

Love Letters

Week 15: 2 Timothy 1

Fast facts ~

- Paul, the aged apostle, writes to a young, inexperienced Pastor Timothy, who faces the heavy burden of responsibility for the church at Ephesus.
- Timothy is about to face the challenge of addressing false doctrine as well as the conduct of the believers & he must not allow his youth to become his liability.
- Timothy became a convert when Paul was in Lystra on his first missionary journey. Subsequently, on his second journey, Paul took Timothy along while he served as a devoted assistant & traveling companion, laboring with Paul throughout his third journey.
- Paul left him in Ephesus to oversee the work there, considering him a gifted teacher who was trustworthy & committed to the ministry.
- In this final letter, Paul assures the young pastor of his continued love & prayers, while reminding him of his spiritual heritage & responsibility. Paul warns him that the one who perseveres must act as a diligent soldier, determined athlete, patient farmer in order to receive his reward.
- Perseverance & endurance are two of the prominent themes of the book & central to everything is the sure foundation of God's Word.

Passing It On ~

Read 2 Timothy 1

1. Once again in great personal suffering, what does Paul state that made it possible for him to write with a thankful heart? (vs 3)

2. As a loving father to a son, how does Paul attempt to console Timothy? (vs 4-5)
 - a. Interestingly, who was responsible for bringing Timothy to faith in Christ (vs 5)?

3. Looking again at vs 3-4, see if you can determine a few of the ways Paul was still actively serving God.

Don't Be Fearful ~

Reread 2 Timothy 1:6-7

1. Based on Timothy's strong faith, what does Paul remind him to do? What made it possible for him to persevere? Vs 6-7

2. If God did not give Timothy a spirit of fear, from which direction did it come? When you are overtaken with fear, whose voice are you listening to? What difference can this make in terms of your ministry?

3. Think about the fact that succumbing to fear as Timothy had done could also prevent you from being able to use your gift(s) & be equivalent to quenching the Holy Spirit, meaning to put out or extinguish a fire. Paul's admonition to "stir up" (vs 6) the spiritual gift within also applies to believers today. It means to fan to full flame the gift within you. In other words, take it out & use it! Don't let it lie dormant.

4. When you're willing & obedient, what kind of spirit does God supply? (vs 7)

5. "Sound mind" can also be translated as secure, sound, disciplined, carrying with it the idea of a self-controlled, prioritized mind. Why would it be necessary for an effective servant to exercise discipline throughout life?

Hold Fast ~

Reread 2 Timothy 1:8-14

1. Personal: What are some of the risks you have faced when sharing your faith in Christ?

2. When are you most likely to be fearful of sharing the gospel? Is it in social or family gatherings, when you witness an injustice taking place, when it comes to praying aloud in public or when a group tries to influence you to take part in something that dishonors God?

3. Was the apostle Paul ashamed of being in chains for Christ? Why (vs 12)?

a. What do you think Paul had committed to Christ for safe keeping?

4. Paul goes on to instruct Timothy about being loyal in two things regarding God's Word. What are they?

a. Vs 13:

b. Vs 14:

5. Look ahead at vs 16-17 & recap them in your own words. Record what the Lord ministers to your heart.

You Gotta Have Friends!

1. Think of a possible "real-life lesson" Paul may have wanted to communicate to Timothy as he wrote of his abandonment.

a. With the above thought in mind, why do you think it's important to share our struggles with younger individuals in the ministry rather than pretend to be unaffected by them?

2. Onesiphorus diligently sought Paul out in Rome, investing time & effort in his search, at times risking his own life. What are some of the character qualities you can find in Onesiphorus? How did his search for Paul prove out that he was unashamed of Paul & the gospel message?

3. As a result of his dedicated service, what did Paul ask of the Lord ...

a. On behalf of Onesiphorus' family?

b. For Onesiphorus personally?

4. Personal: What are some character qualities that you look for in ministry companions?

5. Why would it be important for you to have things in common with co-laborers in the ministry?

6. If you were to ask God to pick your ministry partners, what would you ask Him for? Are these qualities evident in you?

In Touch with Jesus ~

1. LISTEN: In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.

2. LEARN: How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?

3. LIVE: What step of obedience will you purpose to take in our walk of faith this week?