

***“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —
Endurance through Strength in Christ Jesus”***

Review:

Last Time: *“Paul’s First Letter to Timothy — Fond Remembrances Foreshadow Future Triumph — and Tragedy”*

When Paul begins his letter (his last) he has in mind God’s work in one’s life as a preparation for his future work also. God’s work in the past always directly affects his future plan and work through those he has called and enabled. We see that so clearly here in the introduction to this letter. Paul himself, Timothy, and his mother and grandmother are all spotlighted here. And the apostle considered that important enough that he began his final letter with it:

- ***I Am Mindful That Many Tears Have Been Shed***

2 Tim. 1:3-5

3 I thank God, whom I serve from [my] forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

- ***So bold, so intimate, so focused on the needs of the heart ... how often would Timothy return to these words, we wonder. After his father in the faith was gone, would he have even remembered these words every day? “Remembrance”, such a moving thought indeed. The word here is found in verses 3, 5, and 6 in the KJV though the Greek words translated here are each different. But the meaning is the same.***
 - ***Timothy’s mother and grandmother were probably often in his thoughts and prayers in one of his most tender and reflective moments. That remembrance led the apostle to immediately consider Timothy himself. Was he also as persuaded as Paul was? Probably not — thus the reason for this encouraging letter.***
- ***Be Never Ashamed of the Testimony***

2 Tim. 1:8-10

6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

- “Be not thou **therefore** ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner”: ***“Ashamed” is found in verses 8, 12, 16 here. The idea is one of turning aside, hiding one’s face, etc. in shame. The pain of disfigurement! Shame in reference to Paul’s imprisonment (and imminent martyrdom)! Something to be meditated on.***
- ***“Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”: What bolder statement of the hope of our calling could have been written? And these verse follow the earlier one about shame. A greater contrast can hardly be imagined.***
- ***Holy calling / not works but grace / his purpose and grace / freely given in Christ Jesus / before the world began! But now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:***
- ***See Rom. 16:25-27 in its final words of that letter for similar language, there referring to this revelation and its teaching calling it “the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest ...”***

- ***So what in this world could cause Timothy to be “ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner”? Nothing the apostle is implying here is of that sort at all. The sheer glory of the gospel should render all anxieties or fears as nothing in comparison ... it should, but it may not be so for us yet and we would then need exhortation as Paul provides here to his son in the faith, Timothy.***
- ***I Suffer Gladly Whatever the Lord Brings Due to His Bold Testimony***

2 Tim. 1:12-13

12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

- ***Paul’s example for Timothy was intended to be transformative. His example before Timothy was enough and he knew it. He knew this and did not question it for a moment.***
- ***“For which cause I also suffer these things: “nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed ...: Why shame here in this context? Remember Paul’s thorn in the flesh? Paul learned that his suffering was for the glory of God and his abundant grace. It was a hard lesson. See what awaits us in the next chapter:***

2 Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

- ***“and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”: So Paul is suffering all due to faithfulness regarding the sacred deposit of the revealed word of God’s abundant grace through Jesus Christ. Timothy is to suffer like Paul is — that is the message here! He also is to maintain the “form of healthy words”! What was committed to Paul was the sacred deposit. All else is to conform to that foundation of truth. Amen. Now, what about the others who knew Paul well?***

- ***He Was Not Ashamed of My Chain***

2 Tim. 1:16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

- **“Ashamed” —not ashamed of my chains: Phil. 1:13** So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other [places]. **And then also the same in Col. 4:3** Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ,

Our Outline for Today: “Endurance Through Strength in Christ Jesus”

- **Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ is Your Challenge, Timothy!**
- **Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ Yields Eternal Fruit**
- **Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ Ministers Great Confidence**
- **Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ Has a Firm Foundation**

Our Scripture: 2 Tim. 2:1-15

I. Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ is Your Challenge, Timothy!

[READ] 2 Tim. 2:1-3

1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

[READ] 2 Tim. 2:4-7

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. **[think of Uriah]**
5 And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. **[this is a constant theme of the apostle]**
6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.
7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

- **“Be strong in the grace ... that is in Christ Jesus”: This really is the theme here in this letter. Being strong in grace. What a challenge this is to all of us. How often does it come to mind?**
 - **Eph. 6:10... for example,** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- **And then the “remembrance” again, in verse 2:** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

