



# Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to Timothy

## Passing on the Baton

Autumn 2017



### 2 Timothy 1: 11-18

(sermons: Sept 10)

#### 2 Tim 1:11-12 Paul's Commission

- v.11 herald – someone who announces the good news, like the heralds who made proclamations on behalf of the Roman Emperor.
- v.11 apostle – the word means 'sent'; in using this title, Paul is claiming a God-given authority to define and teach the message about Jesus, based on his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus and his commission from him (eg Acts 9:15, 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, 1 Timothy 2:7).
- v.11 teacher – to explain the Christian message and apply it to everyday life
- v.12 I am not ashamed – to be in prison would be a cause of shame to most Roman citizens but Paul knows that he is suffering for a good cause, so he is not ashamed; Paul also means that he is confident that he will not, in the end, be disappointed, or let down, by God.
- v.12 I know whom I have believed – the Greek verb (perfect tense) has the sense of: 'the one in whom I put my faith in the past and in whom I have trusted from then until today'.  
The same tense is used for 'convinced' or 'persuaded' – Paul's initial assurance has continued.
- v.12 what I have entrusted to him – or 'what he has entrusted to me' since the Greek means 'my deposit' (the same word as in v.14 and 1 Tim 6:20): so it probably includes Paul himself, his teaching, and his work, especially the church in Ephesus (where Timothy is) and elsewhere.  
Paul knows that it is God's church, not his; compare what he (and Timothy) wrote to the Christians in Philippi (Philippians 1:1, 6 – see box below) ; also Jesus' words in Matthew 16:18.
- v.12 for that day – the day of Jesus' Return at the end of human history, the day of judgement, and the beginning of the new/renewed heaven-and-earth.
1. Verse 11 begins: 'And of this gospel' although it is part of the same sentence as v.10 in the original. Looking back at verses 8 to 10, what does Paul mean here when he writes about 'this gospel' ?
  2. What did Paul believe that God had called him to do? How did this strengthen him when he was imprisoned and facing death?  
What do we believe that God has called us to do, both individually and as a church? Is it the same for all of us? Does it help us to keep going when we face difficulties?
  3. Why was Paul confident about the future of the church in Ephesus, despite his imprisonment and despite Timothy's youth and lack of confidence? (see also Philippians 1:1-6 in box below)  
What can we in Trull and Angersleigh learn from Paul's attitude as we prepare for Adrian's departure and the period until a new rector arrives?

#### 2 Tim 1:13-14 Paul's Instruction to Timothy

- v.13 the pattern of sound teaching – a connected body of teaching that is spiritually 'healthy'; 'pattern' could be 'outline' or 'structure', so Timothy will need to work out the detailed application

v.13 *with faith and love in Christ Jesus – not cold, detached teaching but as part of a living relationship*

v.14 *guard – protect and keep intact, as in v.12, so that it is not lost or damaged or distorted*

v.14 *the good deposit – Paul’s teaching, passed on from Christ, here seen as a sacred trust or treasure*

4. What is Paul instructing Timothy to do with the Christian message?

Why is he so concerned about preserving the integrity of his teaching?

Why might Timothy be tempted to modify or tone down the message that Paul had passed on to him?

How does Paul expect Timothy to be able to preserve the true teaching?

5. What pressures are there for Christians today to alter the message handed down by Paul?

How can we ‘guard’ the truth ‘with faith and love in Christ Jesus’ and ‘with the help of the Holy Spirit’? What practical steps can we take when choosing leaders or teaching materials?

Can we be right in what we preach and teach but wrong in our attitudes to those who disagree?

## **2 Tim 1:15-18 Deserters and Supporters**

v.15 *everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me – those in the part of S.W.Turkey including Ephesus have failed to support Paul in some way: dissociated themselves from him now he has been arrested? stopped their financial support? compromised his message?*

v.16 *he often refreshed me – perhaps by bringing ‘refreshments’, or money to buy them, to Paul in prison; or perhaps he was the sort of person whose presence was a tonic to Paul.*

6. Why might many of the Christians in Ephesus have turned away from Paul? How did this affect him?

What leads people to turn away, or drift away, from the church today?

What can we do to encourage Christians to remain active, or to draw them back?

Might any of our mission partners feel like Paul?

7. In what ways did Onesiphorus support Paul?

Who needs our support in Trull & Angersleigh, or further away?

How are we going to be like Onesiphorus in the coming week?

### **Philippians 1: 1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.