

2 Timothy – Paul's final letter.

It is Paul's last surviving letter written about 64 AD.

Paul was back in prison awaiting execution - during the time of Nero's persecution

He writes requesting a last visit from Timothy, but in case he can't make it he also gives Timothy final instructions – a reminder of living as a disciple of Jesus

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 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.

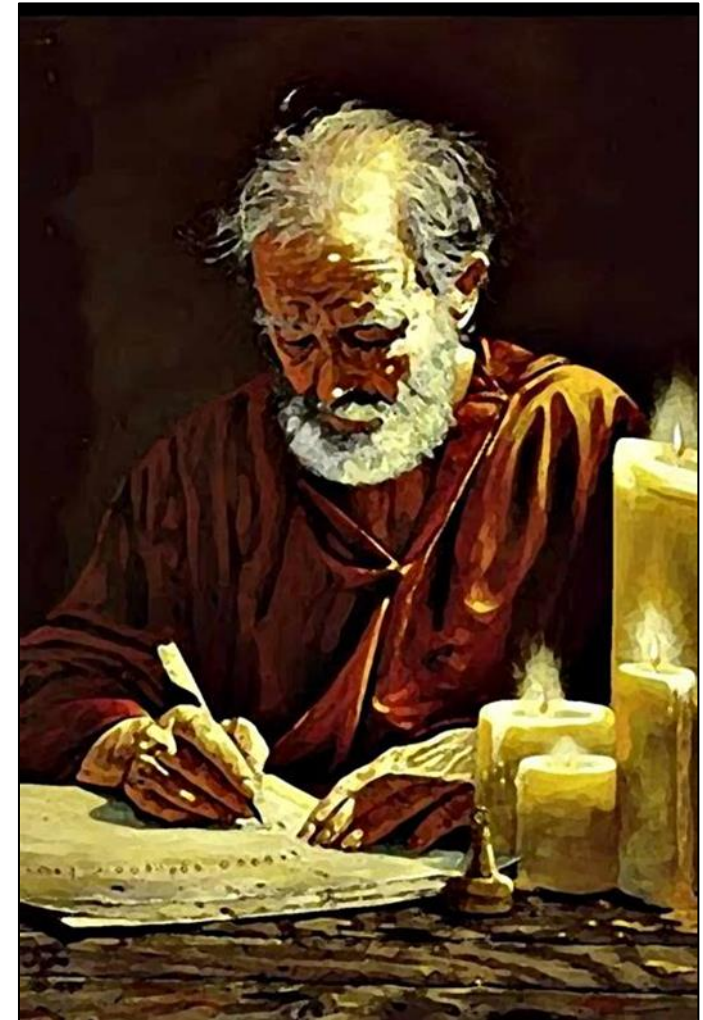


Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son..

God's call and enabling - his gracious purpose.

Notice his emphasis on eternal 'life' while facing the end of his time in this world.

It is an affectionate personal letter from Timothy's spiritual father.



