

Pastoral Epistles

II Timothy 1:1-14 – 1 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.

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. 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.

In accordance with the normative structure of letters written during his day, Paul identifies himself as the author immediately. He also refers to himself as one who holds what position in the church? _____

1. “by the will of God” – Paul was intended for his work by the providence of God Himself.
2. “according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus” – Paul was able to do this work because of his eternal life, promised in Christ.

Right after Paul introduces himself, he addresses his recipient: Timothy. Timothy is referred to as what relation to Paul? _____ What does that mean?

He also intends blessing upon Timothy, wishing him grace, mercy, and peace. These are common desires among God’s people, and for one another.

As Paul launches into the body of the letter he wants Timothy to be encouraged. What things are said that communicate that idea?

(When was the last time you encouraged a friend in Christ?)

In conjunction with the encouragement Paul challenges Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God...” It may help us understand why Paul would say that when we look at verse 7. Is it possible that Timothy was timid, and a bit insecure? Is it possible that Paul was giving instructions on how to use his “gift?”

Timothy is charged to adhere to those suffering by serving with them, unashamed of the witness of Christ and of Paul. This wasn't to be done in Timothy's own strength, but by the power of God; the One who saved us by his own purpose and grace. Notice the way Paul writes this.

1. Did God save us because He knew we would be obedient? “not because of our works.”
2. When was God's grace given to us? “before the ages began.”
3. When did we realize that grace? “through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus.”
4. How was God's grace effective through Christ? He “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light **through the gospel.**”
5. How was this gospel to be spread? “I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher.”
6. How committed was Paul to this mission? “which is why I suffer as I do.”
7. What seems to be Paul's confidence in suffering? “I know whom I have believed...”

Timothy is then charged to cling to the doctrine he'd heard from Paul concerning the faith and love found in Christ. How important is this concept in the work of the ministry?

Lastly, Timothy is charged to “guard the good deposit entrusted” him. With the Holy Spirit equipping him, Timothy was to defend the matters of the faith given him.