

Thursday, March 23, 2023 • Read 2Timothy 1:1–2

Questions from the Scripture text: Who wrote this letter (v1)? What is his office? Whose sent-one is he? By Whose will? In accord with what does that will operate? In Whom is this promised life? To whom is this letter written (v2)? How does Paul see him? What three things does the apostle declare to him in blessing? From what two persons do these three come?

Who were Paul and Timothy to one another, and how does that factor into Paul's charge that Timothy persevere in the ministry of the gospel? 2Timothy 1:1–2 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the apostolic foundation of a persevering ministry takes us back to Christ Himself in the gospel, because He is our life, He is our comfort, and He is our contentment.**

A Love-Letter from Christ Himself. In this letter, Paul is going to urge his beloved Timothy to persist in ministering the gospel to others, as he persists in clinging to the gospel himself. So, in v1, he reminds Timothy that as much as they know and love each other as father and son in the faith, this letter comes from an even more compelling source: Jesus Christ Himself.

Paul is writing *as an apostle of Jesus Christ*. That is to say that he writes as an emissary or ambassador of Jesus. This is something that Jesus has commissioned Paul to do not only as Man but God. From before the world began, "the will of God" has intended for Paul to have this responsibility because "the will of God" has planned to give "life in Christ Jesus." And this life has now been secured by Jesus's death and continues to be applied by Jesus's use of His gospel.

From all eternity, within the Godhead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the second person of the Trinity has been the beloved Son. God's plan of redemption has been not only to save sinful creatures, but to do so in the beloved Son, and adopting them as beloved children (cf. Eph 1:5, 5:1). Timothy is "a beloved son," but not just of Paul. For "God the Father" is the original Father, and His promise is "in Christ Jesus."

So, there is something of the reflection of Christ's own love in Paul's love for Timothy. He writes to him as "a beloved son." "Brother," "sister," etc., are not only titles but remind us of the respect and affection that those who have Christ in common should have with one another (cf. 1Tim 5:1–2).

Whenever we read the Bible or hear it taught or preached, let us remember the origin of its love and truth. The one writing to us or teaching us may be ever so dear, and may hold us ever so dear, but it is a much greater thing that it comes ultimately from Christ. It is a means by which He gives Himself to us.

Christ our life. And, of course, Christ gives Himself to us to be our life. This was the plan—to give us life. And when God announces the plan to us, it becomes a promise—"the promise of life." God has intended to give life to sinners, and now God promises that life to sinners. But this life does not come to all. It comes to specific people, because it comes in a specific way: "in Christ Jesus." It comes by "grace" (v2). This sets it over-against merit. We cannot earn this life. It is given as a gift of grace. We cannot develop this life. It must come as God's gracious work. Christ has life in Himself, and only those who rest only upon Him have that life. We must have "grace" from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ our comfort. The second thing with which the apostle greets his beloved son in the ministry is "mercy." Mercy is a gentle kindness to those who are in trouble or need. The letter will remind Timothy that the Christian life is hard, and the Christian ministry is hard. But the hardship has a solution. Mercy that is divinely powerful, because it comes from God; it comes from the Lord. Mercy that is intimately personal because it comes from "the Father" and "our" Lord.

Christ our contentment. Finally, the apostle greets his beloved son in the ministry with "peace." This is the awareness or consciousness that God is for us. Our guilt has been eliminated. We no longer live with the awareness that we are under wrath. Instead, we live with this constant awareness that God is for us. Our troubles are not troublesome, because we have peace. Christ, our God, is our life, our comfort, and our contentment.

Who on earth, that loves you, has read or taught the Bible to you? Who in heaven, Who loves you, has given you the Bible? How, then, should you receive the Word in private worship? How should you receive it in family worship or public worship? In what ways have you been trying to earn life, rather than receiving it by grace? In what troubles do you need to receive and know God's mercy? When have you most needed to come to peace with God or be aware of that peace?

Sample prayer: God, You are our Father, who has willed to adopt us as beloved children in the beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us for how we have found it so much easier to know the love of mere men like Paul than to know the love of the God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us for when we have received the Holy Bible as if it were just the words of men, rather than Your own personally addressing us. Forgive us for when we have tried to feel better about our standing with You by what we do, rather than by Your grace. Forgive us for when we have forgotten Your mercy to us in our troubles. Forgive us for when we have sought peace anywhere than from You, in our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose Name we ask these things, AMEN!

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Second Timothy chapter 1, verses 1 and 2. These are God's words. Paul. And apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. According to the promise of life. Which is in Christ Jesus. To Timothy. Loved son. Grace. Mercy and peace. From God, the Father. And Christ. Jesus, our Lord.

So far the reading of God's inspired in an errant work. So we begin second Timothy this week. And we begin a letter in which the Apostle is. Urging the young pastor. Him. He is going to leave behind not now on in Ephesus. But whom he's going to leave behind on earth.

