

# The Pastoral Epistles

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## 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 1

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### I. TIMOTHY'S UNFEIGNED FAITH, 1:1-10

A. In this chapter Paul compares himself and his ministry with that of Timothy and his ministry, giving himself as an example of the believer and instructing Timothy to be faithful as Paul has been faithful to his preaching.

#### B. Paul's Greeting, 1-2

1. From Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ
2. He is an apostle by the will of God and not by his own calling or yearning.
3. He is an apostle, also, by the promise of life, real life, genuine, eternal life, that is given to him by Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life . . ." (John 14:6).
5. This is the life that Paul now lives, the life of faith in Christ.
  - a. Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
6. Verse 2– Paul is writing to his son in the faith, Timothy, and extends him wishes of grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### C. Paul's Thanks, 3-7

1. Paul thanks God for his remembrance of Timothy, who has been a great blessing to Paul, 3; and he remembers Timothy day and night.
2. I met about three people at the funeral the other day who said to me, "I pray for you every day." That is a great thing to know, and I am sure that very thought encouraged Timothy in his work for the Lord.
3. He also greatly desired to see Timothy (verse 4).
4. The tears of Timothy may be due to his suffering as a believer and as a Christian, and for that Paul desires to see Timothy and will be filled with joy at meeting him again.
5. Paul's memory of Timothy and his family is an occasion of joy for him (5).
  - a. First the unfeigned (or undisguised) or sincere faith of Timothy was a great joy to Paul.
  - b. Also this same faith was in his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice.
  - c. It is a wonderful thing when faith comes down through a family due to its sincerity and its teaching to the children.
6. Paul encouraged Timothy (6) to stir up the gift of God, which is in Timothy by the laying on of Paul's hands.
  - a. Paul was an apostle, so this gift of God may infer special gifts of the Spirit that only an apostle can impart by the putting on of hands.
  - b. Or this may be simply an acceptance or recognition of Timothy's call to the ministry

- and God's use of him in the ministry, as we do today when we also put our hands on a minister for the purpose of executing the call of God upon a man to the ministry.
7. He is to stir up this gift, not fearing the suffering that may come as a result of ministering the word to other believers.
    - a. That is because (verse 7) God has not given us the spirit of fear.
    - b. And so in Jesus' words we read in Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
  8. But God has given us the spirit of power (dunamis), the strength to do the work of God. Paul says in Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*
  9. God has also given the spirit of love (agape), which is God's love, a love that will go beyond the fear and keep the servant of God in service to God, not fearing but being faithful to him.
  10. God has given the spirit of a sound mind, SOPHRONISMOS, or a mind of self-control, to keep our minds on Christ and his work rather than swerving toward error, a mind that will know more than our teachers or the ancients (as I wrote about in psalm 119:99-100 in my daily devotions this week). It is only through the word of God that we get our wisdom and knowledge, not simply through our teachers or the ancients. We also need a mind of self-control to keep us from sin, knowing the difference between truth and error, and abiding in the truth of God both theologically and practically.
- D. Paul's Suffering, 8
1. Paul was in prison at this time due to his preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  2. Timothy is not to be ashamed of the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the Gospel of God, nor is he to be ashamed of those who are being persecuted due to this same Gospel.
  3. Timothy is to be a partaker, a fellow-servant, a brother in bonds, a true disciple in his preaching, knowing that persecutions will come, as Jesus said in John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
  4. James tells us not to be surprised when we have temptations: James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*
- E. Paul's Explanation Of The Nature of God, 9-10
1. God saved us – 1 Corinthians 1:21 *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*
  2. God called us – Galatians 1:15 *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,*
    - a. Not according to our works (9) – God did not call us unto salvation by works; neither did he call us into the ministry according to our gifts, or our good works.
    - b. Galatians 3:3 *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*
    - c. His calling is according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ before the world began, 9

