

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER ONE

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

Parts of this letter are gloomy. Paul has realized that he will soon be executed at the hands of Nero. This is his final testament to his spiritual son, Timothy. Despite the gloom Paul looks forward to soon seeing his Saviour again. All the friends have now deserted Paul with the exception of Luke. This is also the last of Paul's letters.

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

Paul, who had no children, had come to love Timothy as his own son. Paul prays specific prayers for Timothy and notice that he prays to both Jesus and God our Father.

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;

Paul is lonely and desperately wants to see Timothy again before he dies. Apparently Timothy had left Ephesus as Paul is sending Tychicus there as a replacement.

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.

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.

This gift that Paul mentions could have been any of the gifts mentioned in 1 Cor 12 except for the sign gifts for Israel. Let's look at those gifts. {12:4} **Now**

there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. {12:5} And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. {12:6} And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which {12:7} But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. {12:8} For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; {12:9} To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; {12:10} To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: {12:11} But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. The emphasis here is that everyone has at least one gift. If you have absolutely nothing else, if you are saved, you have the gift of faith, and yes, faith is a gift from God. What about the gifts that are no longer in effect? Visible miracles are done away because they were signs for Israel. They will come back during the Tribulation. For example, think of things like the two witnesses. Visible, verifiable, healing is no longer in effect for the same reason, it was a sign to Israel. Limbs do not grow back and blindness is not cured by an application of spit and mud. God certainly still heals but now, the Book of James tells us, it is through the “**fervent prayer of a righteous man**”, or woman. The gift of tongues has ceased. One look at 1 Cor chapter 14 will tell you how far off the mark these modern tongues speakers are. If it is a gift from the spirit it is not from the Holy Spirit. We know this because the Holy Spirit never does anything contrary to the word of God.

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

We should not fear the future. We have the power of prayer at our disposal. God can not use fearful servants. He said to the prophet Jeremiah, “**be not afraid of their faces**”. The words “sound mind”, in this context, means self control and self discipline.

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;

Paul says “don't be ashamed that I am a prisoner. Paul does not consider

himself a prisoner of Nero but rather a prisoner of Christ. Paul, by the statement **“but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;** means that he intends for Timothy to take over his ministry when he is put to death. Remember that Paul now realizes he is not long for this world.

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,

Notice that He saved us first and then called us. Neither the saving nor the calling are based on our works. It is His purpose and grace that are given 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:

Referring back to verse nine, His purposes are now made manifest by his life, death, burial and resurrection. Through this he has abolished death. How has He abolished death yet people still die? Have you ever considered that, for a born again Christian, there is no death? Think about this. The bible say, **“to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”**. That is instantaneous. It is only those of us on this side who perceive it as death. The one we see as dying is alive here, then alive there.

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

Paul fills all three roles. He is an apostle, not of the twelve, but appointed “out of due time” by Jesus himself for the express purpose of taking the gospel to 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.

This is one more of those verses which assure us of our security. Paul's life

now and in eternity is in the keeping of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is perfectly safe, in a place where Satan can not get to it.

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.

Guard that good thing which was put in your care, by the help of the Holy Spirit. The “good thing” referred to here is that whole counsel of sound words given to him by Paul. In other words, the true and correct gospel. The gospel that Paul correctly referred to as “**my gospel**”.

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

These were Asiatics who had come to Rome and been ashamed of the fact that Paul was in prison and in chains. In other words his Asiatic friends, including Demas, had abandoned him. Here, at the end of his life, only Luke was still with him.

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*.

Finding Paul in a city full of prisoners could not have been easy especially considering that to ask too many questions concerning Paul could have put his own life at risk. Contrast this with the other Asiatics who were ashamed of Paul. Onesiphorus did all he could to help Paul.

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.

The apostle invokes God's blessing on Onesiphorus. How wonderful that blessing must have been. Paul expects Timothy to pass through Ephesus on

his way as he sends greetings to Onesiphorus and warns him against Alexander the Copper Smith, both of whom lived at Ephesus.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

I am going to take verses one, two and three together. Paul compares the mission of Timothy, and by extension, the other God called pastors who follow in his footsteps, to a soldier, an infantryman.

