

## PRAYER AND WORD CONFERENCE 2021

### EXPOSITORY BIBLE STUDY ON PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

#### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Paul, having stood for the Testimony of the Lord for over 30 years, was now about to seal up that Testimony with his blood. He writes to exhort his spiritual son to take up that Testimony, and not to be ashamed of him, the prisoner of the Lord (2TIM.1:8). This is in the midst of many disappointment he was facing; many has abandoned the Testimony, for fear and for the love of this world. To quote Barne: *"The principal design of 2 Tim 1 is to exhort Timothy to steadfastness and fidelity as a Christian and a minister; and to entreat him to adhere to the truth, and live as became a Christian, in the midst of all the temptations by which he was surrounded, and while so many were turning away from the Christian faith. Timothy was young; he was exposed, like others, to trials; he could not be unaware that not a few had apostatized; he knew that his father in Christ was in bonds, and he was liable to become disheartened, or to be led astray. In these circumstances, the apostle seems to have resolved to place before him strong reasons to induce him to devote himself steadfastly to the cause of religion, and not to allow those things which might tend to alienate him from Christianity to have any effect on his mind"*

Historical evidence favor the fact that this epistle was written during Paul's second imprisonment in Rome, either at the end of AD 65 or shortly before His martyrdom on 29<sup>th</sup> June 66 AD. The letter was probably delivered by Tychicus to Timothy who was at this time serving as an itinerant missionary, overseeing the churches at Asia minor, and probably has his base in Ephesus.

To quote from Barnes again: *"if this is the last Epistle which was written by the apostle Paul before his martyrdom, then it occupies a very important place in sacred canon, and is invested with great interest. It may be regarded as the dying counsels of the most eminent of the apostles to one who had just entered on the ministerial life. We should read it with the interest with which we do the last words of the great and the good. Then we feel that every word which they utter has a weight which demands attention. We feel that, whatever a man might do at other times, he will not trifle then. We feel that, having little time to express his wishes, he will select topics that lie nearest his heart, and that he deems most important. There is no more interesting position in which we can be placed, than when we sit down at such a man's feet, and listen to his parting counsels. To a young minister of the gospel, therefore, this Epistle is invaluable; to any and every Christian, it cannot fail to be a matter of interest to listen to the last words of the great apostle of the Gentiles, and to ponder his last written testimony in favour of that religion to the promulgation of which he had devoted his talents and his life."*

We shall study this letter under the following headings:

- |                          |                                                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| STUDY 1 (CHAPTER ONE):   | THE CALL TO BEAR THE LORD'S TESTIMONY                     |
| STUDY 2 (CHAPTER TWO):   | QUALIFICATION AND DISCIPLINE TO BEAR THE LORD'S TESTIMONY |
| STUDY 3 (CHAPTER THREE): | HOLDING ON THE TESTIMONY IN PERILIOUS TIMES               |
| STUDY 4 (CHAPTER FOUR):  | HANDING ON THE TESTIMONY                                  |

**STUDY 1 (CHAPTER ONE):  
THE CALL TO BEAR THE LORD'S TESTIMONY**

**INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)**

1. a. What does it mean to be an apostle? v.1  
b. How did Paul come into his apostleship? v. 1  
c. What was his apostleship (and hence his testimony) focused on? v.1 (See also 1:10, 2:10)
2. a. Who was Timothy to Paul? v.2  
b. What is the significance of Paul's prayers for Timothy? v.2

**THANKSGIVING (1:3-5)**

3. a. What was the primary reason for which Paul thanked God? v.3 – 5  
b. In what ways did Paul show his care for Timothy? v.3  
c. What did Paul mean when he said "I serve (God) from my forefathers with a pure conscience"?  
d. What lessons can we learn about transferring the genuine faith to the next generation? v.5

