

2nd Timothy Ch 1 Vs1-7

“The Promise of Life”

Written somewhere around 67A.D., 2nd Timothy is the last letter Paul ever wrote that would be recorded for us in scripture. For not long after this letter would be penned, Paul would be losing his head at the order of Caesar Nero as he was martyred for his faith. So this is written from Paul’s 2nd imprisonment, the book of Acts concludes with Paul in his 1st imprisonment whereby he was actually more or less on house arrest. He was chained to a Roman guard, but he lived in a rented house and could come and go as he pleased as long as his guard would consent and go with him. Evidently Paul was released from his imprisonment, spent a few more years traveling about preaching the gospel making his way to Spain and all before being arrested again at what was becoming a very hostile time of persecution under the rule of Caesar Nero.

Paul knew that *this time* his departure was immanent, we read in Ch 4:6, “*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.*” 2 Tim 4:6 and So he writes young Timothy one last time. When someone knows that they’re at their end, and death (as far as this world is concerned) is certain, often times that’s when they’ll utter some of the most profound words of their life. They don’t mix words anymore, there’s something that they want you to know and they make it real clear, and with Paul the overwhelming emphasis of this letter that would be his last is the need to stay true to the uncompromising Word of God. In Vs 15 of Ch 2 we read, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” 2 Tim 2:15 In Ch 4 vs 1-2 we read, “*I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*” 2 Tim 4:1-2

“Timothy, I’m preparing to depart from this world, and this is the message that you need to receive, and abide by, and of which I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing; study the Word, preach the Word, and teach the Word.”

The bible tells us that God magnifies His Word of above all His name, how we need the living Word of God to be permeating us, filtering into our lives, challenging us, convicting us, and changing us, that we might decrease and Jesus Christ might increase in our lives. and In this 1st Ch (though today we’ll only be covering the 1st 7 vs) the overarching theme that seems to be woven in here is that Paul is exhorting Timothy, that he might be *encouraged and unashamed* of 3 things, #1 The Lord, #2 His message, and #3 His messenger. God wants to use your life, but it’s important that you be bold and confident in who He is, what it is that He has to offer to the world, (not in and of yourself), but by the means of His Spirit whom He has supplied to each and everyone of us who believe.

Now we're only going to see the 1st 3 today, but 7 Words that we're going to use to highlight this ch. #1 In Vs 1-2, "Recognition" Where we simply recognize the author of the epistle #2 In Vs3-5 "Remembrance" Paul here remembers Timothy's genuine faith and the godly heritage he received from his grandma, and his mom. #3 Vs6-7 "Reminder" *Because* of his faith, *because* of his heritage, and *because* of the witness that was bore as Paul laid hands upon him and he received the Holy Spirit and a particular gift thereof in order to fulfill his calling Paul reminds him not to lose sight of that but rather to stir up the gift, and allow God to use his life. #4 Vs8-12 the word we're going to use here is, "Reproach", to serve the Lord is going to at times bring a reproach upon your life, don't be ashamed of that, but glory in the fact that you're counted worthy to suffer for His names sake, this is the only time that you'll be allowed the privilege to suffer for Christ. When you get to heaven there's no more suffering, but now we have the opportunity to make a stand for Jesus come what may, and reproach is often the results of our commitment to Christ.

Now sort of couched in between vs 8 and 12 I'm going to throw another one in there, hopefully not to confuse you but as #5 Vs 9-10 "Revelation", the life that God has called us to is here revealed, and God has called us to a life of holiness, (not according to our works), but according to His own purpose and grace that was given to us before time began but was made manifest by the appearing of Jesus Christ God has called us according to His own purpose and plan. #6 Vs13-15 the word in view here is "Remain" stay consistent with the message, don't compromise the word of God, there's 2 fellows here who did, but as for you, remain steadfast and faithful to the whole counsel of the word of God. and Finally #7 Vs 16-18 "Refreshed" here Paul recounts how Onesiphorus refreshed his heart and soul by coming along side him in his hour of need, we all need guys or gals like this who can come along side us in our time of need and encourage us, refresh us in the Lord. and We all need to be that guy or that gal in the lives of others weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice.

Vs1-2

Now this is a fairly typical Pauline style greeting, one that we've read over and exhausted many times. and It's here that we give recognition to the authorship of this letter, and as you well know the author of scripture is in reality 2-fold. Because there's always the "instrumental" author, and then there's the "actual" author, the "actual" author is in reality the Holy Spirit. In ch 3 of this epistle we read, "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*" 2 Tim 3:16 or more literally is "God breathed" it's the person of the Holy Spirit who penned the word of God to you and me, but He used human instruments. In this case the human instrument was Paul, and we find out 3 things here about the human instrument #1 Who he was, #2 What he was, and #3 How he got where he was.

