

SECOND TIMOTHY

Chapter 1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1:1 *apostle*. One specially commissioned by Christ (see notes on Mk 6:30; 1Co 1:1; Heb 3:1). (CSB)

will of God. Paul did not choose to become an apostle, but God chose him (Ac 9:1–19). (TLSB)

according to the promise of life.† Paul’s being chosen to be an apostle was in keeping with that promise because apostles were appointed to preach and explain the good news that eternal life is available to all who believe. (CSB)

God promises eternal life to all who are joined to Christ Jesus. Although we now have eternal life by faith, we cannot see or feel this eternal life within. Instead, we focus on God’s promise. (TLSB)

1:2 *Timothy, my dear son*. See note on 1Ti 1:2. (CSB)

Paul is not his physical father but his father in the faith. (TLSB)

1:1–2 Paul addresses Timothy tenderly, referring to him as his “beloved child” and speaking God’s grace, mercy, and peace to him. As you speak to others, especially your fellow Christians, season what you say with God’s Word. Remind them of the grace that is theirs in Christ (e.g., “The Lord be with you”; “God’s peace to you”). God’s Word on our lips and in our hearts provides Gospel comfort to those around us. In addition, we ourselves benefit by the precious promises of the Gospel. • Give me an instructed tongue, O Lord, that I may know the Word that sustains the weary. Amen. (TLSB)

Grace ... peace. See notes on Jnh 4:2; Jn 14:27; 20:19; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2. (CSB)

Encouragement to Be Faithful

³I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a spirit of

timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. ¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. ¹⁵ You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

1:3 *thank God ... in my prayers.* See note on Php 1:3–4. (CSB)

AS MY FOREFATHERS – There is unity between Abraham’s faith and every Christian’s faith. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

The ancient people of Israel who lived by faith. (TLSB)

clear conscience ... prayers night and day. Because of the forgiveness won by Christ on the cross, even the former persecutor of the Church (Ac 9:1–2) may rejoice in a clear conscience, cleansed by Jesus’ blood. This cleansed conscience allows Paul to pray continually (1Th 5:17), rejoicing to speak praise to the God who saves. (TLSB)

1:4 *Recalling your tears.* Probably refers to Timothy’s tears when Paul left for Macedonia (1Ti 1:3). (CSB)

Timothy’s sadness over his earlier separation from Paul. (TLSB)

Paul had a very close personal relationship to Timothy who was his spiritual son. The last time they saw each other there were tears, now he is looking forward to the joy of seeing him again. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

long to see you. See 4:9, 21. (CSB)

1:5 SINCERE FAITH – In 2 Timothy it says that this faith was his from his infancy and had come through the Scriptures. The heroes of faith “Lois and Eunice” had set powerful examples of witnesses to that faith for Timothy. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

your grandmother Lois ... your mother Eunice. According to Ac 16:1, Timothy’s mother was a Jewish Christian. Here we learn that his grandmother too was a Christian. Timothy’s father, however, was a Greek and apparently an unbeliever (Ac 16:1). It was probably because of him that Timothy had not been circumcised as a child. (CSB)

Timothy’s mother and grandmother, both of them Christian, taught Timothy the Christian faith from infancy (cf 3:14–15). They passed the faith to Timothy by reading and speaking the Word to him. Both names are Greek, not Jewish, indicating three generations of Greek cultural influence in the family. (TLSB)

1:6 fan into flame the gift of God. Gifts are not given in full bloom; they need to be developed through use. (CSB)

Gifts don’t come fully developed. They need to be nurtured and developed. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

through the laying on of my hands. Paul was God’s instrument, through whom the gift came from the Holy Spirit to Timothy (see note on 1Ti 1:18). (CSB)

1:7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity. Apparently lack of confidence was a serious problem for Timothy (see 1Co 16:10–11; 1Ti 4:12). (CSB)

Not the Holy Spirit, but Timothy’s pastoral aptitude, which apparently lacked confidence. (TLSB)

SPIRIT OF POWER – The result of the wisdom which brings the power of the Spirit leads to salvation and the strength to stand against all the foes of God. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

1:8 Paul was in a Roman dungeon because of his preaching. (TLSB)

FOR THE GOSPEL – Paul urges Timothy not to be ashamed of suffering for the sake of the Gospel which is what is happening to Paul. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

The Word is at work in those who believe (1Th 2:13), strengthening them in the face of persecution, temptation, and every other adversity. (TLSB)

