

II Timothy – Paul’s Initial Instructions to Timothy II Tim. 1:6-14

Thesis: To encourage us to be faithful to God by looking at Timothy’s responsibilities.

Introduction:

- A. Coming up with a good outline to this book is difficult.
 - 1. Some commentaries say that this book is correctly divided among the chapter breaks.
 - 2. Other commentaries say that the chapter breaks are in terrible positions.
 - 3. Some say the outline of this book is clear; while others say that there is no clear outline.
 - 4. In other words, it is difficult to outline this book.
- B. One reason for the difficult outline is that this is Paul’s last book that we have preserved for us.
 - 1. Paul uses this letter as his “farewell address.”
 - 2. He is telling Timothy the most important things to remember and do for the Lord’s church.
 - 3. Therefore, Paul jumps around some as he writes this epistle.
- C. Paul had strong feelings towards Timothy.
 - 1. Timothy had gone with Paul and Silas (**Acts 16:1-5**).
 - 2. Timothy was well spoken of by the brethren, and had a good reputation among the Christians.
 - 3. Through this letter, we see that Timothy was very special to Paul.
- D. Most of the things that we talk about today will be discussed in greater detail in future lessons on II Timothy.

I. Paul tells Timothy “to stir up the gift of God which is in you” (**1:6-7**).

- A. Paul encouraged Timothy to use the gift that he had been given (**1:6**).
 - 1. We are not sure exactly what gift Paul had passed on to Timothy; although it had something to do with the spreading of the word of God.
 - 2. We do know that this gift was given to Timothy by the laying on of Paul’s hands and was approved by the elders of the church.
 - 3. **I Tim. 4:14** - Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
 - 4. Paul wants Timothy to use what he has for the service of the Lord.

B. God had given Timothy a spirit “of power and of love and of a sound mind” (**1:7**).

- 1. It was not a spirit of fear that God had given to Timothy.
 - a. God did not want Timothy to be afraid as he went through this life.

- b. His task was going to be difficult, and he could not be afraid in fulfilling it.
 - c. Paul wanted Timothy to be confident in the gift that he had been entrusted with.
2. Notice the kind of spirit that God gave to Timothy.
- a. It is a spirit of power.
 - 1) There is great power in preaching the word of the Lord.
 - 2) **Acts 1:8** (The apostles had this power) - **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**
 - 3) **Acts 6:8** (Non-apostles also had this power) - **And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.**
 - 4) Although the Bible never directly says, it is very likely that Timothy was able to perform miracles because of his relationship with Paul.
 - b. It is a spirit of love.
 - 1) Timothy was to love those that he came in contact with.
 - 2) **I Cor. 13:13** - **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**
 - 3) **Col. 3:14** - **But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.**
 - c. It is a spirit of a sound mind.
 - 1) There is logic in the spirit of God.
 - 2) Timothy had the ability to take things from the Old Testament and apply them to New Testament Christianity.
3. The point that Paul was making is that Timothy was to use the spirit that God had given him for the purpose of God.
- a. **“Stir up the gift of God which is in you.”**
 - b. Today, we must use our gifts for the purpose of God because He has given us a spirit **“of power and of love and of a sound mind.”**

II. Paul tells Timothy to “not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (1:8-12).

A. There was no reason to be ashamed of Christ because of the great things that He had done (1:8-11).

- 1. We are saved “according to His own purpose and grace” (1:9).
 - a. God wants us to be saved.
 - 1) Paul had already told Timothy of the purpose of God.
 - 2) **I Tim. 2:3-4** - **For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**
 - 3) We are saved according to the purpose of God.
 - b. Paul also says that we are saved “according to His...grace.”

- 1) We did not earn salvation; it is “not according to our works.”
 - 2) Grace is unmerited favor; it is something that is undeserved.
 - 3) Eph. 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast.
2. The purpose of God and the grace of God are both revealed to us through Jesus Christ (1:9b-10).
- a. This grace was given to us before time began (1:9b).
 - 1) Even before God created the world, He knew what was going to happen.
 - 2) He knew that we were going to be saved only by the blood of His Son.
 - 3) Gen. 3:15 - “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
 - b. This grace has now been revealed to us through Christ (1:10).
 - 1) Christ had now appeared on this earth.
 - 2) He had “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”
 - 3) He did this through His death and resurrection.
3. Because of what God has done for us, there is no need to be ashamed of Him.

B. Paul also encourages Timothy to share in his sufferings for the sake of Christ (1:8, 12).

1. Paul spoke very openly to Timothy about the persecutions that he faced.
 - a. He called himself “His prisoner” (1:8).
 - b. He says, “For this reason I also suffer these things...” (1:12).
 - c. II Tim. 2:9 - for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.
 - d. II Tim. 3:11 - persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra-- what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.
 - e. II Tim. 4:9ff – Paul speaks of all those that forsook him at his defense.
2. Persecutions were coming to Timothy, and he needed to be prepared to handle them.
 - a. II Tim. 3:12 (After Paul goes into great detail about future persecutions against the church) - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
 - b. Just as Paul had suffered, Timothy was going to suffer.
3. Paul did not want Timothy to be ashamed when these persecutions came against him.

- a. The reason Paul was not ashamed of these persecutions was because of Christ (1:12).
- b. Paul knew the reward that was going to be his.

III. Paul tells Timothy to “hold fast the pattern of sound words” (1:13-14).

A. Paul tells Timothy to keep the word of God that has been given to him.

- 1. Timothy had a guide that he was to follow (1:13).
 - a. He was to follow the pattern of sound words which he had heard from Paul.
 - 1) Phil. 3:17 - Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
 - 2) Timothy, because he worked closely with Paul, was able to look at the life of Paul and know how he should live.
 - 3) II Tim. 3:10 - But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
 - b. As Timothy identified that pattern, he was to hold fast to it.
- 2. Today, we should hold fast to the pattern that we have.
 - a. As Timothy had Paul as his guide, our guide is the Bible, the very word of God.
 - b. II Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, { 17 } that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

B. Today, we would all do well to keep the word of God.

- 1. We must hold fast to the pattern that we have because it is from God.
- 2. It is His word that we should live by.

Conclusion:

- A. We should stir up the gift that is in us.
- B. We should not be ashamed of Jesus because of what He has done for us.
- C. We should hold fast the pattern of sound words that we have received from God.