#1 We've already covered, who was he? Paul, he's the instrumental author of this letter, #2 What was he? An apostle of Jesus Christ, one sent out on a divine mission of Jesus Christ with all the authority of God behind him, as an apostle he had the authority to instruct believers on how they ought to lead their lives so as to be pleasing to God, because he spoke to the people (as it were) the Word of God.

Now how did he become an apostle? (That's #3) Well he didn't go to the 1st school of the apostle's seminary, he didn't get voted into the 12 by a board of elders, he didn't seek the church majority consensus or approval for this position that he was vying for. He was an apostle of Jesus Christ by *the will of God*. God hand selected him, called him, ordained and anointed him for the ministry, the Lord said concerning Saul of Tarsus, (who would become Paul the apostle); "*He is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.*" Acts 9:15-16 It was by the grace of God and the will of God that Paul was what he was and it's absolutely essential that you and I be in the same place concerning what it is we're doing in life. That you are what you are, and do what you do by the will of God, "Pastor of Jesus Christ by the will of God" "Cashier of Jesus Christ by the will of God" "Electrician, beautician, doctor, carpenter of Jesus Christ by the will of God."

Are you doing what you're doing by the will of God, or by your own? Are you seeking to be subservient and submissive to Christ, seeking His desires and open to Him governing your life? If so then you do what you do as a servant of Jesus Christ by the will of God

He says here that that he's an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, "according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus." and We spoke about this little phrase "according to" when we studied the book of Titus, and it means, "after the manner of, or in proportion with."

Which is to say that he's inviting his critics to scrutinize his life as to what the standards are that he needs to be abiding by in order to be in the position that he is according to the scriptures because they'll find him blameless and above reproach. He's more or less inviting people to check up on his credentials so that they might rest assured concerning his authority to instruct them, he's an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and according to the standards of the Word of God.

But I want to draw your attention to this phrase; "The promise of life which is in Christ Jesus" now one thing you need to remember is that Paul is facing certain death. He's in prison, on death row, and it interests me that when confronted with the reality of death, what's consuming him is the promise of life. and I believe that it's important that as we develop this that we distinguish biblically these words "life" and "death" because when we see these words "life" and "death" used in the scriptures, the connotations and implications are generally quite different than when we speak of life and death in our modern vernacular.

According to the bible not everyone who breathes, has brainwaves and a heartbeat is alive, and not everyone who ceases to breathe physically, or expires physically is dead. You can be very much alert, walking around, sucking in air, watching movies, going to work, playing ball, fishing, hunting or whatever and be biblically dead. and Yet at the same time you can be physically expired, 6' under and a forgotten memory and yet be more alive then, than you ever were upon this earth. The reason that is, is because the bible speaks not on a physical plane, but rather on a spiritual plane.

So that when Paul speaks here of the promise of *life* he's not speaking of a guaranteed 3 score and 10 yrs here on planet earth. This word "life" according to the Vines Greek Dictionary, "Is used in the NT "of life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself, and which He gave to the Incarnate Son to have in Himself, John 5:26, and which the Son manifested in the world, 1 John 1:2. From this life man has become alienated in consequence of the Fall, Eph 4:18, and of this life men become partakers through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, John 3:15, who becomes its Author to all such as trust in Him, Acts 3:15, and who is therefore said to be 'the life' of the believer, Col 3:4, for the life that He gives He maintains, John 6:35,63." (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

So when we're speaking of the promise of "life" we're talking about the age abiding, everlasting and eternal life, of which Jesus Christ alone is the source and supply to mankind, and it's promised by God (who cannot lie) through Christ to all who believe and place their trust and their faith in Him.

Jesus Himself issued this promise over and over again, of course the most popular place that we quote from is John 3:16 where Jesus said, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" But that by far is not the only place where the scriptures record the promise, we read in John 5:24 where Jesus said, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*" John 6:40 "*And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*" and Again John 10:27-28 "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*"

So as Paul is confronted with his death, he focuses on the promise of life, 2 things to note concerning this statement. #1 It's a promise, and God is not a man that He should lie, it's impossible for God to lie, is there anything God can't do, yes, He can't lie, we know He can't learn, because He knows everything, and He can't love you any greater than He does right now because He loves mankind supremely.

But the focus for this moment is upon the promise, John writing in his 1st epistle said this, "*And this is the promise that He has promised us -- eternal life.*" 1 John 2:25 The 2nd thing to note is that the promise is found only in Christ Jesus, it's the promise of life, but it has a condition, it's "in Christ Jesus."