- **Three analogies:**
 - **Analogy #1: Service in warfare, verses 3 & 4 — Endure “hardness” or as explained next, as a soldier in war. The word for “hardness” means literally “bad feelings”. We know act the apostle means (well some in our group here do). The rest can well imagine its full meaning.**
 - **Analogy #2: Training and competition in sports — The pain of this is know by all who have trained and not to the rest of us perhaps.**
 - **Analogy #3: Farming — Use the benefits of your farm for your own benefit before providing it to others.**
- **Then the application:** Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.
 - **Timothy is expected to fully enter into his ministry so that he may be an example to others. Preaching what one has not learned to be true for oneself is not acceptable, he writes. Note that he repeats himself to make his point even stronger.**
 - **And, that we might not miss the forest for the trees, as it were, do not forget that this is really all about grace and its abundant blessings. Timothy is expected by the apostle to be endowed with strength in harmony with God’s working under his grace: Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The grace that is in Christ Jesus. Let those words dwell in our hearts as we continue here today.**

II. Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ Yields Eternal Fruit:

[READ] 2 Tim. 2:8-10

8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, [even] unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

- ***So warfare in the spiritual realm is the theme here and he begins with “remember”. In this case it is the gospel preaching that Timothy had heard from Paul here called “my” gospel.***
- ***My gospel — Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead. The word “my” is added to distinguish Paul’s gospel from all others. My thinking is that the false teachers were preaching “a resurrection of the dead” and not “the resurrection, the one that was out from among dead ones”. Their resurrection was a merely spiritual one without a physical component. This was a so-called “gnostic” teaching that denied the physical resurrection altogether, much like the Sadducees had been teaching for centuries.***
- ***There is much implied here. We know what Paul’s gospel was since he is so clear on that in his letters. But what about the others? Is Paul’s gospel being preached today? Is it really? In all of its dimensions? I think not. All the talk about repentance from dead works and the “lordship” doctrine are contrary to the gospel Paul preached. And yet that in its many varieties is becoming rapidly dominant even in the so-called “fundamental” Bible churches.***
- ***Wherein I suffer trouble — Because Paul was faithfully preaching this gospel and not another, he was imprisoned now again in Rome with little hope of release. But the word of God is not bound, even while he was in prison. See Phil. 1:12-13.***
- ***Verse 10:*** Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory:

So some of the elect are still unsaved. He suffers “all things” for their sakes. The implication here is that the purity of the preaching and teaching must be maintained for this very purpose. This is glorious beyond our words that can only detract from what stands written here. Did Paul believe in election then?

There is clearly an application here for us suffering what seems the loss of our nation with its “protected” liberties and the attacks of the virus that have both been so destruction.

III. Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ Ministers Great Confidence:

[READ] 2 Tim. 2:11-13

11 [It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]:

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with [him]: if we deny [him], he also will deny us:

13 If we believe not, [yet] he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

- ***These are apparently common “sayings”. Think if what this must have been like, with one group here singing this and another group there singing that.***

- ***Three parts:***

- ***Dead (past tense) – live (future): Not about physical death but spiritual - cf. Col. 3:1-4. In each of these, the “if” could meaningfully be rather “since indeed”.***

Col. 3:1-4

1 If [***or, “since indeed”***] ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead [***you died***] , and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

- ***Suffer (present) – reign (future): Compare with Rom. 5:17: “they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”***
- ***Deny (future) – deny (future): In reference to the suffering and reigning as the translators understood as they divided the verses as they did. “Deny” here is in the sense of “refuse”. No one surely would ever want to be refused the rewards in glory. So, we carry on, we endure the “harness” as a good soldier of Jesus Christ! Verses 3, 4 & 10! And amen.***
- ***We are unfaithful (present tense!) - he continues (present also) faithful; he cannot deny himself for he will always be such. Amen.***

Encouraging? It is indeed. This also applies so well to our current circumstances? This is a profoundly practical teaching, isn’t it?

IV. Enduring Warfare with Strength in Christ Has a Firm Foundation:

[READ] 2 Tim. 2:14-15

14 Of these things put [them] in remembrance, charging [them] before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, [but] to the subverting of the hearers.

15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

- **Verse 15:** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.:
 - ***Well, this is where we must stop today. Be diligent, he exhorts Timothy, to demonstrate his approval before God in advance.***
 - ***That will require “Right Division”! This literally means to “cut straight or right” What is to be cut straight? The Word of God. The TRUTH itself is at stake. So this is an essential task. Few today are stopping long enough to even seriously consider this verse and its meaning. But the bottom line is that failure in this endeavor will yield not truth but error.***

Conclusions:

- ***2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.***

And let's finish with that great exhortation from the end of his first letter to Timothy:

2 Tim. 2:1-19 “Endurance Through Strength in Christ Jesus”