

A Broken Sinner, Called by God

Thomas Robinson, *Life Together in a Difficult World 1*, February 2, 2020

1 Timothy 1:1-7, 12-17

¹ Paul, apostle of Anointed King (*Christos*) Jesus, in accord with authority from God, our deliverer, and Anointed King Jesus, our hope, ² to Timothy, a true child in faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God as Father and Anointed King Jesus as our Lord!

³ Just as I urged you, remain in Ephesus, while I'm traveling to Macedonia, so that you can instruct certain people not to teach divergent things, ⁴ nor to devote their attention to myths and genealogies without end, which create speculations rather than God's way of doing things that's based on faith.

⁵ But the goal of our instruction is a love that's from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a faith without hypocrisy. ⁶ Since some failed in aiming at these, they turned aside toward empty talking. ⁷ while claiming the status of teachers of the law, even though they understand neither the things they're asserting nor even the topics on which they make confident statements. ...

¹² I have grace (*charis*) by the Anointed King who has empowered me, Jesus our Lord, because he considered me capable of faith as he appointed me for ministry, ¹³ though in earlier time I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and violently insolent, but I was given mercy because, being ignorant, I had acted by rejecting faith. ¹⁴ But the grace (*charis*) of our Lord overflowed in abundance, with a faith and love that's found in Anointed King Jesus.

¹⁵ This statement expresses that faith and deserves complete acceptance: "Anointed King Jesus came into the world to save sinners" – and I am the foremost of them! ¹⁶ But this is why I was granted mercy: in order that in me as foremost, Anointed King Jesus may give a clear example of his comprehensive forbearance, as an prototype of those who are going to put their trust in him for life of the age to come.

¹⁷ Now to the King of the ages, incorruptible, invisible, only God, be honor and glory into the ages of ages! Amen.

¹⁸ I'm entrusting this instruction to you my child Timothy, in accord with the earlier prophecies about you, in order that by them you may serve as a soldier in this excellent campaign, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. Some, by rejecting this, have suffered shipwreck concerning the faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I handed over to the Accuser in order that they may be trained not to blaspheme.

Acts 16:1-3

¹ Paul also came to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but whose father was a Greek. ² The brothers and sisters in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

Philippians 2:19-20, 22

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ... ²² But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of announcing the Good News.

2 Timothy 1:5-7

⁵ I am reminded of your faith without hypocrisy, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame God's gift of grace, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

1 Timothy 4:13

¹³ Until I come, give attention to the public reading of scripture, the exhortation, the teaching. ¹⁴ Don't neglect the gift of grace in you, which was given through a prophecy with the hands of the elders laid on you. ¹⁵ Take care with these things; be in them, so that your progress is clear to all.

1 Timothy 4:1-5

¹ Now the Spirit is expressly declaring that in later times some will draw away from the faith by devoting their attention to deceiving spirits and teachings of little divinities (demons), ² that come by the hypocrisy of those who speak falsely since their own consciences have been seared. ³ They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and recognize the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

2 Timothy 2:16-18

¹⁶ Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some.

Paul's Guidance for Timothy in Difficult Times

The setting is after the times described in Acts. Paul has been in Rome. Perhaps traveled to Spain. Now back in the area of Greece and Asia Minor, as he never expected. Dealing with problems in Crete & Ephesus in perhaps 66-68. Perhaps drafted by a co-worker. (1Pt 5:12).

Paul has a rich relationship with Timothy, beginning in Lystra about 20 yrs earlier, 1st journey. Mother Eunice, grandmother Lois converted. Timothy, with gift, joins Paul on 2nd journey. Timothy, Paul's emissary to Macedonia and Corinth. Dealing with persecution, challenges.

The Engagement of Faith versus the Withdrawal of Speculation

Things have changed. Nero is emperor. After fire in Rome. Beginning of execution of Christians. Many discouraged, withdrawing (Heb 12:4, 12). Paul had experienced the arbitrary violence of Roman magistrates. Now, no official ban, but clear permission to harass and execute.

It's important to grasp the effect of the threat of execution. Paul wants them to live exemplary lives serving and loving all so that opponents won't be able to say anything bad about them.

Others sought a more definite withdrawal into a kind of philosophical commune, later Gnosticism. Allegorizing the Law, a pure spark of the divine, banning marriage, purity laws, etc., a spiritual group that could never appear threatening to the Roman powers and thus no persecution.

Paul wants Timothy to call the community to love and faith without hypocrisy. Engaged in caring for and building both body and spirit. Face persecution like Paul did, but not seek it. Rather know that God is the universal God of all who seeks the salvation of all.