

**SUBJECT : Be True To Who You Are**

**BIBLE BASIS:**

**Lesson Scripture:**

**2Timothy 1:3-14**

**BIBLE TRUTH:**

**To teach the value of being who you are**

**MEMORY VERSE: READ**

**2Timothy 1:5**

**Lesson Aim:**

**To help students appreciate the benefits of a good background in the faith and to encourage them to provide that same background for the next generation of believers.**

# Introduction

- This second letter to Timothy is among the most personal in the Bible and the most moving. Approaching death at Nero's chopping block in Rome, Paul wrote his young protégé with stirring words. 2Tim 4:2-8
- As he wrote, Paul was a prisoner of Rome and due to be executed by beheading. He urged Timothy not to be ashamed of him or the gospel. Rom 1:16-17
- In this letter the first thing Paul gloried in was the calling on his life as an apostle. God had called him out of sin and institutional religion to be an apostle. He says that he was an "apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God." The word apostle means one called and sent forth on a very special mission. Paul was not one of the original apostles but was called out in due time. 1Corn 15:8-10, 1Tim 1:1-2.
- The mission given to Paul was to preach the promise of life which is in Jesus Christ." There is no life apart from Christ. There is existence, mere survival, but no real life. John 3:16, John 10:10
- In this letter Paul described the work of Christ on believers behalf. Not only did He save us, but He also gave us all a calling. He abolished death and revealed immortality to those who call on his name in faith. John 15:16, Act 26:16, 2Corn 5:17-21
- It was for this reason Paul was imprisoned, because powerful men did not want to hear the message.

# A Clean Conscience

- 2 Tim. 1:3 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;
- Paul thanked God for a rich heritage he received from his forefathers.
- Paul says that he served God with a *pure conscience*. God had called Paul to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and Paul was faithful and diligent. Paul...was not lazy.. he did not half-heartedly do his job... he did not neglect the needs of people. Paul operated in a spirit of excellence.
- Paul did not have a conscience that questioned, bothered, nagged, and pricked at him. Paul was faithful to Christ and His ministry; therefore, he could declare: “I serve...with pure conscience.” Act 24:16
- Every minister should ask him or herself the question: “Is my conscience void of offense between both God and man? If not, why?”
- We must correct every failure and every shortcoming, every doubt. We must serve Christ faithfully and diligently. A pure conscience must be the glory of the minister.
- Paul gloried in the privilege of praying for his son in the gospel. One of the greatest joys of a believer is when you are personally responsible for a person coming to Christ. Luke 15:4-7. The second joy is praying on behalf of others and God answers that prayer. James 5:15-16, Mat. 21:22, Luke 18:1

# A Tender Heart

- [4] Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;
- Paul had a great desire to see Timothy one more time before he is put to death. He was in remembrance of Timothy's tears when they departed company in Ephesians. Act 20:22-32
- Timothy was apparently a man with a strong and tender heart. At one point in Timothy's ministry he may have been considered a little timid.
- There is no question about his strength and courage, for he was chosen by Paul to be Paul's successor. Paul would have never chosen a weakling, or a macho man. He would not have chosen someone who was not the strongest among the strong at heart.
- But there was something else about Timothy that impressed Paul, he was a man with a tender and compassionate heart, a man who was not afraid to show his emotions and tears as he ministered and struggled in prayer before God.
- What a privilege to mentor such a remarkable young man! What a companion in ministry Timothy must have been! No wonder Paul coveted his presence, longing and yearning to see him again.

# Genuine Faith

- [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.
- While awaiting his execution Paul was in remembrance of Timothy's family—their genuine faith. Timothy had a un-hypocritical faith. Many believe in the cross for salvation but cannot believe God for the difficult situations in their lives. Unfeigned faith believes God regardless of the circumstances. Mark 11:22-24, Rom 3:3-4, Heb.12:1-2, Rom.12:3-8, 2Corn. 10:35
- Timothy had one of the greatest privileges that a child can have: strong Christian parents. His mother and grandmother were staunch believers who were faithful to God's Word every day of their lives.,
- This was and still is the key to success in any family: parents being faithful to God's Word every day. 2 Tim. 3:15, Ps. 1:1-4
- One of the major reasons for his strength in the Lord was the strong faith of his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. They had rooted and grounded him in the faith. Proverbs 22:6
- Parents must take full responsibility for the raising of their children. God didn't give them to the teacher at school nor to the Sunday School teacher, he gave them to you. Parents must be their children's life coach and root them in the Word of God. Eph.6:4, De.6:7