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

The same blessings with mercy added
From the same source



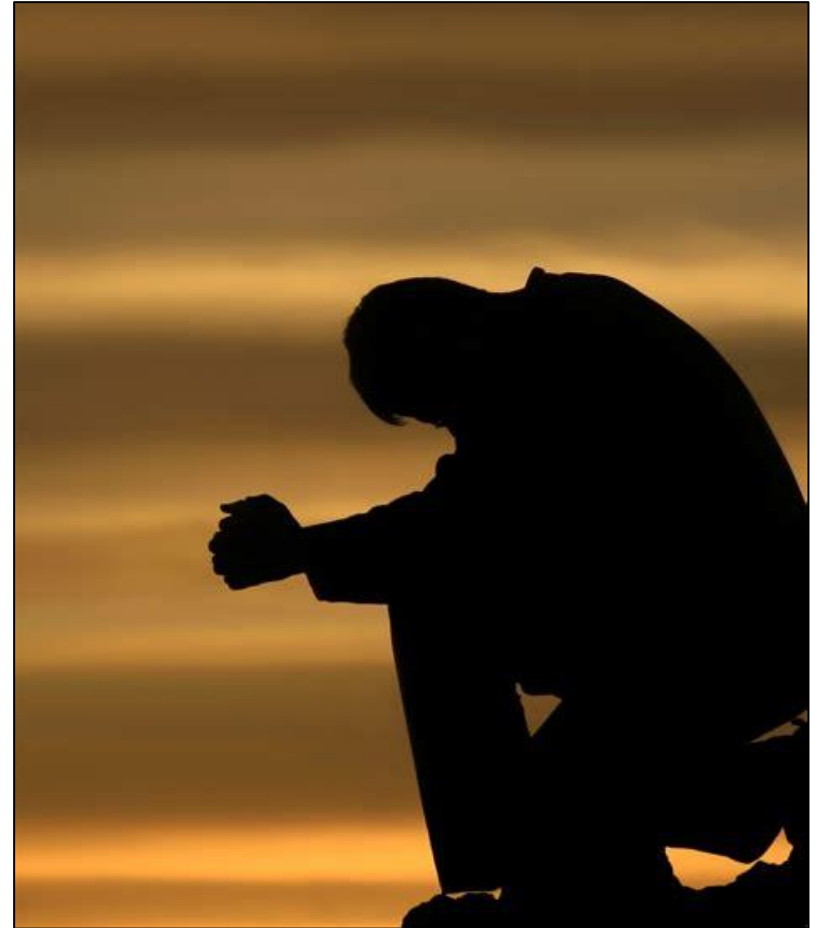
I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Paul was grateful for his part in the history of God's people.

A clear conscience is a great blessing of a life of glad obedience.

Constant prayer - how much sleep did he get in his cell?

It's good to know people are praying for you



Memory Lane

Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

Looking back with joy –Tears of joy when he came to Christ or perhaps on the last occasion they parted.

It was a happy memory – and he wanted to see him again.



Human love and appreciation of others is a great blessing.

A blessed background

I 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.

Thinking back – recalling Timothy's special background – a godly mother and grand mother.
Family mercies are very special.
Were they also personally known to Paul?
They passed on the treasure even though Timothy's father was a gentile.



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.

Since such a wonderful heritage for you has also
helped you in your own real faith
Work at it - a fire image - light and heat!

A gift given through laying on hands ... a gift from Lord

What was Timothy's gift?

Commission, Holy Spirit empowering?

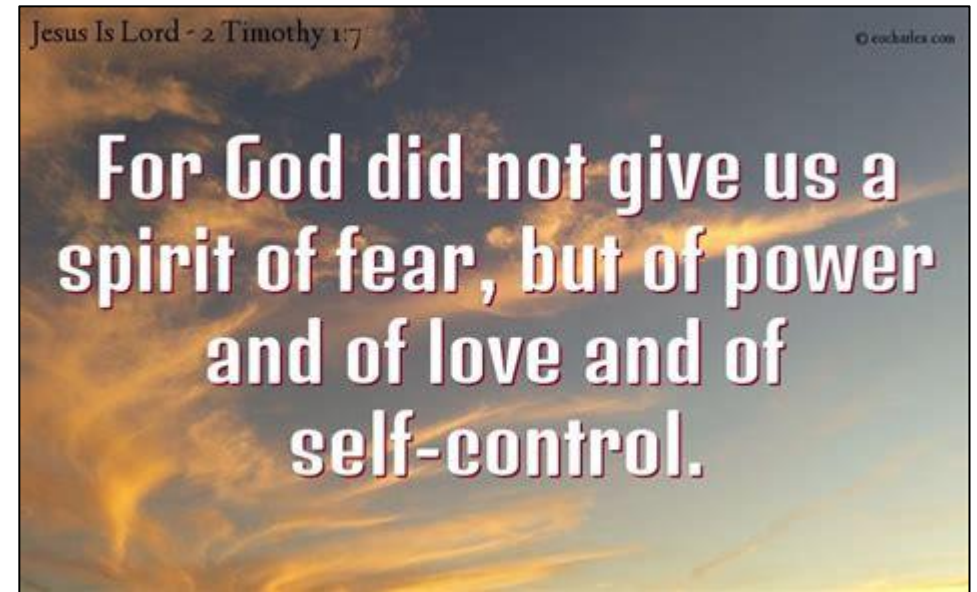


For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Is he referring to the Baptism of Spirit?
God's gifts are good gifts

Note the positives not fear
(perhaps Timothy was prone to anxiety)

The Spirit's work in us
Boldness, power, love, self-control
- enabling him to fulfil his calling
(true for us too.)



