

Be Loyal
April 14, 2013
Allen Power

2 Timothy 1:3-14

Opening question: **Who would share about a time when you really needed COURAGE from God to carry out something He told you to do? What was that like?**

Our text this morning reminds us that we can ENDURE FAITHFULLY in doing what God has called us to do even in the face of obstacles, persecution, and suffering. More importantly, it gives us the SOURCE of the strength we need to do that!

About 2 Timothy:

Paul is in prison in Rome and knows he's nearing the end of his earthly life. He will die as a martyr for the faith. He writes this final letter to Timothy, who is the pastor of the church in Ephesus. The letter is to encourage Timothy to STAND FIRM in the Gospel in spite of the suffering he and his church are going to endure. It's a very personal letter from a MENTOR to his STUDENT but written as a FATHER to his SON, since Paul was Timothy's SPIRITUAL FATHER in the Faith. Let's begin with verses 3 & 4:

³ 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.

- Don't we all need someone who remembers us constantly in prayer...who longs to see us...who is filled with joy at the thought that we are fanning into flame the gift of God in our lives?
- **How would it make you feel to know you had someone like that praying for you?**
- Unless you were saved on a deserted island, I promise you SOMEONE SOMEWHERE cares about you and prays for your spiritual growth.
- **Even if you WERE on an island alone, there would still be someone praying for you...who is it?**

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. ⁶ 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.

- Verse 5: Timothy had a SPIRITUAL HERITAGE of faith that went back at least two generations.
- You might say, "I didn't have that kind of Spiritual heritage in my family." That's okay because you can START ONE from this day forward. YOU can be the SPIRITUAL ANCESTORS who pass the love of God down to future generations both IN and OUTSIDE your family!

- Verse 6: Paul was encouraging him to make the most of that heritage and his spiritual gifts. He said, “fan into flame the gift of God.”
- **Anyone good at building a roaring fire? Why do you have to TEND a fire?**
- **What does FANNING do to a fire?**
- **How would we go about “fanning into flame” the gifts that God has given us?**
- **Verse 7: An often quoted verse. What does it indicate about Timothy?**
- **Verse 7: What are the weapons Paul mentions to battle our FEARS in serving God? Where does Paul say they come from?**
- **What does it mean to have a spirit of Power when using our Spiritual gifts for God?**
- Let’s talk about LOVE. Have you ever loved someone so much that, when necessary, you’d do things you never thought you could do because you loved them that much?
- In Timothy’s case (and ours) that love is both LOVE FOR GOD and LOVE FOR OTHERS; other believers and people who are lost and need Him. A love that sees others as God sees them. A love that can make us BOLD to reach others for Christ.
- SELF CONTROL translates SELF DISCIPLINE. When you are under attack as Timothy was, it takes SELF DISCIPLINE to carry on with a LEVEL HEAD. A SUPERNATURAL self discipline that only comes from the Holy Spirit living in us.
- **As for the “spirit of fear,” if God didn’t give us a spirit of fear, who did?**
- Should it be a surprise that when you and I take on something God has called us to do, Satan starts putting in overtime to stop it?
- Satan is the master of DIS! I mean the prefix DIS (D-I-S). Dis means to “tear apart.” Example: DIS-locate; DIS-courage; DIS-illusion; DIS-unity; DIS-appointment; DIS-trust; DIS-obey.
- Satan is always trying to DIS God’s people!
- Here’s some advice: Don’t be surprised when Satan tries to derail your work for God; in fact, be DISAPPOINTED if he DOESN’T!
- Verses 6 & 7 together give us some important teaching for ANY BELIEVER:
 - Make the most of your gifts using them to serve God.
 - Keep the fires of your faith and your gifts HOT.
 - Overcome fear with POWER, LOVE, and SELF-CONTROL which come from God through His Holy Spirit living in us. When the Spirit is in control we will be amazed at how He gives us courage and peace while overcoming our fears.
 - Remember, FEAR of doing God’s will isn’t from God...it’s from Satan himself.

⁸ Therefore 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, 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, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 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.

