

Renewal

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- sometimes we need renewed, don't we?
- Sometimes, the world can take its toll even on the best of us
- 2 Timothy is likely the last book that Paul wrote – written to a young man named Timothy
 - It's a very personal letter
 - You find out much about Paul and Timothy's relationship in this letter
- **2 Timothy 1:1-2**
 - Paul describes Timothy as a beloved son
 - From Timothy's perspective, how wonderful it is to have someone that you can turn to
 - Someone that is fighting the good fight with you
 - Somebody that is not consumed by the things of this world
 - Paul had it all
 - He was far more advanced than other Jews of his own age (Galatians 1:14)
 - He was trained under the tutelage of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
 - The same Gamaliel who rightfully assessed in Acts 5:33-39 that the Sanhedrin cannot kill Peter and the other apostles
 - If they are preaching from God, you aren't going to be able to stop them – you'll be fighting against God and that's a fight you cannot win
 - He's going to fight you with the sword of His mouth and you have no chance in that fight (Revelation 2:16)
 - Gamaliel was right – 2000 years later, here we are studying about our Savior, Jesus Christ
 - What an honor
 - Paul had a connection with the high priest himself and he obtained letters from him to execute the will of the Jews – which of course was not the will of God
 - Paul had all of this – and yet he gave it up
 - When he realized the error of his ways, he gave up the world
 - Just like we did when we gave our lives to Christ
 - Matthew 6:21 – *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
 - 2 Corinthians 4:18 – *“while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

- Make your treasure the eternal things that God has promised to those who are faithful – not the temporary things of this world
 - Do not be consumed by this world
 - And this is who Timothy had to mentor him – what a wonderful thing
- Older Christians are told to be examples for younger Christians (Titus 2:1-8)
 - Older Christians – cherish this opportunity and make sure that you are being the example that you need to be
 - Younger Christians – cherish this opportunity as well, develop a strong relationship with someone who is going to help you stay faithful and try to be the older Christian example to someone who is younger than you – perhaps one or more of these fine young teenage men & women we have at West Side
- Timothy had this with Paul
- **2 Timothy 1:3-4**
 - Paul thanks God and constantly remembers Timothy in his prayers
 - So this relationship was not 1 sided – vs 4 says that Paul wanted to see Timothy because it would bring him joy
 - Going back to the instructions in Titus 2:1-8, you can see this older Christian/younger Christian relationship is essential for both parties
 - For most of my life up to this point, I've been the younger Christian
 - I think of 2 Christians outside of my family of course who I've been in a mentor/mentee type relationship
 - 1 of them has gained the greatest victory a Christian can gain and 1 of them is not able to do what he once was
 - Philippians 1:21 – *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*
 - A wonderful statement by the apostle Paul and one that we can say as well if we are faithful servants of the Lord's
 - Even though Paul was in chains (Philippians 1:12-13), he was going to live for Christ
 - And he may have been in physical chains, but he was not really chained was he – the gospel of Christ will never be chained
 - This was the plan (Acts 23:11) – and Paul made it to Rome and he preached the gospel there even though he was restricted by physical chains
 - Who benefited from Paul living? Certainly not him
 - But the Roman church did, the members of Caesar's own household did (Philippians 4:22), the guards that had the power to kill Paul benefited (Philippians 1:13), the churches at Philippi, Ephesus, etc. benefited from Paul living
 - You and I benefit
 - And for this reason, the chains were with it to Paul

- Who benefits from you living for Christ? Your Christian brothers and sisters benefit, your mentor or your mentee – they benefit
- But the world benefits as well – because they have the opportunity to see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16)
- So if you're in the world – live for Christ
- But to the Christian, death is the biggest gain you can have – grieving is in order for those who die outside of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13), but you gain the greatest benefit that you can gain – through the grace of our Lord and Savior of course (Ephesians 2)
 - But you have no idea how much I appreciate the fact that they invested in me and taught me to be a faithful Christian
 - And you could tell that both of them enjoyed instilling in me the lessons needed for me to continue in the faith when they were gone
- This was Paul to Timothy
- But Paul remembers Timothy's tears – and he wants to see Timothy again so that he can be filled with joy – but why did Timothy have tears?
- **2 Timothy 1:5-7**
 - Paul is filled with joy when he sees the genuine faith that Timothy had
 - Our faith must be genuine
 - We cannot be in it for ourselves
 - Because the ironic thing about this line of thinking is that it was never our glory to be had
 - It is not our gospel – it is Christ's (Romans 1:16) – we are just called to preach it to the world (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - And our outer garments? They are but filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6)
 - If we want to be saved, we must be clothed with Christ (Galatians 3:27)
 - How did the self-righteousness of the Pharisees turn out for them? Jesus spoke woes to them in Matthew 23
 - Vs 25-28 – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”*
 - Hypocrisy and lawlessness – 2 words that should never be used to describe members of the Lord's church
 - Do not be self-righteous and think of yourself this way