So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord,
or ashamed of me his prisoner.

Not to be ashamed to speak for Jesus
It looks bad to the world
a crucified Saviour & an imprisoned leader

But it is not as it seems
(spiritual eyes are needed)
There is no need for shame
– rather something to rejoice in



But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,
who has saved us and called us to a holy life-

Together in suffering, with Paul's example
as an encouragement

We need power to suffer for the gospel
(and God will provide)

His work in us, saved and called us to live a
holy life -the results of a real, living faith.



It is all of grace

-not because of anything we have done
but because of his own purpose and grace.

- Paul's reminder – no boasting of human merit
- it is all of grace
 - God's plan to save and use and enable us.

Oh Yes! IT'S
FREE

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

The plan goes back a very long way
Jesus was prepared to come and save us right from the beginning. wow!
We are part of something profound and eternal.



but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour,
Christ Jesus,

It has come to pass in history with the Saviour's life on earth

He came into our world – to save - Jesus the Messiah



who has destroyed death
and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Death's power and terror has been destroyed
And in its place he brought us 'life' (full) eternal life that cannot die



The means is through the wonderful message of the gospel.

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

I was blessed and privileged to be part of this with God's call on my life to be a preacher, an apostle and a teacher.

Action words ...

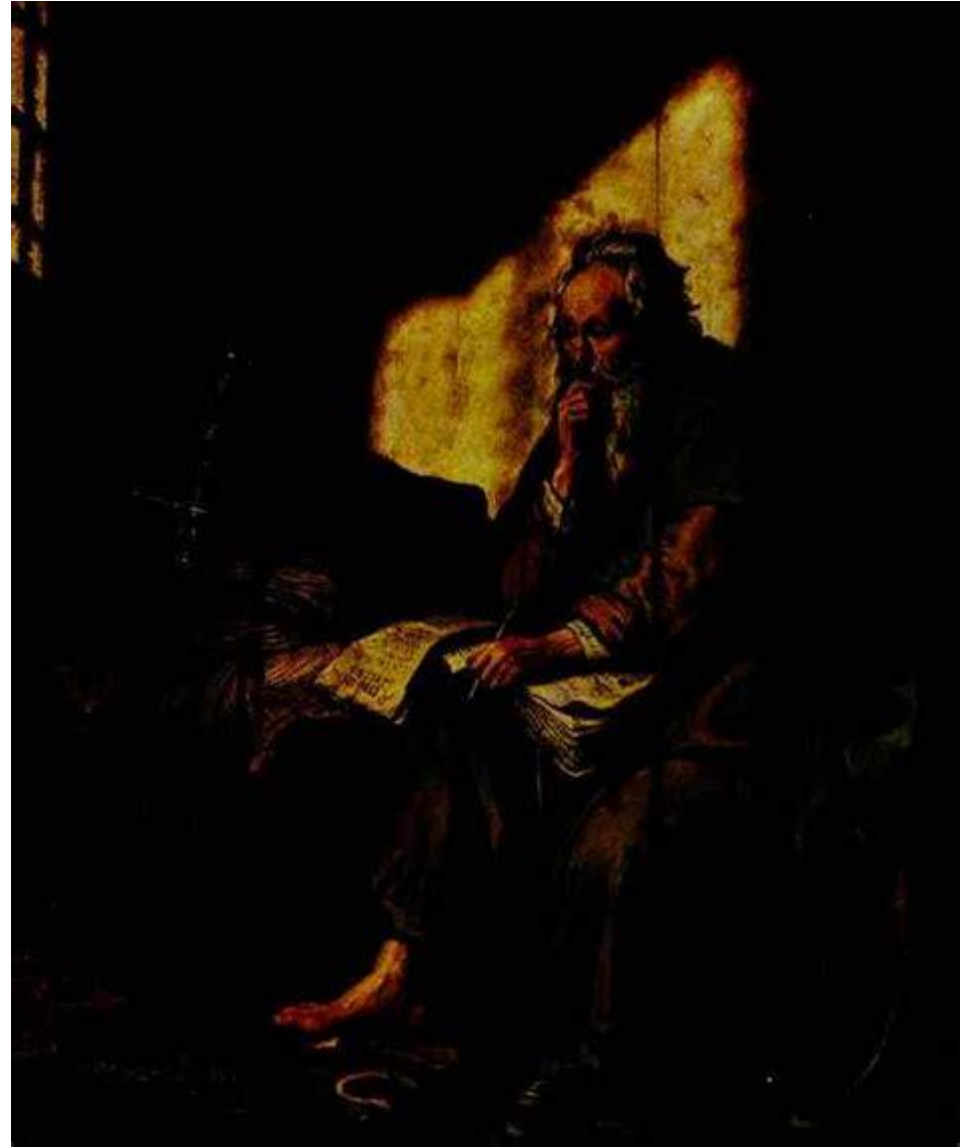


Jesus said... Follow me ...

That is why I am suffering as I am.

This is the price in this world I am paying
It isn't easy - but the Lord had shown
him that this was the road to take

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to him,
“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of
mine to carry my name before the
Gentiles and kings and the children of
Israel. For I will show him how much he
must suffer for the sake of my name.”



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.

BUT I am not a victim – I'm HIS
And he is mine - my life's guardian
I put it in his safe hands

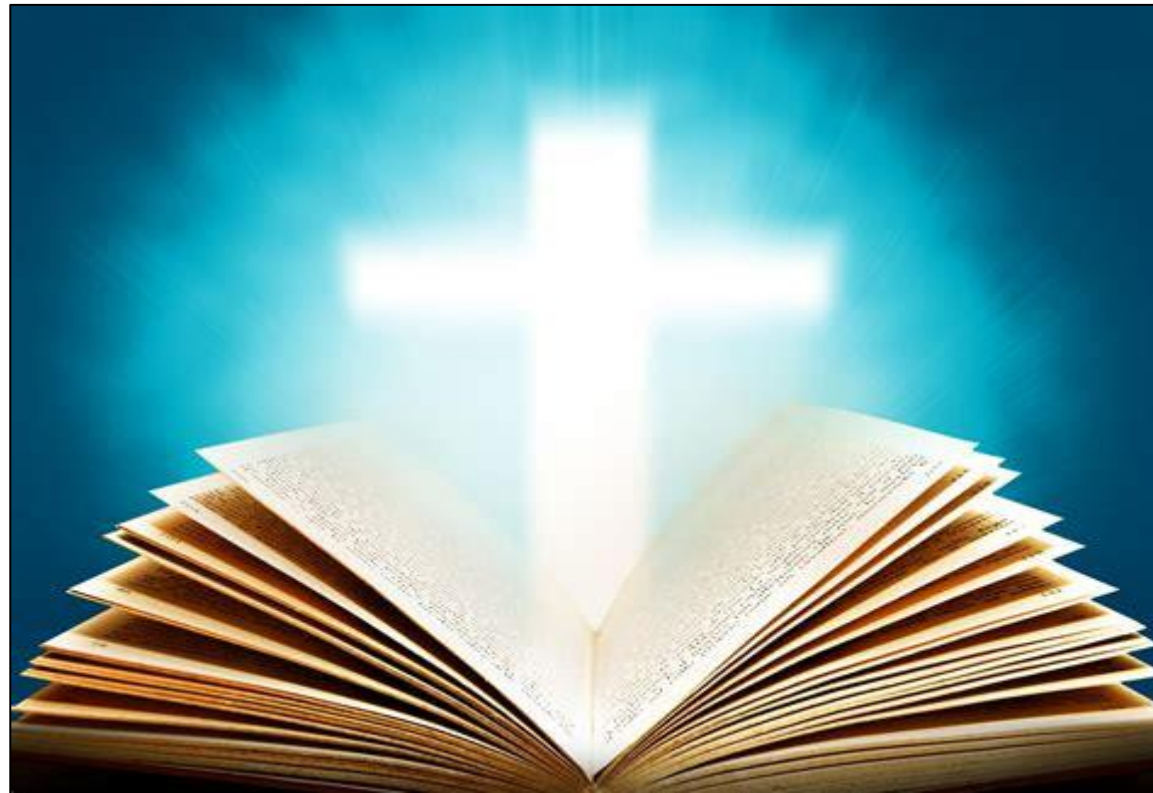
The saint's security.

