



No Fear, No Shame, Just Jesus

We have begun a new series on the letter of 2 Timothy at Subi Church named “No Fear, No Shame, Just Jesus”. 2 Timothy is an intensely personal final letter from Paul to Timothy. At the writing of this letter, Paul was in prison and knew that his days on earth are soon to be over. “His own apostolic labours are over...but now he must make provision for the faith after he has gone, and especially for its transmission (uncontaminated, unalloyed) to future generations.”¹

2 Timothy then is Paul’s final encouragement to his protégé to be faithful and guard the Gospel that has been entrusted to him. Temptations may abound to dilute the Gospel or to preach whatever is popular to the crowd, but Paul urges Timothy to preach the Scriptures. Timothy himself is to entrust the Gospel to the next generation without fear and shame. The Gospel of Jesus Christ stands at the centre of Timothy’s ministry. Even though this is a personal letter from Paul to Timothy, the message and call remains applicable to all believers throughout the centuries.

“The church of our day urgently needs to heed the meaning of this second letter of Paul to Timothy. For all around us we see Christians and churches relaxing their grasp of the gospel, fumbling it, in danger of letting it drop from their hands altogether. A new generation of young Timothys is needed, who will guard the sacred deposit of the gospel, who are determined to proclaim it and are prepared to suffer for it, and who will pass it on pure and uncorrupted to the generation which in due course will rise up to follow them.”²

Launch

- 1) What kind of influence do you think your parents had on your outlook and values in life?

FAMILIAL INFLUENCE

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7.

- 2) What information about Paul can we gain from v1-2 about himself and also his relationship to Timothy?

- 3) Who does he remember as Paul give thanks to God in his prayers? (v3)
 - a. This seems to be a common feature in Paul’s prayers (cf. Eph 1:15ff, Phil 1:3ff, Col 1:3ff) – remembering and praying for others. How can we learn from Paul’s example?

¹ John Stott, *The Message of 2 Timothy: Guard the Gospel* (S.I.: IVP, 2021), 13.

² Stott, *The Message of 2 Timothy*, 22.

- 4) Why does Paul long to see Timothy? (v4)

- 5) What is Paul reminded of in Timothy? (v5)
 - a. Where did Timothy's faith first "lived" and through whom was it passed on to him? (v5)
 - b. What do we know of Timothy's parents from Acts 16:1-3? What does that show about what his mother's spiritual influence upon him?
 - c. What are some ways that we can pass on our faith to our children, either as parents or as part of a community of believers?

- 6) What do you think is the "reason" that Paul is talking about in v6?

- 7) What do you think it means to "fan into flame the gift of God"?
 - a. What "gift" was given to Timothy through the laying on of hands? (cf. 1 Tim 4:11-14)

- 8) Why should Timothy fan into flame his gift? (v7)
 - a. How would the characteristics listed in v7 help with Timothy's gift?
 - b. How would these characteristics help you in your own gift in your own life?

Conclusion

We sometimes underestimate the influence that our parents have on us. During our most formative years from infancy to adolescence, our parents have knowingly or unknowingly taught, modelled, and set the example for us about the important things in life. This includes our faith. Even though Timothy's father was most likely a non-Christian, he grew up with his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois who passed on the Gospel truths to Timothy. Because of this faith now lives in him, he was given the gift of Gospel ministry (teaching and preaching the Scriptures), and Paul calls him to fan into flame that gift.



Timothy's life and calling give us a great example to emulate. As parents, we have tremendous influence over our children with regards to their faith. For those of us who are not parents, we still have influence over the children around us in the way that we model, encourage, and teach Gospel truths to them. One very simple way that we can do that is to pray for them, just as Paul constantly prays for those that he knows.