



WEEK 2 ██████████
2 TIMOTHY
CHAPTER 1

GREETINGS FROM PAUL

¹This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus.

²I am writing to Timothy, my dear son.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE FAITHFUL

³Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.

⁵I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. ⁶This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

⁸So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. ⁹For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. ¹⁰And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. ¹¹And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

¹²That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

¹³Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

¹⁵As you know, everyone from the province of Asia has deserted me—even Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. ¹⁷When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me. ¹⁸May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.

DAY 1 - MONDAY ██████████

A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-4, 1 SAMUEL 18:1-3, 1 SAMUEL 20:16-17, 41-42,
PROVERBS 17:17, PROVERBS 27:17

The New York Times recently wrote about the new epidemic sweeping the nation. It's an epidemic that is primarily affecting the male population. It specifically affects men over thirty and science currently has no cure. The epidemic I'm referring to, of course, is pickleball. Pickleball is a sport that has gained a lot of popularity in the last few years and has been helping to connect men around a fun sport.

This New York Times article was referring to the actual problem facing men, loneliness, and how sports/rec activities, like pickleball, have been helping men to make relationships and form friendships with other men. Loneliness and isolation isn't a male-only problem, but it seems to be most prevalent in men, which is why the way Paul begins his letter to Timothy can catch many of us off guard. Paul uses affectionate language, calls Timothy his son (although they are of no blood relation), says he longs to see him again, and even describes tears that the two of them shed when they parted last.

Today, men struggle even to communicate regularly, let alone write one another letters. Paul not only writes to another fellow brother in Christ but openly shares his emotions, triumphs, anxieties, and hopes. It's not only the instructions Paul gives to Timothy that are important for us in learning how to walk in faithful service to God but also the relationship between these two. Christian fellowship is a bond, a connection, and a relationship that should be more intentional and deeper than any other friend relationship we have. This friendship comes with a shared grace that has been gifted to us. Christian friendship shares a common burden of carrying the grace-filled message of salvation to others. Finally, Christian friendship is a relationship that shares the same trials and hurdles that come with a life of faith.

God has created and called us to be people of authentic, deep, meaningful relationships. Whether man or woman, we need to evaluate if we have relationships with other Christians that run as deep as Paul and Timothy's and, if not, begin to seek them. Why? Because faithful service was not and cannot be done in isolation. When we embrace other followers in a whole, honest, and vulnerable way, we can find a partner in the journey of faith we are all called to.

REFLECTION

Reflect on a Christian friend you have. Consider writing them a letter like Paul wrote to Timothy today to encourage them. If you cannot think of a friend that you have like this, spend some time in prayer and reflection on who that person could be or how you can connect in Christian friendship at Grace.

DAY 2 - TUESDAY ██████████

A HERITAGE OF FAITH

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-4, ACTS 16:1-5, PROVERBS 22:6

Paul begins his second letter to Timothy differently than any other letter he wrote to the early churches. His letter is far more personal, tender, and practical. This is because Paul is authoring this letter from a prison cell. He knew his days on earth were numbered, and he was writing to someone he viewed as dearly as a son (1 Timothy 1:2). Paul viewed Timothy as family and loved and cared deeply for him. This final letter is written in the same spirit as a letter from a father who has raised his son in the faith and is sending his last words of direction, encouragement, and love.

In these first four verses, there is a theme of being raised in a heritage of faith. Paul points to his ancestors serving God (2 Timothy 1:3), then reminds Timothy of the faithful home he was raised in with his mother Eunice, and his grandmother Lois. Timothy came from a family with a strong faith background, and their influence played a significant role in shaping his spiritual journey and his partnership with the Apostle Paul in spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Through these four simple verses, we see the importance and impact that comes from faithful parents, faithful leaders, and a faithful community raising and leading those around them in a heritage of faith. A Pew Research study conducted in 2022 found that 80% of those raised as Christians are still Christian today. Statistics are not foolproof, but it does point to the truth that is found in scripture, specifically in the example of Timothy, that when we raise our children and mentor those around us in the faith, we create fertile ground for them to grow in a life of dependence and faith in Christ.

We, like Paul, are called to cultivate a heritage of faith in the world around us. The urgency Paul uses in his final letter to encourage Timothy to serve Jesus faithfully should be the same urgency we carry today in leading our families, children, and community. We are called to have a heritage of faith, which is only possible when we live and serve faithfully.

REFLECTION

Why do you think it is so important to create a heritage of faith in the relationships in your life?

Paul says in verse three that he constantly prays for Timothy. Let's take his example and end our time today by praying for those we want to serve faithfully by pointing them to faith in Jesus. Maybe use the remaining space to write their names down as a reminder to pray for them.

