

II Timothy, Sermon #1

II Timothy 1 – new book today

Paul is the author and Paul writes with no hope of earthly life in front of him.

Last letter written by Paul – 13 in the N. T.

If we had to pen the words to someone—maybe our spouse, or our son or daughter, or to a special friend—realizing this letter would be our last, what would we say? Tell them the most important things.

That’s why this letter is less formal and more personal than the first letter to Timothy. Paul is in prison—sitting on Death Row. He had been abandoned by so-called friends. 1:15; 4:16

Paul begins to write and he says . . .

II Timothy 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word

II Timothy 1:1-2 – “Paul” – we sign our name at the end of a letter

I have entitled this sermon “Opening Words to a Final Message” – The Introduction of II Timothy

Let us pray

You may be seated

Opening Words to a Final Message

Vs. 1

I. Will of God

It is the will of God that we be saved – Jerry Falwell told the pornographic owner, Larry Flynt, “Larry, you need to be saved.”

God is not willing that any should perish

It is the will of God that we obey this Book

God’s will is God’s Word

It is the will of God that we are in fellowship with believers

Isolate ourselves – be a part of a local church

Real popular – house churches, one or two families meeting together

Baptisms, Communion, reaching lost people, adding to the church?

It is the will of God that we are serving in His Kingdom

We are not to live just for ourselves

An apostle of Jesus Christ – I am a representative, spokesman for Jesus Christ, 1:7

It is the will of God that we represent Him. We are called Christians. That word means “little Christ.”

II Corinthians 5:20, *“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ. . .”*

II. Paul Had the Promise of Life

How do you accept a promise? You do it by faith and . . .

That is the only way you can obtain eternal life. He offers life to us as a promise.

I will give this to you.

We accept a gift because we believe the giver.

We receive eternal life by believing in the Giver of eternal life.

The Lord Jesus gave us eternal life when we trusted Him as Savior because He paid the penalty of our sin.

The gift was not free. Free to us, but Jesus paid for it.

He today can offer the promise of life eternal on the basis of our faith and trust in Him. Therefore “the promise of life which is *in Christ Jesus*” makes it clear that through Christ is the only way we can get eternal life, my friend.

This world makes many promises and offers short thrills

In the last 60 days, I’ve seen just about all the world has—from Creation’s standpoint (Grand Canyon, Redwoods, Lake Tahoe, Highway 1) and man’s standpoint (Golden Gate Bridge [1930’s], Taj Mahal [22,000 men, 20 years to build]; Hoover Dam [provides western America electricity])

Nothing can compare to life eternal

Our life is temporary and the future life is far greater!

What happens is that we buy into this world – way too much.

We build our life too close to the ground.

II Corinthians 4:18, *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

Jesus said, I can give you life abundantly, “I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly” – beyond measure.

Real living – tired existence, frustrated existence, no joy, excitement

The simplicity of childhood is gone

Jesus gives us the abundant life, not just in Heaven – we can have pleasures even on earth!

Think about this: communication with God, relationship of family that you attend church with, Godly marriage, physical relationship without encumbrances, alone with God and nature

Family

Clean conscience – God forgives and cleanses

Peace in all situations

Quietness of the soul

Right view of people and things

This is life abundant.

This is the promise of life – but this life cannot be had apart from Jesus Christ!

Money can't give it; people won't make it; places and things can't give it.

This life is only found . . .

III. In Jesus Christ

A favorite phrase of Paul was **in Christ Jesus**, which signified the believer's union with
our Lord and Savior

★Life should not be lived apart from Jesus Christ

As an unbeliever, unsaved, unredeemed child – you have never lived with Christ

You must be saved!

But even as a believer, we can live in a sense apart from Jesus Christ—by setting Him
aside, pushing Him away, by operating individually, selfishly, contrary to this
Book—in the flesh

Flesh profiteth nothing

Anytime we live apart from Jesus Christ—is fully and totally wasted!

There is no power – no guidance – no help

When we live apart from Jesus Christ, in a sense, we are driving our own ship in the
ocean of life without the knowledge of a seaman.

That is utter foolishness

Vs. 2

Paul had led Timothy to Christ. Timothy was a son in the faith!

Who are our children in the faith?

Who have we directed, shown, invited or told about the salvation of Jesus Christ?

III. Paul calls Timothy “my dearly beloved”

Paul had trained and taught!

