministry outlasting his own.

Context: There was a major fire in Rome (AD 64) under the imperial rule of Nero. Seeking a scapegoat (as the historian Tacitus admits), he blamed the Christians. The resultant persecution saw both Peter and Paul imprisoned and martyred – the latter most likely (Eusebius) by beheading. In II Timothy, Paul is taking stock of his life (4:6-8) and offering wisdom for those to come (1:6-7, 2:1-2, 11-13, 3:16, 4:2, 18).

Outline:

1. An Opening Greeting – beyond formula/transaction to relationship (vv. 1-2)
 - a. Identity: The *Vetus* Apostle to his “Dear Son” (apostolic delegate in Ephesus)
 - b. Occasion: Last sure opportunity to convey God’s grace, mercy and peace
 - c. Vision: The promise of eternal life *in* Christ Jesus. This is our living hope!

2. A Resilient Thanksgiving – behind the noun to the verbs (vv. 3-5)

- a. “I Thank...” usually *eucharisto* (I Thess. 5:18), here *charin exho*
- b. “I Serve...” reflecting on life *praxis*, and timely confessions – conscience cleared!
- c. “I Pray...” constantly, night and day, mindful and praying (the key to prayer)
- d. “I Desire...” bucket list item #1 is to see Timothy one last time, with joy
- e. “I Remember...” among all the student’s strengths, gifts, virtues – it’s the tears

3. A Faith-full Heritage – beneath the surface to the stories (v. 5)

- a. Paul’ faithful forefathers (Ps. 101:6, Rom 9:3-5, Phil 3:4-6)
- b. Timothy’s faithful foremothers: Grandma Lois, Mother Eunice (Acts 16:1-5)

4. A Timely Exhortation – for *THIS* reason, O Tim, “rekindle the gift...”

Takeaway: Pick your picture: Paul singing “Thanks for the Memory” (Bob Hope) or “You and Me Against the World” (Helen Reddy). Paul completing his leg of life’s track-meet relay – coaching in the passing lane, tendering the Gospel Baton. Paul seen in the first commentary on II Timothy (John Chrysostom, 4th c): “From the outset, Paul lifts Timothy’s mind...beginning immediately to offer *comfort* (*co-forte*=strong together)...” Or Paul, as in MLK’s last, mountaintop sermon (Memphis, April 3, 1968) “I may not get there with you...but ‘Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.’” In Spirit and understanding, where does God’s Word through Paul’s voice rise to inform your life event/team/passage in this Season?

Next Cove:

Date: November 25, 2018

Title: Call to Bold Endurance

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1: 6-18