**THE CALL (1:6 – 12)**

4. a. What was Paul's primary call (purpose) of writing to Timothy? v.8  
b. What gift is referred to in v.6? (See also Acts 1:4-5, 10:44-45)  
c. How important is this gift to our bearing the Lord's Testimony? v.7 – 8 (See also Jn.15:26, Acts 4:31)  
d. How can we stir this Gift (Jn.6:63, Eph. 4:30, 1Thess.5:19, Heb.10:24-25, Jude 20)
5. a. How does v.9 describe our call?  
b. What is the basis of the call? v.9  
c. What is the ultimate purpose of this call? v.10  
d. What does the apostle mean when he said "life and immortality has been brought to light through the gospel"?
6. a. Read v.11, Paul understood the definition of his call, why is this important for ministers?  
b. What are associated with this call? v.8, 12 (See also 3:8, Phil.3:10, Rev.1:9)  
c. What was Paul's assurance in the midst of all the suffering? v.12  
d. What (in your opinion) did Paul commit unto the Lord against that day? (See 4:8, Phil.3:8 -21, 2Cor.4:17 – 5:4)

**THE COMMITMENT/TRUST ON YOUR LIFE (1:13 -18)**

7. a. What is the "good thing" that was committed to Timothy? v.13, 14 (See also 2:2)  
b. What does Paul mean by "the form of sound words"? v.13  
c. How was this word (or Testimony) received? v.13  
d. How may it be kept? v.14 (see also Jn.14:26, Eph.3:16-19)
8. a. By reminding Timothy that all have forsaken him, what does Paul intend to provoke in him  
b. What do you think was the reason all forsook Paul? (See v.8, 16 comp. Mark 14:50)  
c. What should be our response when we are faced with bearing the shame associated with the testimony? v.16 – 17 (See also Gal.6:14, 2Cor.12:10, Heb. 13:13-14)

**SUMMARY**

We have been called to bear the Testimony of our Lord. The testimony is primarily to the life which Christ has brought; and to His Lordship over death (which stands to represent all the powers of the enemy). Only those who have got that life

can therefore bear the testimony of the Lord. That life is received by an exercise of genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was convinced of this sincere faith in Timothy, and therefore invites him to take on this Testimony. Since this testimony is to life, it can only be expected that the testimony be tested by death in its various forms, therefore the testimony is associated with much sufferings. To this the young apostle must not be ashamed nor intimidated, but must willingly take his part and prove the reality of the life which he has received. This is to be done by disposing himself to the fullest stirrings of the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can give him the boldness, power, love and discipline needed to bear the testimony of the Lord.

The chapter revealed how many have failed to stand through in holding this testimony. Phygellus and Hermogenes were particularly mention. The apostle seemed to say; “if any one would abandon me I couldn’t imagine it would be these two”. It was in the midst of these many failures that the apostle was calling Timothy. In light of many who have failed the Lord, we are being called today to bear His testimony, may we not be a disappointment to heaven.

## **STUDY 2 (CHAPTER TWO): DISCIPLINE AND QUALIFICATION FOR BEARING THE LORD’S TESTIMONY**

### **INTRODUCTION (2:1-2)**

1. a. What do we need most in order to bear the Lord’s Testimony? v.1 (See also 1 Cor.15:10)
- b. Why is it necessary to seek to commit this testimony to other men? v.2
- c. What kind of persons are we to commit the testimony to? v.2

### **DISCIPLINES TO BEAR THE TESTIMONY (2:3- 6)**

2. a. Point out the three categories of persons the apostle used to show the discipline expected of us. v.3, 5, 6
- b. What disciplines are generally expected of each of these groups? v.3-6, (see also 1Cor.9:24-27)
- c. What are the motives for giving themselves to such disciplines v.3 – 6
3. a. What does it imply to “endure hardness”? v.3
- b. Why is it important we give ourselves to such soldierly disciplines? v.4 (See 2cor. 10:3, Eph. 6:11-12, 1Tim. 1:18)
- c. What does it mean to be “entangled in the affairs of this world”? v.4 (See Rom.13:12-14, 1 Cor. 7:29-31, Eph. 5:3-18, Jam. 4:4, 1Jn.2:15-17)

