



Intro to 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Sunday, March 31, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

One of the most beautiful things about the gospel is the grace of God. As Pastor Don mentioned, the grace of God is so multifaceted that we ought to meditate on the breadth of what Scripture has to say about it. Often, when grace becomes one-dimensional in our thinking, it can cease to amaze us. Indeed, many who have been in church for a long time hear the word grace and it doesn't resonate deeply in their souls because they have heard it so much, or because they have forgotten about the depth of the grace of God towards us in Christ.

Thankfully, Paul knows that Timothy needed grace to carry out his God-given ministry and so do we! Jesus said, “apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). That is absolutely true. The problem is: we can deceive ourselves into thinking that we don’t need Christ. We begin to think that we are the ones who deserve the credit for providing for even our basic needs let alone accomplishing the ministry tasks God has commanded us to do. Thankfully, Paul is there to remind us that we need God for every moment of every day (and therefore every activity). So, let us not only be amazed again by grace, but let that amazement motivate us to pass the gospel on to others.

Context

In this section, Paul expounds a bit on what he meant in chapter one by “guard the good deposit entrusted to you” (2 Tim. 1:14). Guarding the gospel necessarily entails entrusting it to others who are able to teach others still. God’s plan of redemption has included, since the beginning of time, that people from all nations, tribes, and tongues would worship His Son Jesus. The way He has chosen to bring that about is through the faithful ministry of His servants. Whether Timothy in first century Ephesus, or us in twenty-first century Lansing, the process of ministry is the same.

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 2:1-7

“Pass It On”

I. The Power of Grace

- Greeting 1.2 grace, mercy, peace
- Suffering 1.8 join me in suffering
- Sovereign 1.9 nothing we have done
- Pre-existent 1.9 before time began
- Visible 1.10 revealed, appearing
- Strengthening 2.1 be strengthened

II. The Process of Ministry

- Gospel given to Paul
- Guard the deposit, Timothy
- Entrust to reliable people
- Teach others also

III. Pictures of Ministry

- Soldier
- Athlete
- Farmer

Give the gospel to others until they can pass it on.

Discuss

- 1) One of the most beloved songs in western Christianity is “Amazing Grace.” What amazes you about grace?
 - 2) How has God’s grace been evident in your life recently?
 - 3) If a soldier can get distracted by civilian pursuits, an athlete by cheating, and a farmer by laziness, what is it that inhibits or distracts us from single-minded devotion to gospel ministry?
 - 4) Who has been a faithful “Paul” in your life? Someone who has entrusted not only the gospel, but has shared their life with you as well (1 Thess. 2:8)?
 - 5) Who is someone in your life currently who is a faithful person you could build in to?