Paul is aware that. His earthly race is coming to a close. And he's giving last instructions to His beloved son in the faith. And his beloved son in the pastor. And the basic theme of the letter. Is for Timothy to persevere. In clinging to the gospel for himself. Clinging to the words of the Christ.

Who has secured? Our internal life. The words that the Lord Jesus uses, Not only to bring us to faith in himself, but To grow us and likeness to himself. And to make us useful in this service. And not only for Timothy to, Cling to this gospel to the Lord Jesus's words.

For himself and his own. Life. But that the Teaching of the Lord Jesus. In all the scriptures, including not only the Old Testament scriptures which

Not only the Old Testament scriptures, which he has known from His babyhood but also those which are being Written by The apostles including this letter. What he has been taught by Paul.

That these scriptures would be. The center. At the core of the ministry. That he has towards Christ's saints, Christ's flock. In the church. So that's what second Timothy is about as a whole. And that helps us to put the introduction to the letter. In context. Because all of these introductions are very similar.

Sometimes, there are some unique characteristics to How he identifies himself or how he identifies Timothy, or how he greets. The one he's writing to. Having identifies himself, how he identifies? The one who's writing to and how he greets them. Sometimes there are some unique characteristics. In those that. Correspond to the theme of the letter.

So you don't have highs himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, that's Pretty standard, although It is impressive that even in a letter that he writes, To Timothy as a beloved son. He identifies himself, not as From Paul, your father in the faith. He has this wonderful relationship with Timothy.

Decades of discipling him training him for ministry, ministering with him together. Relying upon him. When he couldn't rely on others, relying upon Timothy, Remember the letter that we just finished having? Left, Timothy and Ephesus. To minister a reformation in that church. And through it all they've They've got this.

Close. Relationship in which he calls Timothy, his beloved son, but he doesn't write. As a beloved father because there's something even more compelling. There's an even stronger foundation. Upon which to address Timothy. And that is that, he's an apostle of Jesus Christ. That God who loves Timothy and became a man for him and Obeyed in his place and died on the cross suffered, God's wrath in his place atoned for his guilt.

That this God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Has sent Paul. For all of. The things that Paul has done. As an apostle throughout Timothy's life. And even now at the end of Paul's life, He's writing as this sent one. As this apostle, this emissary, this ambassador that's representative. Of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because the The relationship that Paul and Timothy have. And let you addresses him as beloved son. And you can all feel the closeness of those words. Sometimes. For you, my dear son and my dear daughter. My love. You feel the closeness of that that actually has. It's origin. In the divine fellowship within the Godhead.

God is triune Father, Son. And Holy Spirit. Existing is one God. Three persons. From all eternity and mutual affection and fellowship delight and generation. And the second person of the Trinity. He calls the Son. Just as he calls the first person, the Father of the third person, the Spirit And, When he creates us to have.

Relationships as Father and Son. And that's much more than Um, Genetic donor and genetic recipient. So that Paul and Timothy who have no genetic relationship? When he wants to express the closeness of that relationship, he says my A beloved son. In verse 2. It comes from a love that God has in himself and the love.

That God uses not only to describe that love that he has within himself. And he calls the second person. The beloved son, The love that he has out of which redemption has come And Ephesians 1. That great big sentence from verse 3, to verse 13 or 14. Um, It's three to 13.

Infusions chapter 1. One of the great statements is that he predestined us. To adoption a sense. And verse 5. And so, he'll come and you'll Be starting an application section in chapter 5 and verse 1 of Ephesians. And you say, therefore As beloved children. Be imitators of God, beloved sons.

Romans 8. When it talks about, God. For knowing and predestining and Calling Romans 8:29. He says that. He predestined us, he predestined those would be for you. He predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. First. John three says. The holds what manner of love? The Father has shown to us that we would be called the sons of God, the children of God.

It says, in verse 2, verse 2 that chapter we are, The children of God. So, Yes, Timothy is Paul's beloved son. But it has been the will of God from before the world began. That in the beloved son. Timothy would become a beloved son of God. And this is what God has designed.

For everyone, who, Is brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's how we came to be brought to faith. Is because he has loved us. His loved us. When such a way that even when his wrath, Would rightly have condemned us? It would not, it would not be unjust.

For gods to kill and consign to hell. You know, the eight billion or so people that are on The planet right now, we just don't understand. His holiness and the greatness of our sin against him. It shows us that

That we Don't get. How bad our sin is. That we

We can't comprehend.

We can't comprehend the love of god. For us to adopt us as children, because we got comprehend. The justice and wrath of god. Against our sin. Judicially, we're in the same place as the demons and the same place as the devil. When people feel like we're not quite not, we're not so bad.

We have no idea what we've done. And despising God in his holiness. But he who knew. What we would do and he whom you. The greatness of the sin and the greatness of his own rap against it. Has intended from the before the world began. To love some of those.