Paul had invested and given of himself.

When you have done this, your heart is involved greatly with that person.

Invest in spouse, children, grandchildren (board games, ice cream), church family
(supper), workplace, neighborhood (invited to church)

Paul invested in Timothy – “Timothy, my dearly beloved son” – very strong language

Much more intense than I Timothy 1:2

That closeness, intimacy, does not preclude authority.

The relationship of love that parents have with their children does not preclude their
authority over their children.

A parent-child relationship of love without authority is doomed to tragedy for the entire
family.

Paul was the Apostle and he was authoritative, yet he loved Timothy.

Vs. 2b**IV. Paul desired for Timothy the best**

What was that?

We want to give our kids the best of things—easier life, vacations, education

Grace, mercy, and peace from God

★**What God can give a person supercedes all that we could possibly give!**

God gives His grace, mercy, and peace

What is grace?

Grace is the undeserved favor of God

Usually we give to people who deserve, who can repay, or whom we have received a benefit from

That's not grace. Grace is the undeserved favor of God.

What is mercy?

God is merciful when He does not give us what we deserve; that is, judgment and condemnation.

Paul needed a great deal of mercy, and we do too.

Fortunately, God is rich in mercy toward us.

He also wanted Timothy to continue in full **peace** of mind and heart, the inner tranquility that is only provided by God.

He wanted Timothy to have the best that **God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord** offer to redeemed sinners: grace to cover sin, mercy to overrule misery, and peace to dominate life.

★**We need these three things to live appropriately in this crooked and wicked world.**

See, II Timothy speaks of the outcome of Gospel preaching.

★**The final fruition will not be the total conversion of mankind.**★

On the contrary, there will come about such laziness in believers and wickedness on earth which will seemingly blot out true faith from the world.

★There is a departure—the departure from the faith, from this Bible and from the true God.

Folks, we are seeing this now.

The Lord Jesus Himself gave this startling statement concerning this time: ". . . *when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?*" (Luke 18:8).

But man thinks he is getting better, wiser!

We are now in the midst of a departure which is cut to the pattern of God's Word in remarkable detail.

Because of this threat, God emphasizes the Word of God here more than he does in any other epistle.

My friend, the Gospel rests upon a tremendous fact, and that fact is the total depravity of man.

In other words, man is a lost sinner.

Man is in such a state that he cannot be saved by perfect obedience—because he cannot render it. He can't do it.

Neither can he be saved by imperfect obedience—because God will not accept it.

Therefore, the only solution is the Gospel of the grace of God which reaches down and saves the sinner on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ.

★Faith in Christ transforms human life.

We have a showcase today all over this globe of men and women who have been transformed by the Gospel of the grace of God.

★The solution of man's problems can come only through preaching the grace of God.

The grace of God, the mercy of God, the peace of God, through Jesus Christ is the way to transform and save mankind.

That is what this Book teaches, and that is why it is important for us to study II Timothy.

II Timothy will teach us:

How to leave a lasting mark – II Timothy 2:2 – discipleship

How to make a difference in the world – 2:5 – strive lawfully, live by the Bible

What kind of fight that we are in – II Timothy 2:4 – in a war!

What man must do to be successful Christian

Study – man of the Book, II Timothy 2:15

Holy – live out the Book, II Timothy 2:21

What people will do – some will help us – 1:16, 4:11

Some will hurt us – 1:15, 4:10, 14

II Timothy will teach us:

What people will be like in the last days before the antichrist comes on the scene,
Chapter 3:13

What the church people will be like in the last days – 4:3-4.

What a preacher should do – 4:2

How we should finish our life – 4:7

Opening Words to a Final Message

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, no doubt in your mind – you're saved, you're a child of
God

Slip up your hand

Maybe you could not do that. Not sure, not positive

You're not perfect and you cannot meet God's standard but God is rich in mercy and He
can save you through Jesus Christ who paid your entrance fee for you.

All you have to do is enter the gate, just walk in—this is faith.

God's grace is sufficient to cover all your sins.

Believers,

Are we fulfilling the known will of God?

Faithful to the Bible

Faithful to God's people

Faithful to the church

Faithful in serving

Are we living the abundant life?

Not the materialistic life

Not the selfish life

But a joyous life, a life filled with the things of God

Are we investing ourselves and our time and our resources for the Kingdom of
God?