No need for shame
I know him - by faith, by experience
I know what he will do for me



What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching,
with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

Hold on to what I gave you
The teaching & love and faith – in HIM



Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Take good care of your faith
With full dependence on the
Holy Spirit's help

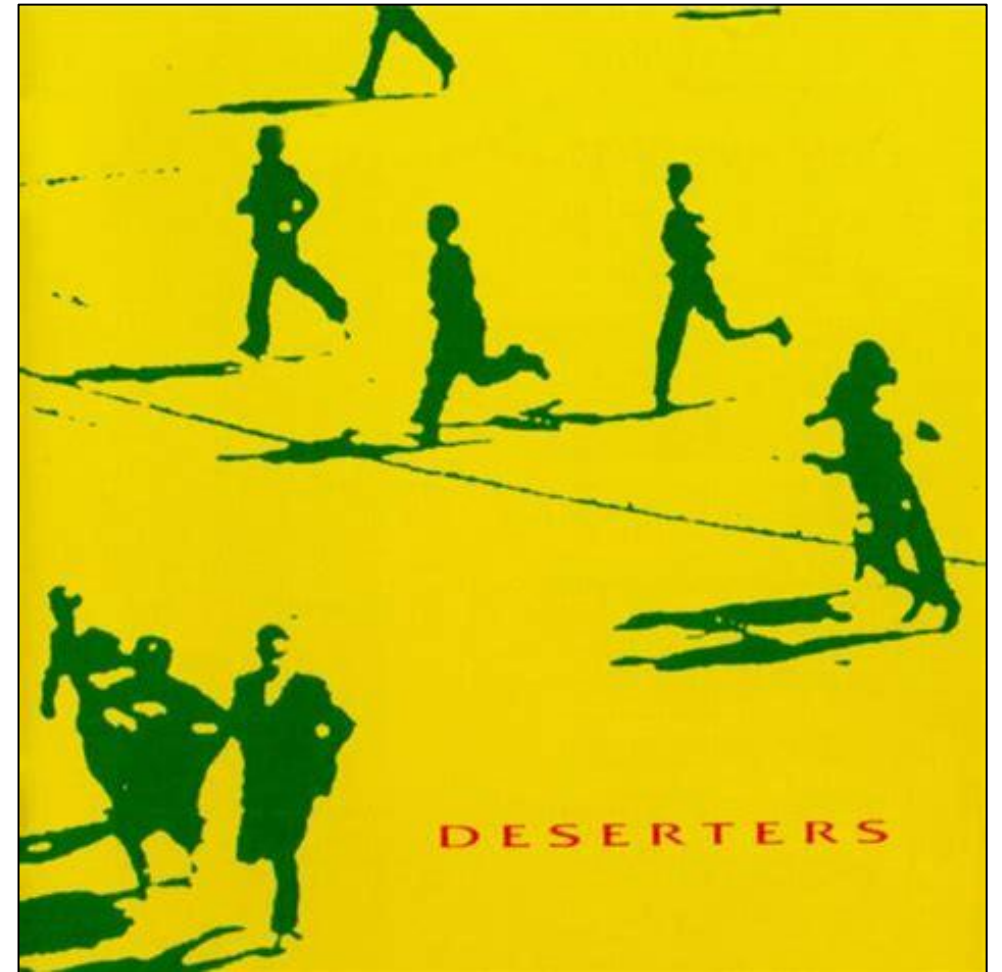


Let down?

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

Abandoned by 'friends'

Personally known – people you invest in?



May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus,
because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

A good and faithful friend

He stuck by, helped and encouraged his
spiritual dad

Not ashamed of chains – perhaps he had
been in them himself once



On the contrary, when he was in Rome,
he searched hard for me until he found me.

He was keen to see Paul again
He persevered



May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day!

A Prayer for blessing

When we face our Lord
On that day! Judgement
– rewards or censure



You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

You know what he was like in Ephesus
Obviously worked with Paul there at some time.



A real faith in the God of the real gospel.
Guard it well and