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY ██████████

FRUITS OF FAITH

2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7, 1 JOHN 4:17-18

We are rewarded with gifts when we live lives that faithfully serve God. These gifts aren't physical or monetary possessions that rust and fade away. The gifts we receive through faith are spiritual and everlasting. Timothy had a spiritual gift of some kind that Paul alludes to in verse six, but the universal gifts of faith for all believers are listed by Paul in verse seven: power, love, and self-discipline.

He clarifies that the earthly feelings of fear and timidity are not from God. Paul wants to clarify to Timothy that God blesses us with power, love, and self-discipline when we walk in faith with Him. Timothy will need these tools, fruits, and gifts to continue faithfully serving God by leading and ministering to the churches and people around them.

These words from Paul should work as an encouragement for us as well. Far too often, we allow fear and our timid nature to dictate our conversations and actions with family, friends, and our community. These qualities keep us quiet when we see others walking in a way that contradicts God's will, keep us in states of worry and uncertainty about our future and purpose, and keep us looking at ourselves, not Christ. When we lean on the practice of faith in Jesus, we are rewarded with the natural gifts of faith: the power to do His work, love for Him and the people He has called us to, and self-discipline to overcome the spirit of fear and timidity that seeks to rule our actions.

REFLECTION

What do you fear about walking in deeper faith with God? How have you been timid in your faith?

How can you begin to walk in faith with Jesus today practically, and what do you think might change about the direction of your life if you embrace faithful service to God?

DAY 4 - THURSDAY ████████████████████

DON'T BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12, 2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

It's easy to forget. At the time this letter was written, following a crucified Master wasn't easy. It wasn't something one would specifically find pride in doing. Jesus spent His time on earth teaching principles that contradicted the ways of the world and then died a brutal death. For those who did not understand the good news of the resurrection, the testimony of Christ was one steeped in shame. We, too, can find ourselves placing the good news under a cloak. Both afraid and embarrassed to share about the Jesus we've known to be true because we're more concerned with how others will receive our testimony based on what they know of Jesus.

But the truth is that when we step into the gift of courage in Christ, we shed shame. When we recall what God has proven to be true, the remnants of shame that attempt to attach themselves to the good news of the gospel we are called to share are removed (v.11).

When we find ourselves shrinking back from proclaiming the good news of Christ, what we know to be true of Jesus can be the backbone of our courage.

Shame cannot exist in the context of true intimacy. As we pursue Him and allow the Holy Spirit to make deposits into us, we are moved from shame to honor. No longer burdened with embarrassment as we tell others of Jesus, but brought into a place of joy and delight regarding the testimony of our King.

She Reads Truth: 1 & 2 Timothy

REFLECTION

What typically leads to you feeling shame? Why should pursuing Jesus not be something that leads to shame in our lives?

How can you begin to live unashamed in your life/work for Jesus?

DAY 5 - FRIDAY ████████████████████

FAITHFUL IN SUFFERING

2 TIMOTHY 1:12-18, HEBREWS 11:1-2, REVELATION 2:10

At the end of Paul's first chapter of his letter to Timothy, he calls on Timothy to remain faithful. This is the overarching theme/purpose of his letter to Timothy, but it's also a genuine plea in a time of great loneliness. Paul is writing this from prison. He is alone and probably concerned that his fate will deter those he loves, and has led to Christ, to turn away from doing the work that Christ has given them. This is why Paul has called Timothy to be unashamed in his faith, and this is why he ends his letter with a plea for Timothy to remain faithful.

Paul knows the weight that following Jesus can be. He used to persecute and kill Christ-followers himself. Since his conversion, he has seen others he loves and worked with martyred for living and sharing in the gospel life. As he now experiences his final days on earth, he writes for Timothy to find strength, courage, and faith to remain steadfast in their mission and his life of fellowship with Jesus.

It can be challenging for us to relate to the urgency Paul has in this letter because we never have, and probably never will, face persecution like this for Jesus. We have never been hunted, jailed, or murdered for our faith, but we can still heed Paul's words and grow from them. Although we may not face the same circumstances Paul, Timothy, or the early church faced, we face the real threats of comfort, complacency, and passivity toward the life Christ has called us to. Paul's encouragement to continually seek Christ in everything, put Him above all else, and remain faithful to Him, no matter what we face, is as important today as it was in his days.

REFLECTION

Take some time and write down or reflect upon all the ways God has been faithful to you.

What are the modern-day tests you face to remain faithful? How can remembering His faithfulness to you help you to remain faithful to Him?

