

## 2 Timothy 1

**Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7:** Paul seems to be encouraging Timothy; who has been having a hard time. This would be expected; because Timothy had been dispatched to fix church heresy and church chaos. He was putting everything back in order. That is one reason that prophets were avoided and un-liked. They were there to tell the truth. The Old Testament prophets and the New Testament Apostles dealt with church corrections and the rage of those they corrected.

*You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 1:8)*

**2 Timothy 1:8-13:** To take the opposite position as everyone you know can be embarrassing and difficult. We are holding the truth. It is a rare privilege that we have. Paul is trying to cheer up Timothy from his own jail cell. Paul must have been frustrated to be imprisoned for doing what God told him to. He was supposed to be the poster child of the legitimate doctrine; and yet he was incarcerated. He probably struggled with competing opinions; and how to convey his legitimacy to lead. That is why he always mentioned that he was sent by God.

We have to feel the message from the scriptures to fully apprehend it. We will probably not get much out of a message on suffering if our life is at an all-time high. Paul is tuned into his present experiences as he leads the church. There are phrases like "join me in suffering" for the gospel, and "I am not ashamed", and "abolishing death...and bringing life". He also writes about God's unknown purposes behind the events of our lives. These are written by a man who was close to being martyred. The scriptures have a message for the up and out and the down

and out as well. Men have had to come to that same threshold of pain and fear to feel these words. That is why our ears to hear only open at our lowest moments.

My experience has been that there has been more outward fruit for the Kingdom in my failures, than when life is normal.

**Read 2 Timothy 1:14-18:** What we have inside of us is a treasure, encased in an earthen jar. Man is made of the same elements as soil. There is nothing about our features that would indicate that there is something priceless within us.

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

In the end; there are not that many who continue on with Christ. Being holy does not just mean that we are dedicated vessels. It means that we have special purpose. We are in a setting of sin and denial of God. We are not to forget who we are in Christ.

*and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (Revelation 1:6)*