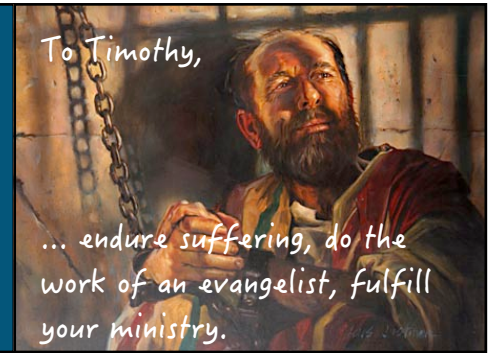


# 2 Timothy

*Fulfill Your Ministry*

## Lesson 2



In lesson 1 we discussed Paul's greeting and opening challenge to Timothy. Paul was chained in a Roman prison awaiting execution as he writes to Timothy, his beloved son in the faith, to encourage and challenge him. The days ahead will not be easy and Paul does not want Timothy to lose heart, but to faithfully and courageously fulfill his ministry as an evangelist.

### Share in Suffering for the Gospel 1:8-12

The first word of verse 8 is "*therefore*" pointing back to what Paul had just written. He had reminded Timothy that he was praying constantly for him and that he longed to see him. He recalled Timothy's Christian heritage which was passed to him from his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. Paul then urges Timothy to use his gift for Christ and to overcome any fear he might have. Timothy's life should be lived with God given power, love, and self-control.

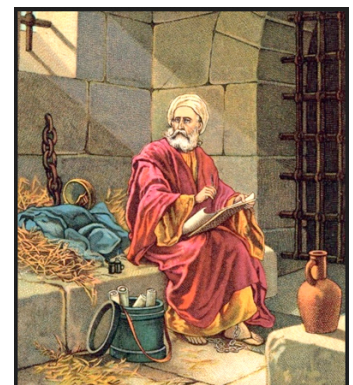
Timothy will need this power because his beloved mentor and friend is in prison. Paul tells Timothy to not be ashamed to testify about Christ or of him as he awaited his martyrdom. This type of faith and resolve in times of danger can only come through the power of God.

#### 1. What is shame?

#### 2. What types of actions, attitudes, and circumstances bring shame?

Paul advises Timothy that he must share in suffering for the gospel. For Paul suffering meant being chained while awaiting execution. This does not necessarily mean that Timothy will suffer in the same way as Paul, but he should anticipate persecution in his service for Christ.

Stephen was martyred by stoning, John was put to death by beheading, and for James it was a sword. Christians may not all face death or imprisonment, but every Christian must expect difficulty and persecution for the sake of Christ.



### 3. In verse 8, whose prisoner does Paul claim to be?

### 4. What provides the power to endure persecution (vs. 8)?

The Christian's salvation and call to service does not rest on any credit earned by works, but comes through God's grace and purpose. The plan of God to send his son to die in our place was anticipated before the ages began.

Verses 9-10 contains the message of the gospel in concise and beautiful language:

📍 God planned for man's salvation.

📍 Salvation has now been manifested (or made known) at the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ. This points to the first coming of Christ into the world; not his Second Coming.

📍 Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel as he died, was buried, and rose again victorious over death. The word translated as "*light*" means to illuminate and shows the hope of the Christian. "For the Christian death is a transition, not a termination. Our life in Christ continues after we shed our bodies to go to be with Christ. Such is the hope that we have through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The life, death, resurrection and teaching of Jesus throw a floodlight on the darkness of death."<sup>1</sup>



Paul's service in the cause of Christ was three-fold. He was made a preacher, apostle, and teacher. Paul's calling and appointment to this ministry came directly from God. A preacher is a herald of the Good News. An apostle is one sent on a mission by God and refers to the original twelve men Jesus chose to fill this office along with Matthias who replaced Judas, and Paul who was called by Jesus to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Apostles were required to have been eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ and Christ endowed them with special authority.

A teacher is similar to a preacher, though the difference may be that a preacher is typically before larger groups with non-believers often present. The role of the preacher is to exhort, challenge, and call to repentance and service. A teacher may provide more detailed instruction and mentoring often individually or in small groups. Paul's faithful service to fulfill Christ's commission as preacher, apostle, and teacher brought him to prison and death.

### 5. Why would God call someone to a task that would bring persecution, imprisonment, and execution?

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<sup>1</sup> Smith, James E. *Exhortation Epistles*. Lulu, 2011, p. 202.

Paul suffered for Christ, but he did so without one shred of regret or doubt. He knew that his suffering was for the Lord who died for him, so he carried out his ministry as a preacher, apostle, and teacher boldly proclaiming Christ to the lost and strengthening the saints.

Paul describes his complete trust and reliance on God in verse 12 in a beautiful and dramatic testimony that encourages, challenges, and inspires every Christian in every generation. Verse 12 is well known by many as the theme for the great old hymn “I Know Whom I Have Believed.”



The apostle was not ashamed to suffer for Christ because he had absolute trust in him. The key thought is “I know **whom** I have believed.” He did not write “I know **what** I have believed” though that would be equally true. Paul wants Timothy to know that his faith was in the person of Jesus Christ. Our faith does not lie simply on a group of teachings found within the Bible, but on a personal relationship with the Christ who died for us.

Paul did not write these words to discount the absolute truth of Scripture or minimise it in any way. Jesus quoted Scripture. God’s Holy Spirit inspired all Scripture. We learn about Jesus in Scripture. We can’t know how to live for Christ without Scripture. We should read the Bible and meditate on its words every day. In this way we can know Christ better and how to live for him more effectively, but ultimately our faith rests in a **whom**; the Son of God, our Saviour, and our Lord.

## 6. How does it help Christians to see that our faith is not just in a what, but a whom?

Because of Paul’s faith in the person of Christ he is **convinced** that his Lord would do all he promised. Nothing could persuade Paul to abandon his unwavering confidence in Jesus.

Translators differ at the end of verse 12 with the ESV recording, “*he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.*” The other way to translate the phrase is found in the NASB where we find, “*He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*” The reason there are two opinions about this phrase is because the Greek is literally “my deposit” and it is unclear whether this refers to a deposit that God made to Paul or Paul made to God.

It seems most likely that the NASB, NIV, and KJV are correct and that the deposit refers to one Paul made to God. It is true that God entrusted Paul with the message of the Gospel and commissioned him as apostle to the Gentiles, preacher, and teacher. It is even richer to see Paul as entrusting his life, his soul, and the fruit of his labours to Christ even as he awaits his certain execution. Because of Paul’s complete trust in the person of Jesus Christ he is not ashamed at his suffering.

**7. What reasons does Romans 1:16 give as to why Paul was not ashamed of the gospel?**

**8. How can we develop the absolute and unwavering trust that Paul in Christ?**

The deposit Paul made to God will be kept safe “*until that Day.*” Here Paul is referring to the Second Coming. Along with verses 9-10 we now see the entire Gospel message that God planned for man’s salvation, sent his Son into the world, Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, and there is a day when he will return and the world will face judgment.



Paul knows that God will protect and preserve his hope and that he will be rewarded for his faith and service. The Romans may imprison Paul and even execute him, but they are not able to change his faith or his eternity.