

***“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —  
Remembrances from the Past Yield Expectations for the Future”***

***Last Time: “Paul’s First Letter to Timothy — Its Dispensational Significance”***

- ***1 Timothy — Its Dispensational Importance: An Exhortation (1 Tim. 1:4)***

***1 Tim. 1:1-4***

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, [which is] our hope;

2 Unto Timothy, [my] own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, **that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,**

**4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: [so do].**

- ***Verse 4 is so essential here to our study of this letter:*** ... rather than than godly edifying **which is in faith: [so do]**

***Better Greek manuscripts have been identified since the KJV was translated and published in 1611. There we find not the Greek words translated “godly edifying”, but “the dispensation of God, the one which is by faith!” THERE ARE NO MINCED WORDS HERE, EVEN IN THE FIRST FOUR VERSES. There is only one letter different in the Greek, an “N” in place of a “D” to use English equivalents. But the difference in meaning is great indeed.***

- ***So the apostle even here in his very first words of this letter establishes the “dispensational” significance of the letter.***

- ***1 Timothy — Its Dispensational Importance: Its Essence (1 Tim. 1:6)***

***1 Tim. 1:5-7***

5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] faith unfeigned:

6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

- ***So the real issue is mentioned right here at the beginning — LEGALISM. They didn’t really understand what they were talking about though. These false teachers were promoting a “legal”***

*dispensation, whether that might have been a revised Mosaic legal system, or perhaps what they may have expected would be the law of the coming kingdom.*

- **What is a “dispensation”?**
  - ***This word speaks of “household management”, in a nutshell, though here it is in reference to God and his sovereign management over all but more specifically, over his own children. DISPENSATIONS ARE NOT AGES THOUGH THEY DO OCCUR IN AGES. Dispensations we all know about are Law, Grace, and the coming Millennial Kingdom. There are others as well beginning with the Fall.***
- ***Paul is the apostle and administrator of the Dispensation of Grace. That is why we must turn to his letters to learn about the fullness of God’s grace and his working “dispensationally” today.***

***Grace spiritually builds up, works can never do that. One provides an inheritance eternally, the other only leads to works to be burned by the fires of the judgment seat of Christ. One “lays hold” on eternal life, the other can never even relate to that new life in Christ Jesus. Note the tears herein verse 31. Paul’s testimony was one literally of “blood, sweat, and tears”. He is our apostle still. Never forget that! In his public ministry and as reflected in his letters we find his heart given over to the ministry to the saints and I want to read several verses about that ministry that we have not looked at here for some time:***

**2 Cor. 2:4** For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

**2 Cor. 11:28-30**

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

**29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?**

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

- **1 Timothy — Its Dispensational Importance: Its Foundation (1 Tim. 1:15-17; 3:16)**

**1 Tim. 1:15-17**

**15 This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief ["first"].**

**16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.**

**17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

***The Bottom Line: Today all is about God's abundant grace through the finished work of Christ on Calvary's cross, and not about works. Paul preached, taught, wrote that and lived it out for all to see. He was our example as the heavenly Christ was his example (1 Cor. 11:1 et. al.).***

**1 Tim. 3:15-16**

**15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

**16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

- ***In all chapters of this letter, the exhortations apply this central teaching regarding "godliness" as we read here. This verse "spotlights" the central teaching of the letter and its dispensational significance cannot be minimized without fundamental damage to the message and ministry of the churches.***
- ***1 Timothy — Its Dispensational Importance: Amplified***

***We will not dwell further on this today, but in 1 Timothy chapters 1, 4 & 6 a major emphasis is on spiritual warfare. It is there that Timothy is exhorted to wage a "good warfare" (1 Tim. 1:18-19), and to therefore also separate himself from those promoting evil doctrine. He is also commanded to be aware (1 Tim. 4:1) of the coming "departure from the faith" and a cleaving even within the churches to "doctrines of demons". Many would be leaving behind that great work of God, called the mystery of godliness here in 3:16 to cleave to rather its opposite called here the mystery of lawlessness as described in 2 Thess. 2:7. So we should not be surprised at his fierceness in attacking this truth. His lies and wonders are directly opposed to what God is doing today, under grace.***

***Finally, in chapter 6:20-21, Timothy is exhorted to “keep that which is committed to thy trust” and to “avoid profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”***