And adopt them is his sons. Even to the extent that the beloved son. Would suffer the wrath of god. In the place of those whom God was adopting.

The offers made to all of us, of course. Everyone who believes in the lord, jesus christ will be saved. None who trust in him will be put to shame. This will of god. Verse 1 says. Promises life. In christ, jesus. And so the plan of god when it is revealed to us.

When christ comes to the earth and when christ is proclaimed to us, The plan becomes a promise.

That those who trust in the lord, jesus christ will have life forever. And will not just have. Life forever in themselves in their own relationship with god. But life forever in christ, jesus. It participation in the life of christ as he communicates his life to us by his spirit and participation, in the sonship of christ that we would be made joint heirs with the lord jesus.

And one of the things that Paul is going to be telling timothy in this letter, Is that the sufferings that he must suffer as a believer and as a minister or does someone who desires to live a godly life in christ jesus? Are things that he has in christ, and with christ.

So that for the believer, even his sufferings become sweetened. Because it is in jesus that we have the promise of life. So, it's not just What people used to say, pie in the sky by and by If i just get through it, then i'll get to have life. But i have christ jesus now already.

And the difficulty i have and the labor. And it's difficulty and the pain and persecution accusation and all the troubles i have of every kind I have them. In union with jesus,

And so it's this god and this christ. Has sent paul. To write to Timothy. You can imagine Timothy. And how precious the letter was to him. That it was his beloved paul's last letter. That he would write 10. And even, by the way, he starts the letter, Paul is saying oh the letter.

This precious for a much greater reason than that. It's a letter from our beloved christ. From our beloved god.

Has adopted us as his beloved children.

So that's what we Learn from the way paul describes himself, and The way paul describes. The one to whom he is writing in this case, it's just the one. To Timothy of beloved son. When we learned that god uses our relationships with one another, Paul doesn't. Um, Doesn't erase or ignore the relationship that he has with Timothy.

It's been, it's part of the plan of god. There's great affection between him and the churches. He uses this language even with the Corinthians Or maybe we should say especially with the Corinthians when he's bleeding with them. And those two letters. Like, Like a father pleading. With and grieving over it's wayward children.

Earnestly longing. That they would turn from their sin. You earnestly desiring. But they would be recovered. And we saw that. And these relationships. Are throughout the church, you remember? Timothy is an example to the church was supposed to treat. The older men in the church like fathers. Older women in the church like mothers.

The young man younger. Women my brothers and sisters with all. Purity. And so these relationships that we have in the church, they're designed by god to be close. They're designed by god to be used. In his bringing us to himself and growing us in christ. And then we learn also from the greeting grace, mercy and peace.

From god, the father and christ jesus. Our lord. Grace, because christ is our life. We have no. Favor from god. Apart from him, we have no blessing. Or blessedness apart from him. We have no strength in ourself apart from him. The word grace.

The word grace reminds us that The life that we have, the blessedness that we have the strength that we have, it is not something that we earn. By merit. It is something that is given as a gift. It's a grace mercy. Mercy, is something that god gives to. The one who is in great need great pain.

And so, there is Comfort. For us. From god, the father and christ jesus. Our lord. In christ, god. Uh, gives us not just life and strength. But comfort. Compassion. Help. And our trouble. Mercy. And then the last place. Peace. That awareness that god is for us that we've been reconciled to him.

That his wrath has no longer against us. Peace, that is Bought at the price of the cross. It's not just a Um, Quiet. Lack of, Troubles or difficulties, or Disruptions. It is having. God himself. Before us and having that clear conscience before him. Knowing that. Our sin has been atoned for.

And the relationship with him is restored. That the repentance even. Our hating sin and turning from it has been a gift from him because we have peace with him through christ. That which Enables us to. To know that we're beloved children. Call upon his name with hope and confidence and insurance.

These are the things that Timothy needs. Christ is his life christ as his comfort and then Very difficult to. Describe what this piece is, but By the way, i think gonna say it is. Christ is his contentment before, god. That he can be content before god. In the lord jesus christ and not be distressed.

Before god. Which is amazing to think about. When you think about the wrath that we were talking about earlier, That someone who, Justly deserves that wrath

but instead, And the lord jesus christ. Be content before. God have peace. From god, and In the presence of god. So, paul is Getting Timothy ready.

To be urged to persevere. In the gospel for himself. And in ministering that gospel as the core. Of his ministry to others. Let's pray our father in heaven. We thank you that You have given us christ himself and In christ, you have given us yourself. That we might be your adopted and beloved children.

We pray that your spirit would continue to Apply to our hearts. Flush out in our minds. To grip us at the reality. That christ is our life. That christ is Our comfort that christ is Are contentment. Grant lord. That this not just be something that we know as abstract theology But as the reality out of which we live in fellowship with you, All our days in this world, And then perfectly.

So And that, which is to come. We ask it in jesus name, amen.