It's not in any religion as long as you are sincere, it's not in doing enough works to get enough brownie points with God so as to have Him look upon your life with approval, because

God sees our good works like dirty rags, compared to His holiness and righteousness that's all they are. It's impossible that man should be saved by perfect obedience because man can't *render* that, nor is it possible that man should be saved through imperfect obedience because God won't accept *that*. So "*what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*" Rom 8:3-4

Or to understand it another way Jesus did for you and for me what we could never do for ourselves in that He was tempted in all ways as we are tempted and yet with out sin, and so He was *able* to offer God perfect obedience, and meet the righteous requirements of the law. and Then in His love He allowed all of your sin, all of my sin, all of the compound sins of all the people who had ever lived and ever would live to be placed upon Him as a Lamb with out spot and with out blemish. and He laid down His life on the altar of the cross, shedding His blood for the remission of sin that sin, and now even as through one man (that it Adam) sin entered the world, by one Man, (Jesus) the sin of the world has been atoned for. and That atonement is imputed to you, or accounted to you upon your placing your trust and your faith in Jesus and the work that He did for you on the cross. Turn with Me to Rom Ch 5:12-21

The promise of life is only in Christ Jesus, if you're not in Christ you're dead in trespasses and sin, and again the death you're abiding in is a spiritual and eternal separation from God. Now, "*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.*" Isa 59:1-2 So we see that, "*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Rom 6:23 Jesus said, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*" John 11:25-26 "The promise of Life which is in Christ Jesus."

Vs2

Notice how God the Father and Jesus Christ are consistently used in a synonymous context, and if Jesus were any lesser than the Father that would be an insult to God the Father, (to equate grace and mercy and peace, coming from Him just the same as it does the Father). Because if Jesus isn't God and yet Paul invokes grace, mercy and peace from Him along with the Father, that would be blasphemy. It shatters me to think of someone saying, "Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God the Father, and Jeff Kingery" because there's no way that I can be associated with God on a divine level, nor can I offer you what He can, only God can give you those things, and as such the Holy Spirit is bearing witness to the fact in this vs that Jesus is God, placing Christ Jesus our Lord and God the Father right there on a equal plane.

Remember Paul told the Philippians that Jesus didn't consider it robbery to be equal with God, why? Because Jesus is God, when Thomas saw the resurrected Jesus, the 1st words out of his mouth were, "My Lord, and my God" as he worshipped Jesus. Jesus didn't say, "Hey, don't

say that, I'm not God, don't worship Me." Jesus received his worship, and didn't refute Thomas' claim that He was in fact God.

Paul writing here says, "Grace" that unmerited favor, getting what we don't deserve, God's Riches At Christ's Expense, by grace you have been saved.

"Mercy", not getting what we do deserve, we deserve hell, but in God's mercy He doesn't serve us justice, in His grace He gives us what we don't deserve, everlasting life. and "Peace", Jesus said, *"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."* John 14:27

Again notice where these things come from, not from the world or the things in the world, you won't find true comfort and solace, or peace from the things of this world, it's all fleeting and a temporary fix to a permanent problem at best. They come from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord, now generally when Paul would write a letter he would simply (yet profoundly) say, "Grace and peace" because as we've said so often you can't know the peace of God until you've 1st experience the grace of God. and So we always find those two together and always in that order, but when Paul wrote to Pastor's he included this 3rd word "mercy" and I'm thankful for that because I'm certain that Paul knew that as pastor's we need lots of mercy. I mean I try my best and seek to serve the Lord with all my heart, but I make so many mistakes, I make wrong decisions, say things I shouldn't, miss God's direction from time to time, I need God's mercy.

Vs3

There's just so much packed in each of these vs, I'm just blown away how often we read of Paul and his disposition of thanksgiving. Here he sits, in a dungeon, cold, dark, smelly, dirty, nasty, on death row, and this is his outlook, what a giant of a man. "I thank God" you know there's a lot of people going through a lot of things right now, but none of them as bad as the one Paul was facing here, and this challenges my heart. I'm prone to complain, I'm prone to get the "poor me" syndrome, I'm prone to question God and wonder, "Why is this happening to me?" As though some strange thing is happening to me, you remember Peter said, *"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings."* 1 Peter 4:12-13 But what's the 1st thing we think when we're tried by the fiery trial, "This is so strange, why is this happening to me?" "Am I in sin, have I done something wrong, God are you punishing me for something?" But what's the example we have here in Paul, on death row, living his final days in absolute physical misery being completely abandon by all of his buddies with the exception of Luke. Paul says, "I thank God." (God help me to be ½ the man Paul was)

Thanksgiving is coming up this week, I pray that you find time to sit down with your family and recognize the Lord, and give Him thanks for the way that He's radically blessed your life and taken care of you. If Paul can find it with in himself (by the grace of God) to give

thanks it what seems like total abandonment, then surely we can find it with in ourselves to give God thanks it what by comparison is total abundance.

