

The Books of 2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-14. Paul's words to Timothy come with a sense of urgency: don't quit. Timothy was facing opposition, suffering, and false teaching, and Paul knew that discouragement could make a faithful servant pull back. So he tells him not to be ashamed, but instead to courageously share in suffering for the gospel. The calling was too important, and the work was too valuable, to surrender to fear. The same encouragement belongs to us. Faithfulness does not mean that ministry will always be comfortable; but we are encouraged that discomfort, opposition, and even suffering do not have the final word.

Furthermore, Timothy did not have to carry the weight of ministry by himself. Paul reminds him that he could courageously move forward by God's grace. What a freeing truth! God did not call Timothy because Timothy was powerful enough to accomplish everything on his own. God called him by grace, and God would supply what Timothy needed to remain faithful. We sometimes imagine that the responsibility for changing another person's heart rests upon us. It does not. Our responsibility is to faithfully proclaim and live the truth; God supplies the power to accomplish His purposes. We do not have to win souls in order to earn God's love. We simply need to be faithful. And when we are faithful, we can trust God to produce fruit in His own time.

Paul then points Timothy to something even greater than his present difficulties: Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. If Jesus has defeated death, then there is no suffering that can ultimately defeat those who belong to Him. That confidence gives courage for today. It also gives us the reason to guard the gospel entrusted to us. The message of Christ is a precious deposit. It is not ours to reshape according to cultural preferences, personal convenience, or passing trends. Instead, we are stewards called to hold firmly to the whole of God's revealed truth, and to faithfully pass it to those who come after us. We can be courageous because the gospel is God's treasure, God's power, and ultimately God's work.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: What is God asking you to remain faithful to even though you feel tired, intimidated, or discouraged? Where might you be carrying responsibility that actually belongs to God rather than to you? How can you more faithfully guard, live out, and pass along the gospel that has been entrusted to you?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"If we endure, we will also reign with Him;..."

2 Timothy 2:12

Weekly Affirmation:

**GOD CALLED ME,
GOD WILL SUSTAIN ME!**

OCTOBER 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Books of 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on these books (*available on the website*).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Celebrate God's goodness each week. Publicly give God credit in conversation with others for the ways you see Him working.