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.

In verse two Timothy is told to pass along the things he has learned from Paul to others who will carry the message forward. This is Timothy's main objective. In verse one he is told to be strong and in verse three to endure hardness. Notice that he is not told to be hard but to endure hardness. This is actually a warning about what he can expect in his ministry. People will attack him both physically and emotionally. There will be gossip about him and his family. In many cases there will be lack of money, housing and even food. You think that last is going too far? How about the pastor who is thrown out of his church with no warning. The Holy Spirit is warning the pastor of what he may be called to put up with in his ministry. Now, Timothy is not told to be hard but, by implication, he will have to be as hard as a soldier to stand against the things that will come.

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.

Paul has said, in other places, that it is better to remain unmarried in the ministry. I believe he is reinforcing that advice here. Paul is still comparing the pastor's job to that of a soldier. The soldier's life involves hardship, suffering and possibly even death but in the case of the Christian minister, victory is already won.

5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

You can work all your life for the Lord and if it isn't done in the right way, and for the right reasons, you will lose your reward. That phrase, "yet is he not crowned", says it all. This is written to pastors but can apply to us all. If you are doing it for money, if you are doing it to be a "big shot", if you are doing it to be the center of attention or for any other wrong reason then there is no reward.

6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Now the pastor is compared to a hard working farmer. As such he is entitled to the first rewards.

7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

The Lord will give understanding if we believe what he said, when he said it and to whom it was said.

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

There is that wonderful phrase again; "my gospel". Thank God for the gospel Paul calls "my gospel" the gospel of the grace of God. Now it's "my gospel" too.

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

Because of this gospel, I suffer and am chained like a criminal. But no one can bind the word of God. The Word of God is a living thing.

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.

I suffer all these things for you and those who will come after. We all owe Paul a big thank you when we meet him in the next life. I suffer so that they

also may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. Because of Paul's suffering we will share in the glory. Paul obviously expects Timothy to endure these same hardships and suffering. We have it easy.

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

We might say, "you can count on it", or, "it's a sure thing".

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.*

Some try to use verse twelve to "prove" you can lose your salvation. Those people need to read further. That is a colon after verse twelve showing that the thought continues. He will deny us if we do not believe. Remember Matt 7:23 "depart from me ...I never knew you."

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.*

Stay on the main track and do not be drawn off into side issues. Politics is a good example. A couple of others that come to mind are the race issue and the "gay" rights issue. I have gay in quotes for a reason. They have ruined a perfectly good word. Paul is telling Timothy not to waste too much time on issues like these but to keep teaching the gospel.

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

Don't you love this verse. It gives us the key to understanding scripture. That key is "**rightly dividing**". If it were not for rightly dividing we would still be keeping the law and offering animal sacrifices. Some of the divisions though are not that easy. For instance, no Old Testament saint was "born again". Another division is that eternal salvation, by grace through faith, is for the Church Age. This is declared by both The Holy Ghost and the apostle Paul.

See Ephesians 2: 8-9

16 But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

This is in sharp contrast to verse fifteen. This is false and empty talk.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenæus and Philetus;

Our modern equivalent of canker is cancer. It eats you up.

18 who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

This, that the first resurrection is already past, is one of the false teachings and apparently Hymenæus and Philetus were two of the main apostate teachers.

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

God has laid a foundation for our faith that no one can shake. The Lord knows who are his. The rest is a warning to the saved. Those who say that they belong to the Lord must turn away from doing wrong. That is a warning we all need to think about.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

God does not use unholy vessels for his work. He does use vessels made perfect by the blood of Jesus.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace,

with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

His is another warning to Timothy. Keep in mind that Timothy is a young man and subject to youthful lusts.

23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

Yet another warning. Did Adam have a naval. Was there a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2? Was Simon the Sorcerer saved or lost? These are the kind of questions that can lead to heated arguments so avoid them.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

Those who serve the Lord should not quarrel. They should have patience and be able to teach the brethren and witness to the lost.