Verses 8-12 prove something we see often in Paul's letters: he was the master of the "run-on" sentence. The comma was his best friend! Sometimes you have to slow down and take apart these sentences because they are FILLED WITH GOLD.

Verse 8: What does Paul tell Timothy to DO and NOT DO?

What might cause us to become "ashamed" and distance ourselves from God, from Paul, and the Gospel? (Temperament?; opinion of others?; ridicule?;)

If we've been given the POWER, LOVE, and SELF DISCIPLINE to do what God has called us to do, we will only care about ONE OPINION --- His.

Verse 8: When we're suffering, we need to remember we're just sharing in Jesus' suffering. (Phil.3:10) And He suffered so MUCH MORE for us than we ever will for Him.

Verses 9 & 10 answer several questions about God's plan for BELIEVERS in Christ.

Verses 9 & 10, What did God do for us? How did He do it? Why did He do it? How long has He been planning this for us? Whom did He use to do this for us? What has Jesus done for us? If believers die, what is meant by "Jesus...abolished death"? Through what does Jesus do this for us?

Eugene Peterson paraphrased these verses in The Message:

2 Timothy 1:9–10 (The Message)

(God)...who first saved us and then called us to this holy work. We had nothing to do with it. It was all his idea, a gift prepared for us in Jesus long before we knew anything about it. But we know it now. Since the appearance of our Savior, nothing could be plainer: death defeated, life vindicated in a steady blaze of light, all through the work of Jesus.

- In describing God, Paul couldn't resist giving us an summary of salvation!
- **Verses 11 & 12: What does Paul remind us about HIMSELF?**
- The second part of verse 12 is another of those verses often quoted and underlined. It's a CONFESSION OF FAITH. I'm NOT ASHAMED. I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED. I'm CONVINCED He will keep me through all ETERNITY.
- Note the emphasis on the PERSON of Christ in that verse. "I know WHOM..."

Warren Wiersbe points out:

Salvation is not the result of believing certain doctrines, though doctrines are important. A sinner is saved because he believes in a Person—Jesus Christ the Saviour. Paul had deposited his soul in the care and keeping of the Saviour, and Paul was sure that Jesus Christ would faithfully guard that deposit.

- Here is a GREAT reminder for you and me in verse 12:
- When Satan begins to whisper in our ears "How do you KNOW Jesus saved you?" We can just say, "Satan, YOU'VE READ 1 Timothy 1 verse 12 and YOU know what it says. I'm NOT ASHAMED...I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED...I'm CONVINCED He's GOT ME and I'll spend eternity in Heaven with HIM and NOT in HELL with you! Somebody say AMEN!"
- It's like the old song says that'll "...make me wanna SHOUT!"
- **After we're done shouting and knowing what Christ did to provide our salvation...what ELSE should it motivate us to do?**

¹³ 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 entrusted to you.

- **Verse 13 - What did Paul tell Timothy to do? What do you think are the “sound words” from Paul he tells Timothy to follow?**
- **What can WE do to hold on to the pattern of sound teaching today? How do we know if teaching we hear is sound or flawed?**
- Verse 14: Paul urged Timothy to GUARD the DEPOSIT he had been given through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The message of the Gospel, is the most valuable TREASURE we have because it is the way to ETERNAL LIFE for all people through Jesus Christ. We are to GUARD that message and make sure it is not CHANGED or ALTERED by anyone. In these days of RELATIVISM there is pressure to WATER DOWN God’s word...we must RESIST that pressure like a GUARD protects a vault full of gold!

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- Be THANKFUL for those who influenced YOU to faith in Christ and DO THAT for others.
- Be FAITHFUL to make the most of your gifts and use them to serve God.
- Be DILIGENT to keep the fires of your faith and your gifts HOT.
- Be COURAGEOUS because of the POWER, LOVE, and SELF-CONTROL which come from God through His Holy Spirit living in us.
- Be CERTAIN that FEAR of doing God’s will isn’t from God...it’s from Satan himself.
- Be MOTIVATED to serve God by remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- Be CONFIDENT and UNASHAMED in the Gospel of Christ, and those who convey it.
- Be ON GUARD that the word of God is never watered down or diluted.