# Gifted To Minister

- [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.
- What is the “gift of God”? The gifts which the Holy Spirit gives to every believer to enable them to minister. 1Cor 12:3-8
- The word “stir up” can mean to keep the fire burning. But it can also mean to restir the flame, indicating that the flame was about to go out. Which is meant here?
- Keep this in mind: Paul was facing death; he was about to be executed. He clearly states this fact. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
- Therefore, Paul sensed the need to give Timothy charge after charge.
- One of the very first things Timothy needed to do was to keep his spiritual gifts burning. The idea is present tense, which means it is progressive and continuous action. He is to use his gift to minister and minister, never slacking up nor losing his zeal. 1John 4:4, 2Cor 4:7
- God has gifted the believer to minister in a very special way; therefore, he must do exactly what God has gifted him to do. 2Cor. 5:17-19
- The problem with most believers is that they do not even know they are gifted to minister. There is a great need within the church to revisit the purpose of our gifting. 1Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:11-12; John 15:16. 1Tim. 4:14

# No Fear

- [7] For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- Do not fear. God has not given us the spirit of fear. Too often believers fear using their gifts. They fear...ridicule, embarrassment, mockery, criticism, opposition, abuse. 1Corn 2:3-4
- Being very honest, we have all experienced these fears at one time or another. But note the charge; it is clear and forceful: we are not to fear because fear is not a good councilor. Never make a decision in your life based upon fear. 1John 4:18, Ps. 1:1-4
- We are not to fear the face of man.. We are not to fear the trials that may come our way because we are living for Christ..We are not to fear the ridicule and persecution that may be launched against us because of our testimony. 1Peter 4:16
- This verse tells us God's equipment does not include fear. The fact is clearly stated: God does not give us the spirit of fear;
- God gives us the spirit of love and power, and of a sound mind. The word *spirit* means the believer's spirit: the Holy Spirit of God actually injects power, love, and a sound mind into the spirit of the believer.



# Power

- Power is not needed until we begin to minister. Power is not needed if we just sit around and remain silent about Christ.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power only when we begin to minister and actually need it. It is when we begin to live for Christ—to use our gifts to bear witness for Him—that the Spirit of God activates the power within our spirit...the power to face the strain of difficulties and trials..the power to witness and transform entire cities for Christ. Acts 1:8.
- The Holy Spirit infuses love into the believer's spirit. This is *agapeô* love, the kind of love that loves people even if they are sinners and enemies.
- It is a love that arises within the **mind and will**, not in the **emotions**. It is the kind of love that says, “I will love this person no matter how I feel or what he does to me...I will share Christ with him.. I will treat him just as I would want him to treat me if he knew Christ..I will love him and be responsible to him. Matt. 5:43-45
- Note: The kind of love that can love sinners and enemies—is a gift of God's Spirit. No man can stir or work up *agapeô* love. *Agapeô* love is God's love. God alone possesses it; therefore, God alone can give it to men., Luke 5:29, Matt. 9:10:12, Matt. 9:36-38



# Sound Mind

- The Holy Spirit infuses a sound mind into the believer's spirit. "Sound mind" means self-control; the ability to control one's emotions, feelings, and thoughts in the midst of trials and circumstances, no matter how severe and stressful. It is just as it says, a sound mind—the mastery over one's mind, over one's heart and life despite the trial or opposition. When the believer begins to live and bear testimony for Christ, the Holy Spirit gives him a sound mind—a most glorious gift. Phil. 2:5, 1Corn. 2:16, 1Peter 4:1
- Picture such a person: Could God let that person live in fear? Could God fail to keep from giving that person strength, that is, spiritual power and love and a sound mind?
- The answer is obvious. The person who truly lives for Christ and bears testimony for Christ is delivered from fear: he is given power, enormous power..he is given love, great love for people, no matter who they are.. he is given a sound mind, peace, stability, and security in a dying and insecure world. John 14:27

# No Shame

- [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;
  - Do not be ashamed of the gospel nor of me as a prisoner of Jesus Christ. The point and verse are clear. No believer is to shrink...from identifying with the gospel and the Lord of the gospel.
  - We are to share the gospel—share by living for Christ and by speaking up for Him, bearing testimony of His saving grace.
  - We are to stand up for those who share Christ when they are being ridiculed and persecuted. In fact, note the verse: we are to share in the sufferings of the gospel. Any of us who truly live for the gospel will be opposed and misunderstood by the world. Why? Because we do not live like the world; we do not live sensual, immoral, ungodly, and worldly lives. We do not follow after the things of the world. 2Tim 3:12
  - Therefore, our righteous and godly lives convict the world of its ungodly deeds. Hence, the world ridicules and persecutes us. But we are not to let this stop us: we are not to shrink from living for and sharing the gospel.
- John 15:20**

# No Works

- [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,
- We are to stand up for the gospel because God has saved us and called us with a holy calling. And note: God saved us by grace, that is, freely. We did not have to work one iota for salvation. We did not have to pay a cent nor do a single thing for salvation. Rom. 3:20, Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-5
- God Himself saved us...He has delivered us from sin and the bondages of the flesh. He has delivered us from death. Think about it: we shall never die. When our time comes—at the last moment, in an instant of time, in a split second—God will transfer us from this world into His presence. We are saved from ever having to taste death. John 11:25-26, Mat. 22:31-32, 1Corn. 15:54-55
- He has saved us from judgment and condemnation, from the punishment of hell. John 5:24, Rom 8:1, 1Thes. 1:10
- God has done all this for us, and He has done it by grace—freely—simply because He loves us and wills to save us. How, then, can we deny Him? How can we dare be ashamed of Him and fear living for Him? How can we be ashamed of telling the world about the Savior?