### **THE SUBJECT OF OUR TESTIMONY (7 – 13)**

4. a. What is the main issue we are called to testify? v.8 (See 1:1, 10, Rev.1:18)
- b. Why is that such a point of grave contention? v.9 (See Matt. 28:11-15, Acts 26:6-8, 22-23, 1Cor.15:11-14)
- c. i. What should be our major concern in the midst of our suffering for this testimony? v.9 – 10 (See als 2 Cor.4:11-12, Eph.6:19-20, Phil.1:12 – 14)
- ii. What is our consolation in suffering with Christ? v.11-13 (See also Rom.8:17-18, 1Pet.4:12 – 14)
- d. i. In what way can one deny Christ? v.12-13 ( see also Mark 8:38, Heb.3:12,14)
- ii. What is the consequences of denying Christ? v.12 (Matt.10:33)

### **STAYING FOCUSED ON OUR TESTIMONY (14 – 18)**

5. a. The devil will always want to distract us from this subject, what are we to do in order to remain focused? V.14 – 16
- b. What does it mean to “rightly divide the word of truth”? v.15
- c. How will that help us to keep focus in the midst of false teachings?

6. a. Read v.14 and 16 from various translations, how are those false teachings described?
- b. What are the effects of those false teachings? V.14, 16-18
- c. What is the major issue being attacked by the false teachers? v.18 (compare with v.8)

#### **QUALIFICATION TO BEARING THE TESTIMONY (19 -26)**

7. a. What is the basic qualification for a man who will bear the testimony of the Lord? v.19 – 21 (See Exo.36:33)
- b. What must the vessel that will bear the Lord's testimony be cleansed from? v.22 – 23 (See also 2Cor. 6:14-18, 1 Tim.6:9-10)
- c. What should be the pursuit of the servant of God v.22-25
- d. What will be the result when a vessel is purged from iniquity? V.21, 25-26

#### **SUMMARY**

In bearing the Testimony of the Lord, we must draw our strength from the grace of God. Bearing the Lords Testimony also means to take responsibility for the truth that has been confirmed by many witness. We must seek to entrust it to faithful men. This will involve much discipline like a soldier, much training and obedience like an athlete and much hard work and patience like a farmer.

Our Testimony is to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and all that it implies. It is to be upheld by:

1. Precept: Our handling of the word of God; we must shun useless arguments
2. Practice: Our life must show this truth; we must depart from iniquity (which is actually the power of death.1Cor.15:56)

In these two ways we are to show ourselves approved unto God, and become a vessel unto honor; like the ark of God in the Old Testament, that bore the Testimony.

### **STUDY 3 (CHAPTER THREE): HOLDING ON THE TESTIMONY IN PERILOUS TIMES**

#### **INTRODUCTION (1-7)**

1. a. What is referred to as last days? V.1
- b. What is meant by perilous times? v.1
- c. What characterizes such times? V.1 – 7

#### **THE PERILS OF THE LAST DAYS (10 – 17)**

2. a. Discuss how the following poses difficulty for the church in holding the Lord's testimony in these last days:
  - i. Love for pleasure. v.4
  - ii. Empty Religion. v.5
  - iii. False Teachers. v.6
- b. What gives room for people to fall into the deceit of false teachers? v.6 -7
- c. Comp. v.8 with Exo. 7:10-12, discuss how Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses
- d. What generally lead men to oppose the truth?
- e. What is the fate of all such false teachers? v.9

#### **PREPARATION FOR PERILOUS TIMES**

3. a. How was Timothy prepared to face such perilous times? V. 10-11, 15 – 16.
- b. When was his preparation started? V.15 What lessons does that hold for us?
- c. Discuss how crucial it is for a minister to be prepared in each of the areas mentioned in v.10 – 11

4. a. What should we expect in the coming days as we seek to hold the Lord's Testimony? v.13 (See also 1Tim.4:1 -2)
- b. What should be our attitude at such times? V.5,12,14
- c. What do we need most in order to face such perilous times, and why? V.15 – 17

### **SUMMARY**

These are perilous times; times when it is most difficult to hold unto the Lord's Testimony. If we must hold the testimony of the Lord at this times, then we must:

1. Ensure we are not caught up by the spirit of the age, especially as it has to do with our association (v.5)
2. We must follow the examples of men that has gone ahead of us, taking particular note of their teachings and emphasis, purpose, faith, endurance in suffering, etc. In order words, we must give ourselves to correct discipleship under men who are truly being the testimony of Christ.
3. Finally we must personally have a firm grip on the word of God, and continue in that which we have learnt from it, and have been assured of.