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

1:9 *called us to a holy calling.* Though Paul may be speaking primarily about the pastoral office that he and Timothy shared, his reference to “a holy calling” applies to all who live by faith. A Christian’s daily work is indeed a holy calling and a priestly work because of God’s gift of faith. (TLSB) Christian holiness is not rooted in what we do, but in God’s work for us and through us in Christ. (TLSB)

not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. Salvation is by grace alone and is based not on human effort but on God’s saving plan and the gracious gift of his Son (see Ro 3:28; Eph 2:8–9; Tit 3:5). (CSB)

Christian holiness is not rooted in what we do, but in God’s work for us and through us in Christ. (TLSB)

Romans 8:29-32 ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

before the beginning of time. God’s plan to save lost sinners was made in eternity past (see Eph 1:4; 1Pe 1:20; Rev 13:8). (CSB)

God knew, even before creation, that in “the fullness of time” (Gal 4:4) He would give His Son to die for us. “Before we existed, yes, even before the foundation of the world was laid—when, of course, we could do nothing good—we were chosen by grace in Christ to salvation, according to God’s purpose” (FC SD XI 43). (TLSB)

This was given us before the beginning of time. The other gifts we have in family, church, and world follow this great gift. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

1:10 *appearing.* Jesus’ incarnation. *abolished death.* Jesus, by His death and resurrection, destroyed death for us. Although we will die earthly deaths, we will live eternally with Him (Jn 11:26; 1Co 15:54–57). (TLSB)

THROUGH THE GOSPEL – The work of Jesus’ life, suffering, death, and resurrection is the Gospel. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

1:11 *herald and an apostle.* See note on 1Ti 2:7. (CSB)

Called to be an apostle (cf 1:1).(TLSB)

preacher ... apostle ... teacher. Synonyms here; may also be distinguished as separate offices and tasks. (TLSB)

that day. The day of judgment. (CSB)

1:12 *why I suffer.* In prison at Rome. (TLSB)

able to guard ... entrusted to me. Although Paul has been entrusted with the preaching of the Gospel, God ultimately sees to it that His Word is proclaimed to the world. (TLSB)

1:13 *sound teaching.* See note on Tit 1:9. (CSB)

Timothy's pastoral task is not focused on being a creative or exciting preacher. He is to follow the same preaching he previously heard from Paul. This "pattern," in written form, will later comprise the NT and the Apostles' Creed. "In this way, much unnecessary wrangling may be cut off and the Church preserved from many scandals" (FC SD IV 36). Chrysostom: "Many things he delivered to him without writing.... After the manner of artists, I have impressed on you the image of virtue, fixing in your soul a sort of rule, and model, and outline of all things pleasing to God" (NPNF 1 13:484). (TLSB)

This is a model to pass on to others. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

faith and love in Christ. Faith and love through union with Christ—another way of saying "Christian faith and love" (see 1Ti 1:14). (CSB)

1:14 *the good deposit ... entrusted to you.* The gospel. Paul gives the same command in 1Ti 6:20. (CSB)

parathaka – This deposit is the gospel. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 5, Part 4)

1:15 *everyone.* Probably hyperbole, a deliberate exaggeration to express widespread desertion. (CSB)

Paul does not explain how many turned away from him. (TLSB)

province of Asia. Timothy was in Ephesus, the capital of the province of Asia, which is in western Turkey today. (CSB)

Phygelus and Hermogenes. Nothing more is known about these two people. (CSB)

1:16 *household.* Including not only his wife and children but also any household servants or staff. (TLSB)

Onesiphorus. Probably he and his family lived in Ephesus (v. 18; 4:19). (CSB)

refreshed. Possibly with physical nourishment, as prisoners often relied on provisions given by friends and relatives, but also he may have shared the encouragement and comfort of the Word. (TLSB)

1:17 *Rome*. See Introduction: Author, Date and Setting; see also v. 8; 2:9. (CSB)

1:18 *that day*. The day of judgment. (CSB)

Judgment Day, when the deeds of the faithful will be commended. Cf Mt 25:31–46. (TLSB)

he helped me in Ephesus. Either on Paul's third missionary journey (Ac 19) or on his fourth (see map on "Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey").

Timothy was a pastor at Ephesus when Paul wrote this Letter. (TLSB)

1:3–18 Alone in prison and abandoned by many of his friends, Paul fondly remembers the encouragement he received from Timothy's sincere faith. Exhorting Timothy never to be ashamed of the faith he has been given, Paul exults in the promise of Christ, for whose sake he is imprisoned. Instead of feeling self-conscious about being Christian, we must share in Paul's forthright confession: "I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed" (v 12). Our Lord Jesus Christ shall never let us go. • Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You never leave me or forsake me. Amen. (TLSB)