25 in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

They must gently correct those who oppose them. God may cause these contrary people to repent and bring them to the truth. It is never worth winning an argument if it sends someone to Hell.

26 and *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Lost people, especially those who have followed false teaching, are in a trap set by the Devil. If you instruct them in a non threatening way, as suggested in verse 25, then you may turn some to the truth and save them from an eternity in Hell.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER THREE

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Does this ever fit these present days. Perilous times indeed for most of the Christians around the world especially in Africa and the Middle East. In these next verses Paul goes on to describe the change in the people that will bring on these perilous times.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Verse two has a good list to start..Lovers of their own selves indicates egocentric which means many now regard themselves as the center of the universe. Think about it for ten seconds and some of these people will come to mind. There are probably some in your family;I know a couple in mine. Boasters. Men are usually the guilty ones here. Have you met the person I call “the worlds foremost authority”? Knows everything about everything,been everywhere,done it all. Proud? We have nothing to be proud of except our Saviour. Blasphemers? If you work around lost people or watch prime time tv shows then you are exposed to blasphemy on a regular basis. I am thinking especially of the use of the LORD's and the Lord Jesus Christ's name as curse words. I include words like Criminy and Jeez or any other word substituted for the Lord's name as blasphemy. Disobedient to parents. Rotten kids,so spoiled they are good for nothing. Do you know any of these? I do. Unthankful. God promised you food and clothing. If you get up in the morning with a roof over your head then you have something extra to be thankful for. Unholy?Certainly no lost person is holy but it is unfortunate that most Christians fall short of a holy life.

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

In verse three we have another nice list. Without natural affection? That would include all those mothers and fathers killing their children. I would include abortion in that group. That goes for both the expectant mother and the father who permits,or encourages,it. Trucebreakers? We have a perfect example of that going on between our leaders and the Nation of Israel right now. We will pay a big price for that. False accusers? The Law called it “bearing false witness”. Incontinent? This is not the way we use incontinent today. In the biblical sense it means a lack of self control. I had to look that

one up. Fierce? Those that have no regard for human life, other than their own. I'm thinking of groups like skinheads, Hells Angel's ect. Despisers of those who are good. The first thing that comes to my mind are atheist. Why would it matter to one who professes not to believe in God, what the rest of us believe? I think that they are afraid they might be wrong.

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Traitors would mean a traitor to our country but can also be applied at a lower level. For instance, how about a traitor to the church? Heady and highminded go together and indicate a person who is proud, arrogant and "puffed up". Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. This would be anything you put ahead of the things of God. Everybody needs to think about that one.

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

This can apply to people but Paul is probably referring to those religions which are close to the truth but deny the Lordship of Jesus and substitute others to be worshiped in his place.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

At first glance you would think verses six and seven were talking about women but in reality they are speaking of these religious con artists who were listed in those verses earlier.

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

These are people who learn scraps of things. The best example I can think of are those who love to quote Matt???. Judge not that ye be not judged. That, by itself is a scrap. If you know that verse then you need to know the others that go with it. People also take bits of healing verses and try to apply them where they do not belong. If all you know is Acts 2:38 then you will be baptizing for salvation.

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Remember these two jewels? Jannes and Jambres were the magicians at Pharaoh's court who opposed Moses.

9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

It is Paul's belief that given enough rope these sorts will eventually hang themselves. Error is found out sooner or later.

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Paul states the obvious when he compares his conduct to that of the false teachers. Timothy has been with him in some of his journeys and has witnessed Paul's suffering first hand. No doubt Timothy had suffered plenty himself.

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Acts 14:19 is a partial record of the happenings at Antioch and Lystra. It also contains Paul's profession in verse 22. **And there came thither [certain] Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew [him] out of the city, supposing he had been dead. {14:20} Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. {14:21} And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and [to] Iconium, and Antioch, {14:22} Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

There is no way that mortal man could go through what Paul and others had gone through without the help of God.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer

persecution.