As we do, we will become men thoroughly equipped to meet the dangers in our times.

### **STUDY 4 (CHAPTER FOUR):**

#### **HANDING ON THE TESTIMONY**

#### **THE CHARGE (1-5)**

1. a. From v.1, point and discuss the three compelling issues Paul raised in giving Timothy his final charge?
- b. In his charge, what did Paul specifically ask Timothy to do? Why is this important? v.2
- c. Discuss what is expected of Timothy in preaching the word. V.2
2. a. From v.3 - 4 what was the reason Paul gave for charging Timothy to preach the word?
- b. Discuss how the issues Paul raised in v.3-4 is playing out today.
- c. How can ministers focus on preaching the word in such times as described in v.3 – 4? See V.5
3. a. What does it mean to do the work of an evangelist? v.5
- b. How can a minister make full proof of his ministry? (See 1 Tim.4:12 -16)

#### **TAKING ON THE BATON (6 – 8)**

4. a. What does Paul statement "I am now ready to be offered" imply? V. 6
- b. How will a sense of Paul departing challenge Timothy to keep this charge? v.6
- c. From v.7 what does keeping the faith involves? (See also 1 Tim. 6:12)
5. a. What encouragement do we have in v.8?
- b. What do you understand by "the crown of righteousness"? v.8
- c. How will our longing for Christ appearing help us in keeping the faith? v.8

#### **FACING LONELINES AND DESERTION (9 -18)**

6. a. Read through 9 – 18, and paint a mental picture of Paul's state, considering his age and years of labour.
- b. Putting yourself in Timothy's place, how will you feel receiving such report as given in v.9 – 12?
- c. From v.9 and 20 why was Paul requesting Timothy to come quickly? What does that tells us on the need to make ourselves available to support veterans in ministry
7. a. Why did Paul need Mark?

- b. What does v.11 tell us about Paul's passion for ministry, considering his state? See also v.17, Phil. 1:20
  - c. Even when Paul knew he was about to die, he was still asking for his books. What lessons does that hold for us?
- 8. a. Who was Demas? v.10 (See Col.4:14, Phil.24)
  - b. Why did Demas desert Paul? v.10
  - c. How can we guard against making same mistake as Demas? (Heb.10:35 – 39, 1Jn.2:15-17)
- 9. a. Paul was deeply hurt by Alexander, how did he react in v.14?
  - b. Why is his warning to Timothy in v. 15 very important?
- 10. a. What should be the attitude of ministers in the face of desertion? V. 16 -18
  - b. What do we need most as ministers especially in times of great discouragement like Paul faced? V.17

### **SALUTATION**

- 11. a. Paul reported on the state of various brethren to Timothy (see v.10-12, 19 -21), why is this important?
- b. What lessons can we draw from how Paul maintained long term relationship and partnership in ministry?
- c. Despite his state, Paul still tried to maintain fellowship with the brethren (v.21). Discuss the importance of ministers maintaining authentic fellowship
- d. What two request did Paul make for Timothy as he closed the letter, what does this tell us about our greatest need as ministers?

### **SUMMARY/CONCLUSION**

We see Paul handing on the Testimony to Timothy with definite instructions:

- 1. Preach the word: You are not called to preach yourself not your denomination, you are not an entertainer, but a preacher of the most sacred word. You may not be popular, as the majority will not be interested in what you preach. There is the grave temptation to preach something else, but we must insist on preaching the word of God.
- 2. Watch in all things; take nothing for granted, watch your life and the lives of those committed to your care.
- 3. Endure affliction.
- 4. Do the work of an evangelist; don't presume to leave it for someone else.
- 5. Fulfil your ministry, don't give room to any excuse for failing

The apostle showed him the ultimate reward ahead: The Crown of life. The testimony is unto life, the fullness of that life will be revealed to us as we hold unto the testimony to the end.

"THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH THY SPIRIT. GRACE BE WITH YOU. AMEN"