

SOLID

CALLED TO PERSEVERE

2 TIMOTHY 1:8 - 2:7

Sometimes following Jesus is more than we bargained for. We may wonder why God allows bad things to happen to us while others seem to have an easy life. Sometimes we feel like simply quitting.

As a young and timid leader, Timothy faced the dual dilemma of personal inadequacy and a problem-stricken church. If that weren't enough, Paul, his father in the faith, was in prison facing the prospect of death. His arrest evidently resulted in widespread defections from the faith. This is the last letter Paul wrote before he was executed. From his cell he challenges Timothy to endure.

Read 2 Timothy 1:8 – 2:7

1. After calling Timothy to suffer with him for the gospel, what specific truths does Paul focus on and why? (1:9-10)
2. How does the message of the gospel encourage you to stand firm when you are tempted to be ashamed of Christ or another Christian?
3. What is Paul's advice to Timothy in verses 13 and 14?
4. Imagine yourself in Paul's position – alone, imprisoned, deserted by “everyone in the province of Asia” (1:15). How do you think you would react?
5. What is distinctive about Onesiphorus (1:16-18)?

6. Against the background of Paul's impending death and the disloyalty of the Asian church, what is the significance of Paul's command in 2:2?

7. Reflect on the three metaphors describing the Christian life (2:3-6). How does each provide insight into the life of a disciple?

8. In each illustration, what are the consequences for the person who fails to endure?

9. In what specific ways might it cost you to endure for the sake of the gospel, both now and throughout your life?

10. Timothy was undoubtedly overwhelmed by his own inadequacy and the massive defections from the church. How would 2:1 encourage him in the face of the great task at hand?

11. How is this verse (2:1) an encouragement to you?

The End Bit!

If we are willing to give everything over to God and let Him use us then He will! We have so much to be thankful for – it is because of God's grace in sending His Son to die on the cross at Calvary that we can know forgiveness from our sins!

Let's encourage one another in our faith and let's persevere! Our desire should be to see people won for Christ and to glorify His name!

'We are stewards of the spiritual treasure God has given us. It is our responsibility to guard the deposit and then invest it in the lives of others. They, in turn are to share the word of God with the next generation of unbelievers.'

Verses to Remember:

'Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.'

James 1:2-4