



Sunday, March 17, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 2 Timothy 1:1-7

It would be a strange thing to get what you knew to be the last letter you would receive from someone. Perhaps it would be even stranger to write that letter. Either way, for the author or the recipient, it seems fair to assume that you would want this to be a letter weighted with significance. That is exactly what we have in Paul's last letter to Timothy. To be sure, Paul still held out hope that he would see Timothy (2 Tim. 4:9), but it was uncertain at best.

Among the things Paul wants to emphasize in his last letter to Timothy is the importance of the promise of life that the gospel offers. For someone who is dying (2 Tim. 4:6-7), that promise is very great, and will help put Timothy's life and ministry into perspective. Likewise, as we think about our lives, it is helpful to hear the perspective of someone nearing death, so that we might know how to live our lives to the fullest.

Context

The opening section of the letter (1:1-7) sets some helpful context for the message that will follow. Paul's relationship to Timothy, as well as the role Lois and Eunice played in Timothy's life will inform one of the key arguments that Paul makes—namely that the gospel is a gift that has been entrusted to us (1:14), which we are then charged to entrust to others (2:2). This kind of ministry will have its difficulties, on account of which Paul will exhort Timothy to “share in suffering” (1:8, 2:3), but it will be worth it for the great reward that is promised to those who are faithful on judgment day when God rewards those who have been good stewards of the message and deal out retribution to the enemies of the gospel.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7

“Useful to the Master”

Paul – Passing On

- Apostle

- Lonely

- Done

Timothy – Staying On

- Spiritual Family

- Spiritual Father

- Spiritual Gift

Discuss

- 1) Who has been a spiritual mentor in your life (like Paul was to Timothy)? What did you particularly appreciate about their ministry in your life?
- 2) Who is someone you have sought to pass your faith on/be a spiritual mentor to? How is that going?
- 3) What difference does “the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus” make to the way you think about and approach your own death?
- 4) How are you cultivating the spiritual gift(s) that God has given you?
- 5) Do you tend to be timid in ministering to others? How can we encourage one another to be more confident in using our gifts?