

2 Timothy 1:1-9 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,* ² *To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.* ³ *I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience* [whom I serve with a clear conscience in the same way that my Jewish ancestors did], *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* [I have a great desire to see you, and I know that my present condition has caused you to shed tears], *that I may be filled with joy;* 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* [the sincere faith that I see in you was first seen in Lois, your grandmother, and Eunice, your mother]. ⁶ *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God* [I'd ask you to remember to make good use of the gift of God within you], *which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.* ⁷ *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* ⁸ *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord* [Don't be ashamed to testify of our Lord], *nor of me his prisoner* [and don't be ashamed of me because I am in prison]: *but be thou partaker of* [rather, share in] *the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;* ⁹ *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but* [God saved both of us, and then He chose us not for our skills but with a holy calling] *according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

I. Introduction

A. Current social issues

1. Modern culture war challenges all the clear standards of God. For example:
 - a. Marriage: God's clear standard is for one man and one woman to be united for their lifetime. Modern culture teaches that same-sex couples can marry, and that marriages can be entered and dissolved at a whim.
 - b. Gender: The Bible clearly teaches that "...male and female He created them, and blessed them..." (Genesis 5:2), but culture says that people can choose to change their gender.
2. When society breeds confusion, God's Word brings clarity

B. Timothy

1. He was from Lystra (today this is in southeastern Turkey), had a Greek father, and Jewish mother & grandmother

Act 16:1 Then came he [Paul, on his second trip to these cities] *to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:*
2. His mother & grandmother are named in 2 Timothy 1:5

3. From historical records, the whole Roman empire (which included these two cities) was a sinful culture & society, much like today's culture
4. God raised Timothy up to serve His church (verse 9)
5. God used three God-ordained institutions in his life (family, the Church, and human government)

II. Through Biblical Church (verses 1-4)

A. Church founded by a missionary

1. Antioch (in current-day northwestern Syria) was the first church to send out missionaries (Barnabas and Saul)
 - a. After Saul/Paul's conversion, God told him that he would be sent to the Gentiles – Acts 9:15-16
 - b. Jerusalem church sent Saul back to his home town of Tarsus (also in southeastern Turkey) – Acts 9:30
 - c. Barnabas went to Tarsus to bring Saul to Antioch – Acts 11:25
 - d. Believers were first called "Christians" (meaning 'followers of Christ') in Antioch – Acts 11:26
 - e. Church in Antioch prayed & fasted while worshipping and serving the Lord – Acts 13:2
 - f. Holy Spirit instructed church to send out Paul & Barnabas – Acts 13:2-3
2. Paul's missionary activities
 - a. Paul preached in Lystra & Derbe, starting a local church in each city. This was Paul's first trip to this area as a missionary.

Acts 14:6-7 They were ware [aware] Of it [the Jews plan to harm Paul and Barnabas], and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: ⁷ And there they preached the gospel.
 - b. The Holy Spirit healed a lame (crippled) man (using Paul) in Lystra, which focused the attention of the city on them – Acts 14:8-10
 - c. City residents tried to worship Paul & Barnabas as Greek gods – Acts 14:11-18
 - d. This stirred up the Jews of that city against Paul and Barnabas, even though they denied it and resisted their worship. Paul survived an execution attempt (by stoning) by some visiting Jews from Iconium – Act 14:19-20
 - e. Timothy would have known of these events by the time Paul returned. Timothy was saved between Paul's two visits to the city.

3. Paul was spiritual father to Timothy
 - a. Paul considered Timothy his son in the faith

1 Timothy 1:2 *Unto Timothy, **my own son in the faith**: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - b. Paul further instructed Timothy how to conduct himself in the church

1 Timothy 3:15 *But if I tarry long, **that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave** thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
 - c. Three more times Paul calls Timothy his son in 1 Timothy 1:18, and 2 Timothy 1:2, & 2:1
 - d. Paul took every opportunity to pray for Timothy – 2 Timothy 1:3

B. Church formed by the Scriptures

1. Paul instructed Timothy as a pastor to be strong in God's grace

2 Timothy 2:1 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*
2. Paul instructed Timothy to instruct faithful men in the Scriptures, and that they were to teach others also

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses [the teachings you have heard from me when we were gathered in groups], **the same commit thou** [you are to teach these lessons] **to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.***
3. Timothy fully knew God's doctrine & teaching which he had learned from Paul
 - a. Definition of 'commit' in 2 Timothy 2:2: to devote yourself, giving time & attention to another person, or ideal, or project. To teach what you have been taught, and to make sure your students understand.
 - b. Paul gave Timothy instruction to stand fully against evil

*Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, **that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***
 - c. Paul had confidence that he was teaching Timothy the truth because Jesus declared that God's Word is truth

*John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy [God, the Father] **truth: thy word is truth.***
 - d. And be prepared for mockers in the last times

*Jude 1:18 How that they ["the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ"] **told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.***

III. Through Godly Family (verses 5-7)

A. Pure faith

1. Timothy's mother Eunice & his grandmother Lois are included in the Bible by name
2. Never underestimate influence of godly parents & grandparents
3. Timothy was 3rd generation Christian in his family

Psalm 78:5-6 *For he established a testimony [the history of the Jews] in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they [the parents (older generation)] should make them [the testimony and the Law of God] known to their children: ⁶ That the generation to come might know them [the testimony and the Law of God], even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:*

4. Reality of single parent families is not new. God has the ability to use even lonely people in their family

Psalm 68:6 *God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

5. Both Lois & Eunice had sincere (unfeigned) faith in God
6. Timothy also had same type of sincere faith

B. Persistent example

1. "People do what people see." – modern quote of ancient wisdom of being an example
2. Timothy saw the faith of his mother & grandmother

C. Patterned instruction

1. Lois & Eunice taught Timothy the Scriptures in his childhood years

2 Timothy 3:15 *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.***

2. Parent leadership to raise children by bringing them up in the nurture & precautionary teaching (admonitions) of the Lord

Ephesians 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but **bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.***

3. God gives every Christian the spirit of power, love, & a sound mind (verse 7)
4. Another name for the Holy Spirit is The Spirit of Truth – John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13 (recall John 17:17)

IV. Through Personal Savior (verses 8-9)

A. Permanent salvation

1. Paul instructs Timothy (verse 8) to have no shame in:
 - a. Testimony of the Lord
 - b. Paul as a prisoner for his belief in Christ
2. Paul also instructs Timothy to be willing to take part in sufferings according to God's power (verse 8)
3. God wants Christian to be willing to be faithful even unto death

Revelation 2:10 *Fear none of those things which thou [Christians in the first-century church in Smyrna, and to all Christians of all ages] shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried [tested]; and ye shall have tribulation [persecution] ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I [Jesus] will give thee a crown of life.***

4. Jesus work on the cross includes:
 - a. Abolished ultimate death for the Christian (the second death, see Revelation 2:11; 20:6 & 14; 21:8)
 - b. Given Christian life & immortality – 2 Timothy 1:10

B. Purchased salvation

1. God saved Christian according to His grace (verse 9)
2. God has called Christian with a holy calling (verse 9)

1 Peter 1:5 *Who [Christians] **are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***
3. God's salvation
 - a. Christian not saved by any human works
 - b. Christian saved by faith through God's grace according to the price Jesus paid on the cross
 - c. Jesus carried the sins of the whole world on the cross
4. God gives grace for anyone willing to exercise faith in Him