- We are all unworthy servants even after we've done everything that we've been instructed to do (Luke 17:10)
 - How'd this line of thinking work for Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7:36-50?
 - Remember, a woman washed Jesus' feet at Simon's house
 - And Simon thinks "If Jesus knew who this woman was, he wouldn't even let her near him"
 - But what does Jesus say? Simon – you are correct. There is someone in this house that does not deserve to be in My presence – and that person is not this woman. It is you.
 - So our faith must be genuine
 - If you are in it for whatever gain you can get, you better enjoy the earthly gain – because you will receive nothing from God (Matthew 6:1-18)
- And in Timothy's case, this faith was instilled in him by his grandmother and his mother – Lois and Eunice
 - What a wonderful thing to have faithful members of the Lord's church as parents & grandparents
 - I am fortunate to have that as well and I am extremely thankful
 - Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – *"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."*
 - Numerous times throughout the book of Deuteronomy, the Israelites are told that you are to be thinking about the generations that will go on after you – those that will carry on the Lord's work after you are gone
 - Just like Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha in 2 Kings 2, we are to be thinking of this for our successors
 - I stand before you today because my grandfather taught my dad and my dad taught me and I can confirm their teaching
 - They thought of the next generation and I need to be thinking about the next generation as well
 - Just as Lois and Eunice did for Timothy
- But Paul has to remind Timothy of something – to stir up the gift of God which is in you (vs 6)
 - The ESV says to *"fan into flame the gift of God"*
 - Why would Timothy have to stir up the gift of God, or fan it into flame?
 - Because it was going out
 - That seems to be why Timothy was crying in vs 4 – something had happened to cause him discouragement
 - Just like Demas
 - In Philemon 24, Demas is referred to as Paul's fellow laborer

- But by the time Paul wrote 2 Timothy 4:10 – Demas had left him
- Why did Demas leave? Not because he openly hated Christ, but it is because he loved this world – and thus, hated Christ
- Perhaps he saw Paul’s chains and said this isn’t the life for me
- I can’t see my eternity, but I can see this present world and I do not want to experience all the persecution that Paul listed in 2 Corinthians 11
- 2 Timothy 3:12 – *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*
- 1 Peter 4:4 – *“In regards to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”*
- Demas couldn’t accept the call to be a strange person in this life by living the Christian life, he couldn’t accept the fact that he’d have to suffer physical persecution
- And as a result, if he didn’t repent and turn back to God, Christ wouldn’t have accepted him (Matthew 10:32-33)
- How about you?
 - When you’re tempted by worldly things, do you give in? Do you do the cool thing and participate with or even simply tolerate worldly behavior?
 - Like Demas, if you can’t accept the call to be strange or if you can’t accept the call that you will suffer persecution, don’t expect Christ to accept you on the day of judgment (Matthew 10:32-33)
- 1 John 2:15-17 – *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.”*
- Matthew 6:21 – *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
- Where is your treasure? Do you love the things of this world? According to 1 John, if you do – the love of the Father is not in you
- Timothy had evidently lost sight of this to some extent, because here we find Paul giving him words of encouragement – continue in the faith
 - Because only in the gospel is man justified (Romans chapters 1-8)
 - Proverbs 14:12 – *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”*
 - For whatever reason, Timothy had been discouraged – but he had Paul to provide words of encouragement
- *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*
 - When faced with the knowledge that He would be killed in Jerusalem, did Jesus fear?

