

sermon outline NOTES

I. The Apostle Paul and beloved Timothy (2 Timothy 1:1-2)

- A. Paul, the great Apostle **(2 Timothy 1:1; Galatians 1:1)**
- B. Timothy's character commendation **(Acts 16:1-3a)**
 - 1. He had a good reputation
 - 2. He was genuine **(Philippians 2:19-20, 22)**
- C. The Father-Son affection of Paul and Timothy **(2 Timothy 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2; 1 Corinthians 4:17)**

II. Remembering is a path to encouragement (2 Timothy 1:3-7)

- A. Timothy is remembered in prayer **(2 Timothy 1:3)**
 - 1. Paul prays with guiltless gratitude **(2 Timothy 1:3; Hebrews 9:14)**
 - 2. We can be a source of encouragement to others by remembering them in our prayers **(Philippians 1:3-5)**
- B. Paul remembers Timothy's pain and concern **(2 Timothy 1:4)**
 - 1. Parting is "sweet sorrow" **(Acts 20:37-38; 2 John 12)**
 - 2. Paul is not in a good situation **(2 Tim 1:15-17; 2:9a; 4:6-8; 4:9, 21)**
- C. Paul recalls Timothy's sincere faith and maternal godly legacy **(2 Timothy 1:5)**
 - 1. Timothy is reminded of his faithful heritage, perhaps to combat doubts **(Jude 3)**
 - 2. The faith of both Paul and Timothy are connected to the past **(2 Timothy 1:3, 5)**. We should not shut out those who preceded us.
- D. Timothy is reminded of his calling and Paul's support of him **(2 Timothy 1:6-7)**
 - 1. Timothy received the gift of God – a ministry and the gifts to fulfill it **(2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 6:6)**
 - 2. Timothy is encouraged to grow and excel in his gifting
 - 3. We, likewise, are gifted with the Spirit **(Ephesians 1:3)** and by the Spirit **(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)** to fulfill our ministry, whatever that may be
- E. We who have the Spirit possess the three-fold characteristics of the Spirit
 - 1. Power **(Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 3:16-19)**
 - 2. Love **(1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13)**
 - 3. Self-control **(Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 3:3; Titus 2:11-12)**

III. Communion is an act of remembrance to encourage us in the faith of the gospel (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

2 Timothy 1:1–7

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

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. 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.

sermon reflections

1. Describe Paul and Timothy's relationship. Why did Paul include Timothy in his missionary work? What potential insights can we glean from this as it relates to discipleship?
2. How can remembering one another in prayer be an encouragement? Have you experienced encouragement from knowing you were being prayed for?
3. What are some possibilities for why Timothy was in tears?
4. What is the significance of Paul recalling the godly heritage that Timothy had? How might this have been encouraging to Timothy? What practical lessons can we learn from this?
5. Why do you think Paul reminded Timothy that he was gifted with the Spirit and by the Spirit?
6. In communion, we remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that inaugurated the New Covenant. How does this remembering provide encouragement?

enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 1

faithfulness through memory

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7



reading THE letter

Making observations in a passage is the best way to become familiar with it and grasp the basic meaning. One helpful technique is to use a notebook (or separate piece of paper) and make the following observations—

- List any **People**—

- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

observations

1 What are the actions that Paul does on behalf of Timothy?


2 What are the various emotions that Paul seems to experience?

3 What are the effects of the gift that God has given (which serves as an encouragement to Timothy)?

summary sentence

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1-2 sentences-

paul's encouragement TO timothy



The opening sections of biblical letters are usually so uplifting to read. This is where we can read the “thanksgiving” section, which contains lots of blessing and encouragement. Paul’s second letter to Timothy is no exception. Paul’s opening is his reminder that the mission he’s engaged in is not new, but is the continuation of what the people of God have been doing for generations (“*I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors...*”). One of the key markers of being God’s people is the love that they show to one another (**John 13:35**), and this passage demonstrates that. We don’t know precisely what caused the tears that Timothy had (**1:4**), but regardless, we see that Paul is grieving alongside him. Paul demonstrates his Christian love by empathizing with Timothy.

As Paul writes in Romans 12, the mark of a true Christian is centered on having a genuine love for another (**Rom. 12:9**). One way to demonstrate true brotherly love is to “*rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep*” (**Rom. 12:15**). While Paul does bring gospel-encouragement to Timothy (**1:5-7**), he doesn’t try to ignore whatever emotional pain he might be experiencing—because acknowledging and dealing with pain is healthy.

paul's encouragement TO US

While there are a few theories on what “tears” Paul referred to in 1:4, the reason itself isn’t the main thing to focus on. Our biggest takeaway is how Paul engaged someone who he knew was hurting. Grammatically, when Paul tells us that he remembers Timothy’s tears, he’s communicating that this is something he has done in the past and continues to do, even up until his writing that letter. Paul was emotionally aware. He knew that something affected someone he cared about, and so he would sit in Timothy’s pain with him. This is what emotionally aware people do—they can recognize other people’s pain. Paul also tried to encourage Timothy without trying to “fix” him.

When we experience loss, we oftentimes have to spend more time dealing with people who are trying to fix us than actually grieving the difficult situation. For instance, your beloved grandma passes away, and you’re constantly told, “she’s in a better place now,” or “at least she’s not suffering anymore.” These might be factual statements, but besides the fact that these are things that you already know, how in the world would they bring any comfort to your grief? The person, while probably being well-meaning, is actually trying to “fix” you—they’re trying to tell you how you ought to feel.

Paul gave us a great example of how to engage with grief: acknowledge the person’s pain, and remind them of the hope of the gospel. Romans 12:15 is clear that we are to weep with those who weep, and Paul demonstrates this with Timothy. However, he doesn’t leave it there. He reminds us that through what God accomplished in Jesus, we are given a faith that dwells in us and provides a spirit of power, love, and self-control.



presenting ourselves approved TO THE world

responding questions

- 1 When you are experiencing a tough time, do you find it easy or difficult to remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control? Are there ways in which this gospel-truth is used to comfort you, either in your own mind, or from the encouragement from others?



2 Timothy 1:1-7

FAITHFULNESS THROUGH MEMORY

responding questions

- 2 Life tends to give regular opportunities to experience grief (and tears). Financial hardship, health issues, or societal conflict seem to affect us, or someone we know, weekly. Think through your last encounter with someone who is going through a difficult time. How did you respond? Did you try to fix them? How can you grow in your ability to weep with those who weep?