***“Grace [be] with thee. Amen”, are his final words in this letter and what a fitting reminder they are to God’s work under grace, the mystery of godliness!***

- ***The great danger of teachings that do not honor properly the dispensational plan of God for his abundant grace is amplified greatly here by these final words. “Grace [be] with thee. Amen.”: Today this is everything in a short, one word summary. GRACE. What a great way to end this letter. Praise God for his unsearchable and glorious riches. These are simple words but with so much meaning. At beginning and at the end ... This was his blessing to offer.***
- ***IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS IN THE CENTER OF OUR TEACHING AND OUR THINKING AS IT WAS FOR PAUL?***

**Our Outline for Today:**

***“Fond Remembrances Foreshadow Future Triumph — and Tragedy”:***

- ***I Am Mindful That Many Tears Have Been Shed***
- ***Be Never Ashamed of the Testimony***
- ***I Suffer Gladly Whatever the Lord Brings***
- ***He Was Not Ashamed of My Chain***

**Our Scripture: 2 Tim. 1:1-18 *“Fond Remembrances Foreshadow Future Triumph — and Tragedy”***

**Introduction:**

***The first and second letters were probably written only two years to at the max 5 years apart, most likely 66-68 A.D. The second letter is Paul’s last, having written it just before, it seems, his martyrdom under Nero and just before Nero committed suicide. I hesitate to begin today without again thinking of the context here, in the larger sense, of this letter in its temporal order for Timothy.***

***Paul has that in mind too since here at the beginning he writes of God’s work in one’s life with his future work also so much in mind. His 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 where Paul himself, Timothy, and his mother and grandmother are all spotlighted:**

**I. I Am Mindful That Many Tears Have Been Shed:**

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 1:1-5**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

**2** To Timothy, [my] dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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.***

- ***“I thank God, whom I serve from [my] forefathers with pure conscience”: Paul reflects here on the long history of his family down through the centuries a little like what he does at some detail in Philipians 3 —***

***Phil. 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee ...***

- ***So God worked it all out for Paul intersecting in his life according to his perfect plan— and therefore with good timing. The apostle praises God accordingly here!***
- ***“... without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day”: Such remembrances are of the Lord too. We all know this. Throughout the day he reminds us so often, often so we may enter into prayer or thanksgiving. If he did not, where would we be?***

- “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.”: ***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:***
- “... I am persuaded that in thee also”: ***See Rom. 8:38-39 & verse 12 here. The persuasions of the Lord must be taken note of or much of what God is doing in this life will surely be missed altogether. How often must young Timothy considered these words so personally written by the one who went before, who paved the way for life under grace, and who shared that truth wherever he went. Timothy would now never see him again and yet he had his parting words...***

**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. ***But let’s not get ahead of ourselves...***

## **II. Be Never Ashamed of the Testimony:**

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 1:6-10**

**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:

- “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear”: ***But rather of confidence in the Lord of glory who is working all things together for our good! Amen.***

- “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! And this in the face of one’s own life failures which are many. In this case it was the one with whom he had associated and identified himself. It is often said that one likes to be on the side of winners, not losers. BUT, PAUL A LOSER? HARDLY.***
- “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?***
  - ***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: I can only wonder how many have been brought to saving faith in our Lord Jesus just through the hearing of these words alone? How very many? And yet I know that they are largely unknown in our churches today. Why?***
  - ***Kept secret from ages and generations: compare with Rom. 16:25-27 in its final words where he refers 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.***

### **III. I Suffer Gladly Whatever the Lord Brings:**

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 1:11-14**

11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

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.

14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

- *Paul's example for Timothy was intended to be definitive and 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?***
- "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. Much to think about here!***

#### **IV. He Was Not Ashamed of My Chain:**

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 1:15-18**

15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

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

17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found [me].

18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

- ***“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, for which I am also in bonds:

- ***Onesiphorus stands out so clearly on the side of Paul, Christ's bond-slave. Will Timothy as well when the going gets tough soon enough? That is the question. What about us? Will we?***

**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:***

***1 Tim. 6:19 ... laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.***

***2 Tim. 1:1-18 "Fond Remembrances Foreshadow Future Triumph — and Tragedy"***