



Sermon, Sunday October 24, 2021

“The Lord’s Grace given to Timothy”

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:1-9 ¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Introduction: Apostles Paul and Timothy

In the era we live in, technology has advanced and everything has been digitalized, so there are times when we miss a more analog sensibility. In particular, sometimes I miss handwritten letters. So it's nice to occasionally see articles that have a more sensory sensibility and sensitivity.

Even in the New Testament, there are texts that show this sensibility. These are Paul's epistles, and among them, the Book of Timothy evokes such emotions. In this text we can feel the abundant love, consideration, and longing of the Apostle Paul for Timothy.

Timothy is a young man from the countryside called Lystra. He becomes the most beloved successor of the Apostle Paul. The text we shared, 2 Timothy, is the last epistle of the Apostle Paul. 2 Timothy was written 25 years after the Apostle Paul first met Timothy.

Timothy shared his missionary journeys with the Apostle Paul in Philippi, Corinth, Ephesus, Jerusalem, and Rome. And even though there were many hardships along the way, Timothy overcame them well and became the successor of the Apostle Paul, with the work the Lord had entrusted to him.

The Apostle Paul and Timothy were able to carry out their mission well because of the grace of the Lord. We hope that we will be able to carry out our mission well by examining the grace the Lord has given to Timothy and realizing the grace He has given to us.

Body: The Lord's Grace given to Timothy

1. The Lord gave Timothy an example of good faith.

The Lord gave Timothy a person who could be a model of faith to imitate and learn. **Look at 2 Timothy 1:5. “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.”**



Timothy was close to the word of the Lord from an early age. This is because Timothy's mother Eunice raised Timothy through the word of the Lord. If parents show their children how to read the Lord's Word, the Bible, and pray sincerely at home, their children will be like those parents.

People need an example of faith in their religious life. If there are people around us who take pleasure in serving our neighbors, we will be like them. Also, if there are people around us who forgive and tolerate our neighbors even when we lose our benefit, we will be like those people. But if we are surrounded by people who put only our own interests first, we are very likely to imitate those people.

That is why it is so important to pray to the Lord that we can be examples of faith to our neighbors. Also, praying to the Lord to give us people who can be examples of our faith around us is very important in our life of faith.

However, Timothy was also able to learn what Jesus was like through the examples of his mother and grandmother's faith. So, having someone who loves the Lord near us is a great grace the Lord has granted us. Therefore, we hope that we have an example of faith, too. We also hope that we will have the grace to set an example of faith to our neighbors. Then, what other grace did the Lord grant Timothy?

2. The Lord gave Timothy a humble heart.

Second, the Lord gave Timothy a humble heart. It was because of his humble heart that Timothy was able to handle it well, even in the face of difficult adversity he was able to complete the mission the Lord had given him to the end. Timothy always returned to the heart he had toward the Lord when adversity came during the course of his ministry. **Look at 2 Timothy 1:6. "For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands;"**

What was the heart of Timothy who received the Lord's grace through the prayer of the laying on of hands of the Apostle Paul? Wasn't Timothy's heart that he would live only for the Lord, that he would do well in obedience, and that he would be able to bear any cross?

So, when pastoral difficulties come, I think of my heart when I was ordained as a pastor. The thought that comes to mind every time is Peter's confession of faith to Lord Jesus; **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"**

If this kind of heart fills our minds and hearts, we can overcome difficulties with the grace of the Lord. However, the problem is that it is not easy for anyone to maintain their first mind. Because external circumstances sometimes tempt our inward greed to live up to our lusts rather than humility toward the Lord.

So we have to look carefully at our heart. We must seek the grace of the Lord, lest our hearts be filled with pride, envy, jealousy, and covetousness. If we can't handle our heart, the more we do, the more we have to depend on Jesus. The more we depend on the Lord, the more our hearts are filled with the humility that the Lord gives us rather than our pride. We wish we had such grace. Then, finally, what kind of grace did the Lord give Timothy?

3. The Lord gave Timothy the faith to depend on the power of the Lord.

The Lord gave Timothy the faith to depend on His power. Because Timothy had that kind of faith, Timothy was able to fully carry out his mission. As we try to imitate the good faith around us and return to humility, the Lord provides for our needs.

So 2 Timothy 1:8 says: "Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God," This verse does not mean to overcome hardship alone. This means that the Lord will be with us and help us when we trust in His power.



The Apostle Paul always knew that the Lord had the power to carry out His mission. **So he says in 1 Timothy 1:12, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.”**

Also, Jesus promised His disciples, **“surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** And even in the midst of suffering, He said to His disciples, **“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say” (Luke 12:11-12)** So what should we do? That's a godly life relying on the Lord, worshiping, praising, praying, and living in the Word.

Hosea 6:3 says: “Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Conclusion: Let's remember the grace the Lord has given us.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. **2 Timothy 1:4 says, “Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.”** This verse contains the memory of the Apostle Paul's farewell to Timothy. And it contains the apostle Paul's longing to see Timothy again.

The ministry Timothy had to bear was difficult. Timothy was young and was despised by the people, the saints were engrossed in vain doctrines, and Timothy was physically weak.

But Timothy is still with the gospel. And in order to carry out the mission of evangelism, he is in a place of suffering with the Apostle Paul. The reason Timothy was able to take on the tasks the Lord entrusted to him was that there were people around him who could be an example of faith, and when hardships came, he returned to the position of humility of the grace that the Lord had poured out, and he fulfilled his mission, not his own strength, but the strength which the Lord gave him.

The Lord who gave Timothy grace also gave us abundant grace. I hope that we will become saints praised by the Lord by thinking about the grace we have received and by performing our mission well in the midst of adversity with joy and gratitude always.