# No Death

- [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:
- We are to stand up for the gospel because God has *now revealed* His purpose of salvation to the world. Note how God did this: “by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ.” What did Jesus Christ do to reveal God’s purpose?
- Jesus Christ abolished death. How? How *in this world* can anyone ever abolish death? Very simply, Jesus Christ died *for man*. All that is within man—all that causes man to die—Jesus Christ took upon Himself. Jesus Christ took all the evil, sin, and corruption that causes death—took it all upon Himself and died for man. Heb. 2:9
- Now think for a moment: since He has died for man, man does not have to die. Death is abolished for man: man is freed from death; death no longer has a hold on man. John 3:16-18 John 5:24, John 8:51, John 11:26, Luke 20:34-39
- Jesus Christ has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Man can now live forever and receive immortality. How? Through the gospel of life and immortality provided by Jesus Christ.

# No Doubt

- [11] Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
- Three appointments are mentioned. Paul was appointed to be a preacher of the gospel. The preacher is a herald, a person who is appointed by a king to go forth and proclaim the message of the king: that He has abolished death. that He has brought life and immortality to light.
- Paul had been appointed an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle is a person has been sent on a very special mission: to bear witness that Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and men. Jesus Christ has paid the ransom price for man. 1Tim 2:1-8
- Paul had been appointed as a teacher of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teacher is a person who instructs people in the faith and truth of God's Word. It is the gift to root and ground people in doctrine, reproof, correction, and righteousness. 2Tim 3:16
- Every teacher needs a student to teach, every lesson needs to be taught by a teacher, every lesson needs to be learned by a student. As students we must desire the sincere milk of the word to grow thereby. We must continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Peter 2:1-3, 2Peter 3:18

# No Separation

- [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.
- Paul was not ashamed to suffer for the gospel.
- He knew that his faith was sure; he knew Christ. The point is this: Paul knew Christ on a personal and intimate basis. He walked with Christ day by day—was in fellowship and communion with Him. He had a personal relationship with Christ; therefore, he knew that his belief in Christ was true. To fellowship and communion with God we must be willing to surrender to the greater one within. We must be willing to surrender our thought and will to the word of God. He will keep all that we willingly surrender to him for his keeping. The act of surrender is the greatest form of worship. Phil. 1:6, Phil. 2:13
- This was the reason he was willing to suffer for the gospel: the gospel was true. A person could actually be saved from death and receive life and immortality; a person could actually live face to face with God forever and ever. Paul knew this—knew it beyond a shadow of a doubt. How? Because he knew Christ personally and intimately. Romans 8:16-18, 35-39.



# Holding Fast

- [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
- If we do not believe the words and message about Christ to the point of surrendering our wills to his will in our life then we are not holding fast to sound words. Rom. 10:17-21, Heb. 4:1-2
- The very first sign of sound words is faith in Christ; the very first sign that a person is clinging to sound words is his *faith in Christ*. The word “sound” is interesting. It means healthful, health giving words.
- What *words* will make a person sound? Act 20:32, Col. 4:6
- Believers are to hold fast to the Words of God Himself, for the Word of God alone can bring health and life to the human soul. Matt 4:4, Ps. 119:10-16, 105, Ps. 1:1-4
- If a person does not receive Christ, he is not holding fast to sound words. He is believing a false doctrine, a false philosophy of life and will thereby perish. The only words that can bring health and soundness to a person are the words of Christ that bring salvation John 6:63
- We must hold fast to sound words in *love*. It is not enough to believe in the sound words about Christ; we must also love everyone in Christ and love the world through Christ.



# In Conclusion

- Hold fast the trust God has placed into your hands—hold your trust fast by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- *“Not only do we put our trust in God: God also puts His trust in us. The idea of God’s dependence on men is never far from New Testament thought. When God wants something done, He has to find a man to do it. If God wants a child taught, a message brought, a sermon preached, a wanderer found, a sorrowing one comforted, a sick one healed, he has to find some agent and some instrument to do His work” Act 9:3-6, Act 10:1-6*
- Note that the believer can keep his trust and do the work of God only by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who gifts the believer and calls him to work for the Lord.
- Every believer is given specific work to do for the Lord, but the believer cannot do the work in his own strength. No man can penetrate the heart of another person; only the Holy Spirit of God can do that.
- Therefore, the believer must stay close to the Spirit of God and depend upon Him for the power to do good and effective work. The Holy Spirit alone has the power to change a man’s heart; therefore, the believer must depend upon the Holy Spirit to help him in his work. Matthew 25:14-15, Luke 19:10-15