

October 15, 2017

“Because of God’s Own Purpose and Grace”

Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 1:8-18 (NASB)

Cross References: Matthew 6:19-21; John 1:1-12; 3:16-21; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16-17; 4:25; 6:1-11; 10:8-15
Ephesians 2:4-10

Lesson Idea: As we trust the purpose and grace of God in our lives, we are able to endure whatever suffering comes our way with hope and strength.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Oct 8 Matthew 15-17	Oct 9 Matthew 18-19
Oct 10 Matthew 20-21	Oct 11 Matthew 22-23
Oct 12 Matthew 24-25	Oct 13 Matthew 26
Oct 14 Matthew 27-28	Oct 15 Mark 1-3

Background: Paul wrote this epistle from prison, but entreated Timothy and the church not to be ashamed of his chains because of the glorious nature of the Gospel he proclaimed. In the midst of suffering, Paul was not ashamed. He knew God was working all things according to His own purposes. Paul could rejoice in the eternal grace he had received from the Lord and boldly proclaim: *“for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”* Do you have that kind of confidence in God today? How would that confidence help you as you face the trials of your life every day?

2 Timothy 1:1-7

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard

what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; 17 but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me— 18 the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

DISCUSSION:

- v 8. Why would Paul tell Timothy and the church not to be ashamed of him or the testimony of the Lord? Why would he encourage them to suffer with him? How does the Gospel reveal the “power of God?” (see Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16-17)

NOTE: from David Guzik, *2 Timothy 1:8*

Note that Paul considered himself a prisoner of Jesus (*nor of me His prisoner*). Paul saw himself not as the prisoner of Rome, but as a prisoner of God. Paul saw God as the Lord of every circumstance, and if he was free, he was the Lord’s free man; if he were imprisoned, he was the Lord’s prisoner...

According to the power of God: Paul actually suffered according to the power of God. The power of God is always there, but it is not always there to remove the difficulty. Sometimes it is there to see us through the difficulty.

In one sense, it was strange for Paul the prisoner to write about the power of God – the power of Rome in some ways seemed a lot more real. But God’s power has been vindicated by history; the Roman Empire is gone, but the gospel of Jesus Christ that Paul lived to preach lives on.

- v 9. How did God save us and why? Why is God’s calling “holy?” What is God’s purpose for saving you? How and when was that granted? (see Ephesians 2:4-10)
- V 10. How has God’s plan for salvation been revealed? What did Jesus do for our salvation? (see John 1:1-12; 3:16-21; Romans 4:25; 6:1-11; 10:8-15)

NOTE: from Guzik, v 9-10:

Who has saved us and called us: We come to God as a response to His call in our lives. We did not initiate the search; we do not find God, He finds us; so we must respond to His call when we sense it.

Not according to our works, but according to His own purpose: This explains why God called us. It wasn't anything great we were, or anything great we had done, but because it fit in with His purpose – because He wanted to.

Grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began: God directed His gracious work towards us when we only existed as a fact in God's knowledge... *Before time began* reminds us that time is something God created to give order and arrangement to our present world; time is not essential to God's existence. He existed before time was created, and will remain when time is ended – and we live on in eternity with Him.

But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ: The appearing of Jesus revealed the purpose and grace of God. Jesus fulfilled the eternal plan of God; Jesus truly shows us what God and His plan are all about. That's why we can never know Jesus too much.

- V 11. What does it mean to be “appointed?” Who appointed Paul for his work? What is the work of “a preacher and an apostle and a teacher?”
- V 12. This verse contains a beautiful testimony of Paul's faith: *For I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*
- Explain what it means to you. Is it true of you? Why or why not? (see Matthew 6:19-21)

NOTE: from Guzik: v 12:

For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded: This explains why Paul was so bold in his work, and how he could feel honored by circumstances that might make others feel ashamed. He said that it was because I know whom I have believed. Paul knew the God he trusted and served.

We must know **what** we believe; but it is even more important to know **whom** we believe. When we know how great God is; when God and His glory becomes the great fact of our lives, then we have real boldness.

And am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him: This is a second reason that explains Paul's boldness. Paul gave Jesus his life, and knew Jesus was fully able to keep it!

What was it that Paul committed to Him? Surely, he first had in mind his life. Paul knew he could not keep his own life; he knew that only God could keep it. God was able; Paul was not. Knowing this made Paul full of boldness, but it wasn't boldness in self, but in God. But it wasn't only his life that Paul had committed to God. Paul had committed everything to Jesus – his life, his body, his character and reputation, his life's work, everything that was precious.

- V 13. How do you “retain” something? (NIV says “keep.” KJV says “Hold fast.”) What is the “standard” or “pattern” of sound words or teachings that we should retain or hold fast? Why do we need to hold on to the apostles' teachings “in the faith and love” of Christ Jesus? (see 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- V 14. What does the word “guard” cause you to think about? How important is this instruction? What is the “treasure” (NIV: “good deposit”) entrusted to Timothy? What is the treasure entrusted to us? (see 2 Corinthians 4:1-10)
- V 15. Why does Paul share about those who had turned away from him?
- V 16-18. What did Paul share about Onesiphorus? What did Paul pray that the Lord would do for him?

NOTE: from Guzik: v 16-18: Onesiphorus lived up to the meaning of his name, which means “help-bringer.”

APPLICATION:

- ✓ If someone wrote about you, how would you be considered -- more like Phygelus and Hermogenes (v 15) or like Onesiphorus (v 16-18)? Why?
- ✓ How do you view the sufferings of your life? How would God want you to view them?
- ✓ How are you guarding what has been entrusted to you by God?