- In John 10:30, Jesus tells the Jews in Jerusalem that He and His Father are one
- And the Jews did not like this because in vs 31-39, they tried to seize Him so they could stone Him
- Then we all know what happened in John 11 – the physical resurrection of Lazarus
- And in vs 7, Jesus tells His disciples – *“Let us go to Judea again.”*
- Jesus, they just tried to kill you there? And you want to go back?
- Jesus had no fear, even though He knew that the cross awaited Him
- It was the resurrection of Lazarus that changed the Jews unorganized plots at His life to *“this man has got to go”* (John 11:45-57)
- And He didn’t allow that to stop Him
- Luke 9:51 tells us that Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem
- And He wasn’t going to let anyone or anything get in His way
- And I’m thankful that He had this attitude
- When faced with the knowledge that things were not going to end well in Jerusalem for Paul, did he fear?
 - In Acts 21, Paul was told by numerous people to not go to Jerusalem (vs 4, 12)
 - Remember, Agabus received a message from the Holy Spirit – he bound his hands and feet with Paul’s belt and said *“the owner of this belt shall be bound in Jerusalem by the Jews and handed over to the Gentiles”*
 - Like Jesus, Paul had his eyes set on Jerusalem – because he intended to execute the will of the Lord
 - Not only was Paul ready to go to Jerusalem and be bound, but he was ready to die there (vs 13)
 - How amazing is this?
 - When offered a severance or something like that at work and a young man or woman takes it with no plan for future work, we’d say *“how short sighted could this person be?”*
 - How short-sighted could the world be?
 - We may not be able to see our eternity now, but it exists
 - And the actions that you do in this life will determine where you spend it – with God or without Him
 - Every tongue will confess and every knee will bow before the Lord (Romans 14:11) – why not do so now?
- Paul tells Timothy in vs 7 – *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*
 - Timothy – look at me
 - I am in physical chains, but I have no fear

- *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* (2 Timothy 4:7)
- Despite these physical chains, I am not truly chained (Philippians 1:12-14)
- All this imprisonment has done has allowed me to take the gospel to places that may not have heard it otherwise – the gospel of Christ will never be chained
- The gospel may have gotten me physically chained in this lifetime, but if you make yourself a slave to righteousness (Romans 6), the gospel is actually what is going to provide you with the greatest freedom that you can gain
- The gospel is a message of great power
 - Revelation 2:16 – *“Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”*
 - Does this sound like a fight you want to have?
 - Matthew 21:44 – *“And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”*
 - Jesus’ words are a stone – if you fall on them, you’ll be broken but not beyond repair
 - It takes work to submit your life to Christ, to realize that the way you were living was wrong and leads to eternal death
 - But if His words fall on you – you’re done
 - You’ll be reduced to powder
 - Romans 1:16 – *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”*
 - The gospel message is a message of power
- But it is also a message of love
 - John 15:13 – *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”*
 - Christ laid down His life for you – because He loves you
 - 1 John 4:19 – *“We love Him because He first loved us.”*
- And it takes a sound mind to accept these things
 - In Luke 15:17, we’re told *“But when he came to himself,...”* the young son decided to go back to the Father which implied that leaving his Father was a decision he made while not in his right mind
 - He was only in his right mind when he was at home with his Father
 - Romans 12:1 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*
 - It is just logical to submit your life to God
 - Submission is not a weak characteristic, but a strong one
 - Because it takes great strength to give up what you want to do for what you must do

- And you must submit your life to Christ, else you will suffer the consequences eternally
 - So Timothy – don't give up, because there is so much work to be done and for your sake – you really need to be doing it (2 Timothy 2:1-2)
- Paul spends the rest of the book of 2 Timothy with further encouragement and instruction for Timothy
- When you are feeling discouraged and in need of renewal, read 2 Timothy
- This world has nothing to offer, but God has everything to offer
- Before we were Christians, we needed renewed didn't we?
- **Ephesians 2:1-10**
 - We were once dead in our trespasses and sins (vs 1)
 - We walked according to this world (vs 2)
 - We satisfied the lusts of this flesh (vs 3)
 - And we were children of wrath by nature (vs 3)
 - *"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ"*
 - God renewed us – paved the path for us to put off our old man of sin for the new man of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - Because it is by grace that we have been saved through faith in Christ Jesus
- If you're not a Christian, you really need to be renewed
- And the frustrating part when you realize the truth – is that you realize you can't do it on your own
 - This is a normal feeling
 - I can't come to the Lord, I'm a mess
 - Jesus didn't come for those who are well, but for the sick (Luke 5:31)
 - He wants you
- Yes, it is true that you can't do it on your own, but it is also true that you don't have to
- Christ has already done it for you
- He lived, died, was buried, and arose so that you can have a chance at the 1 thing that you and I will never deserve, but the 1 thing that you and I are looking forward to the most – an eternity with our Lord and Savior
 - It is by grace that we've been saved
 - And thank God for this indescribable gift (Romans 7:25)
- The plan of salvation is simple and will never change
 - **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
 - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
 - **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16, John 3:16*
 - **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10, 1 John 1:9*
 - **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38*

- Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-10, 1 Peter 3:21-22*
 - Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*