Notice this next statement, “Whom I serve with a pure conscience” it just keeps getting more and more radical. and It’s not that he’s saying he’s attained sinless perfection, but that as he examines his life in Christ, he’s prepared to stand before God with a clear conscience knowing that he led his life with undivided devotion to the glory of God. and I pray that such would be the testimony of everyone of us when we’re ready to meet our Maker face to face, God help us that we do so with a pure conscience having lived our lives with undivided devotion to Him.

He says here that with out ceasing he remembers Timothy night and day (probably didn’t sleep much in that prison) in his prayers. You would think he would be seeking to solicit prayers for himself, but what an encouragement this must’ve been for Timothy. Here’s Paul, in jail, prepare to be executed, and he’s praying for me, how would you like to have Paul the apostle praying for you night and day?

But here’s the good news, we have One greater than Paul praying for us night and day, the writer of Hebrews says of Jesus, “*He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*” Heb 7:24-25 Can you imagine how things would change if we really believed that, Jesus is praying for you night and day, interceding for you, standing in the gap for you, think about that the next time you’re tempted to blow life, Jesus bore that on the cross and is praying for you. That you might walk in the Spirit, in the power of His might, free from the bondage of sin, being bold in your confession of Him, Jesus intercedes for you and me, by the means of the cross He’s spans the gap and intercedes for us. In vs 4 Paul says,

Vs4-5

Timothy was obviously a passionate fella, whether it was over his burden for the lost, or maybe when Paul left him last he was just moved to tears knowing he might never see him again we don’t know, but Paul was moved by Timothy’s compassion and soft heart. Do you know that God is mindful of *your* tears, we read in Ps 56:8 “*You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?*” God stores every tear that drops from your face, and keeps record of your pain, when you cry out over the lost, when you’re sorrowing and at the end of you, God is near to the broken hearted, and he catches your tears in His bottle, and records them in His book. and When you see Him face to face there will be no more sorrow, no more pain, and He’ll wipe away every tear from your eyes for the former things will have passed away.

The bible says, “*Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.*” Ps 126:5 and There’s something else that fills the apostle’s heart with joy, he’s says here in vs 5 (read).

Timothy was the real deal, wasn't perfect, maybe a little soft in his timidity, but he was the genuine article, nothing fake or plastic about him. and I like this here, he had a godly heritage, we don't know about his dad (other than the fact that he was Greek). But his grandma was a believer, his mom was a believer, and they were careful to instruct Timothy concerning the Word of God, and the Messiah whom Paul revealed to him was Jesus Christ .

You know it's a real bummer when people who have been brought up in Christian homes act almost ashamed as if they don't have a real testimony, like because they weren't blazing alcoholics, or strung out on drugs, that they don't have a real testimony. But it's easy to get a testimony like that, it's much more difficult and honorable and commendable to have a testimony of a life lived for Jesus Christ and You know what, maybe you don't have a godly heritage, maybe your grand folks and your folks weren't or aren't believers. Listen, let it begin with you invest God's Word, His principals, and His precepts into the lives of your children. Let their legacy be that they come from a line of people sold out to Jesus, that the faith that's invested into them might prove out to be genuine, precious in the sight of God.

Vs 6-7

Paul's reminder, don't let the gift or gifts that God has given you lie dormant and wax cold, don't be ashamed of who God is and the work He's doing in your life, God has invested into your life all the *ingredients* necessary to wind up with something wonderful that brings Him much glory, but it's up to you to *stir* them up that His plan for you might become a reality. God won't force you to serve Him, He will enable you, but it's up to you to respond to that which He's entrusted to you, stirring up those gifts, allowing Him to use your life. (More on this next week).

We've talked about quite a bit today but if you're here today and you don't know Jesus Christ I want you to focus on just one thing, and that's the promise of Life (everlasting Life), which is in Christ Jesus. Jesus came that you might have life and that more abundantly, by laying down His life for you on the cross, He bore your sin that you might bear His righteousness, it's a pretty good trade, but He won't force you to take it. We've all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. If you're willing to admit that today, and ask God to forgive you of your sin and receive Jesus Christ into your heart and into your life, you can walk out of here forgiven and headed for heaven.