

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 37:1-9

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord. (v5)

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors & serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 2 Timothy 1:1-14

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, & peace from God the Father & 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 & 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 & your mother Eunice & 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 & of love & 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 & called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose & grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death & brought life & immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald & an apostle & a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, & I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith & love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review St. Timothy & his connection with St. Paul (see *Acts 16:1*) in your study Bible & even on Wikipedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Timothy
2. How do vv13-14 frame & measure Timothy's pastoral role? What to they say about his novelty, creativeness, excitement, theatrics, or even his smile & hairstyle? See *Romans 6:17; Philippians 4:9; 1 Timothy 6:3; 2 Timothy 2:2, 3:14, 4:3; Titus 1:9, 2:1; Formula of Concord Solid Declaration: IV 36 available bookofconcord.org*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How does viewing your employment as a holy calling (v9) change your perspective? What changes do you need to make for this holiness shine through?
4. St. Paul is "in chains" in Rome (v16; cf. *Acts 25-28, esp. 25:1-12, 28:11-30, also 23:23-35*), a rather embarrassing truth for early Christians. Nonetheless, Paul encourages boldness with the Gospel (v7; *Romans 5:3-5, 8:15, 10:13-17; 2 Corinthians 3:13; Ephesians 3:12, 6:19-20; Philippians 1:14, 20, 3:10; also 1 John 4:18*). List at least 10 concrete circumstances in your everyday life right now where you need more boldness for the gospel & then pray for it.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Evangelism on a small-scale (1-on-1, small group work) is more effective than large scale events (think Billy Graham-style "Crusades"). Where is your congregation involved in such matters? How many adults have been baptized in your congregation in the last 3 years? How can Pr. Greg Finke's Take-10 exercise help? Available dwelling114.org/take10-tutorial-guide
6. Evangelism with families offers great hope (cf. *1:5, 3:15*). How is your congregation connecting with families in your community (beyond its own "members")? How can you help these efforts?

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17th Sunday after Pentecost

10.02.22

Series: From Generation to Generation

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Paul & Timothy

These character qualities are God's purpose for us, given by his grace

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power & of love & of self-discipline. (v7)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you. (*1 Peter 1:25*)

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