This is a sobering verse. It does say all.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Verse thirteen is a “last days” prophecy. Mankind gets worse and worse, never better. Progress guarantees degeneration and faster ways to damnation.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Timothy has the Old Testament from his mother and grandmother Eunice and Lois. He has New Testament teaching from Paul so he is well grounded.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

We have the Book. Now, consider that the KJV is the only bible that has come down through the centuries, unchanged, from 1611 till now. This, by itself, should be enough to tell you that it is the right version since God promised David to preserve His word from that generation forward. If any of the modern translations is correct then God left us without His preserved Word for more than four centuries.

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Notice in this last verse that the word is throughly and not thoroughly as it is in some new translations. The words are close but not the same. Throughly would indicate that God's man or woman, should be saturated with the Word.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER FOUR

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Timothy is given four charges. He is to preach, and that preaching is to include reproof, rebuke and exhortation. Exhortation is simply a longer word for teaching. The teaching, in that case, was to be doctrine. As a leader, he has to do more than teach. He must lead by example. Before we leave these first two verses be sure to notice that, in verse one, we have both judgments.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Verses three and four describe the modern apostates who change the bible. This is different from error. Error may be the result of ignorance but apostasy implies a deliberate turning away from the truth. The word apostasy means “to fall away from a standing position”. In order to “fall away”, the apostates had to have the correct position to begin with.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

This is another charge. Timothy is told to watch. The work of an evangelist is to feed the sheep. This work includes traveling and taking the gospel with you.

In the next three verses Paul shifts gears.

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Timothy must continue to do the work that Paul can no longer do because he is going to die.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Paul knows that his end is near and he appears to be satisfied with his ministry. The greatest apostle is about to be martyred. There are five crowns mentioned in scripture. These are the crowns we will cast at the feet of Jesus. Paul was certain of his crowns. Notice also that Paul did not limit the crown of righteousness to himself but to all that love the appearing of Jesus.

9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

Time is short so come quickly. I think this verse and those following show just how lonely Paul had become while he waited in prison.

10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Notice the difference in this verse. Demas loved the things of this world and has abandoned Paul. The next two may have also abandoned Paul but there is the possibility that Paul had sent them away as missionaries. Whatever the cause of their departure, Paul is obviously feeling very much alone as he faces a cold winter and death at the hands of Nero.

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Keep this verse in mind when we get to verse 21. There could well be a little bit of a time lapse between verse 11 and verse 21. Here only faithful Luke is with Paul. Notice also that Paul request that Mark comes. Remember that there had been a falling out, between these two, earlier. See Acts 13:13

12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

He wants the cloke against the cold and the books and parchments for study. It is hard for me to imagine that Paul needed to study but I suppose he did. He may also have wanted them just for the pleasure and comfort of reading God's word.

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

This is probably the coppersmith from Acts 19:33-34. At any rate Paul asks God to give him what he deserves.

16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

This would have been Paul's first answer to the charges against him. When he refused to recant then all of his friends left him rather than face trouble themselves. Here we would say, "they scattered like a covey of quail".

17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

He did have one friend who stood with him. This would have been the Holy Spirit. "and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" has a double meaning. By this time Paul knew he would be decapitated and would not have to face the worse fate of being eaten alive by the lions of the coliseum. He was also delivered from the evil one, Satan. That is, God had placed him in Rome, the hub of the known world, to preach, and teach, there and "finish his course". Paul felt that now that he had preached the gospel in Rome he had completed his work.

18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

19 Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Prisca is Priscilla from the book of Acts. Don't ever let anyone tell you women aren't allowed to teach. Priscilla is a prime example.

20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

This is a great verse to repute those false healers that seem to be everywhere today. The false healers are wrong for being no better than con artists and the people are wrong for not spending time in study and knowing better than to believe these people. The Jewish sign gifts had ceased by this time so if Paul could not heal Trophimus then these so called healers today can not heal anyone. Healing today is by “**the fervent prayer of a righteous man**”.

21 Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

Come before winter he says. Paul wants that coat. Paul is starting to feel the cold and the damp in the prison. Soon it will be winter and he will suffer with the cold . I wonder if Timothy made it before winter.

22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.