



Life and Immortality

In our previous study, we saw how the faith that first started in Timothy's grandmother Eunice was passed on to his mother Eunice. Eventually, this same faith was passed on to Timothy. Paul calls Timothy not to ignore the gift of God that he received, but rather to fan that gift into flame! The Spirit that we received makes us bold, powerful, loving, and self-disciplined.

We saw that this gift is the ministry of the teaching and preaching of the Gospel message of Christ. As Christians, God has given us his Spirit to enable us to teach and preach the Gospel (in various capacity and forms) in our lives. However, what is this Gospel that is so important? Why is it we need to be bold, powerful, loving, and self-disciplined to be faithful in this ministry? Let us have a look at how Paul continues to encourage Timothy in this area.

Launch

- 1) How would you explain the Gospel message to a Christian or a non-Christian?

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Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18.

- 2) What is Paul calling Timothy to do in v8? What kind of life is Paul calling Timothy into? (v8b)

- 3) What has God done for us? (v9)

- a. Why has God done that?

- b. When did God do that?

- c. How do you think it is possible that God gave us grace in Christ at that "time" that you mentioned in question 3b?

- 4) What has been revealed? (v10) How was it revealed? (v10)



- 5) What did Jesus Christ do? (v10) What do you think that means?

- 6) According to Paul, he was appointed to be a herald, apostle, and teacher of this Gospel. (v11) Are those three different roles or the same role with different names? Give reasons for your answer.

- 7) Why is there no cause for shame in the Gospel? (v12)

- 8) What does Paul ask Timothy to do? (v12-14)

- 9) What can we learn from the examples (good and bad) of the people listed by Paul in v15-18?

- 10) Compare the description of the Gospel message by Paul with yours in Question 1a. What new aspect or elements of the Gospel did you learn about in this passage?

Conclusion

Our vocabulary to describe the work of Christ can sometimes be very limited. Words such as “saved” and “eternal life” are very common ways of talking about the Gospel. However, in this passage, Paul shows us a new dimension of the Gospel that many of us have never thought about before.

The grace that God bestowed upon us through the Gospel was from before the beginning of time. God’s grace did not magically appear to us when we first believed, but it was something that God prepared from before the foundations of the world. That grace was only revealed when Christ came to earth. What is more, Christ destroyed death through the Gospel event. There is the death of death in the death of Christ. We do not have to fear death anymore because Christ has conquered death.

Christ also brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. This is an intriguing phrase. It assumes that there have always been life and immortality since the beginning (only that it is hidden), even after the Fall. How can that be, when there is so much sin and death? However, if we read through the Old Testament, we read of a God who has always been at work with his people since the beginning, saving them and calling them into his family, despite their sinfulness and rebellion. This fact is only revealed to all of us when Jesus Christ appeared.

It is this Gospel that we should not be ashamed of. We are to keep the pattern of sound teaching and guard this precious deposit that has been entrusted to us. It is counter-intuitive at first, but the way we guard this Gospel is by entrusting it to others. That is what Paul turns to in Chapter 2.