

Thursday, March 30, 2023 ▫ Read 2Timothy 1:3–5

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does the apostle thank (v3)? How does the apostle serve Him? Like whom else? In what activity does he remember Timothy? How frequently does he do this? At what times? For what does he especially pray (v4)? What memory fuels this desire? What does he anticipate happening when he does see him? What memory fuels both the desire and the thanksgiving (v5)? In whom had this faith previously dwelt? Of what is Paul persuaded?

What thanksgivings, desires, and joys should fill believers' prayers for each other? 2Timothy 1:3–5 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers are thankful for one another's faith, desiring to see one another's face, and rejoicing over one another's fellowship.**

Thankful for each other's faith. Paul has many reasons to be thankful for Timothy. Paul serves God with a pure conscience that was a gift from God. Paul's forefathers' good service was a gift from God. And now Timothy, his son in the faith (cf. v2a), is serving God with a pure conscience that is a gift from God. Remembering Timothy's place in this lineage of faithfulness is cause for thanksgiving!

And there has been a lineage of faith, as well. Although Timothy's father was a Greek whose faith is not mentioned here, his grandmother Lois was a believer, and then his mother Eunice. And theirs was the same "unpretended faith" that is now in Timothy. Here is evidence not only of God's historically consistent mercy but also covenantally faithful mercy.

There is nothing in this world that is so marvelous a display of the mercy of God as a believer in Christ, serving Christ faithfully. And yet we are such an unthankful people that it is possible for us to be forgetful of believers altogether, or even to remember them but *still not be thankful*. Paul's conscientious service of God, however, expressed itself in constant, regular prayer, with thanksgiving.

Believers ought to be those who pray for one another. And this constant praying for one another should include especially thankfulness for the goodness of the God Who has saved them and uses them.

Desiring to see one another's face. One of the things that the Lord has used to keep Paul constant in prayer for Timothy has been his "greatly desiring" to see Timothy. He remembers the tears on Timothy's face when last they parted, and he desires to refresh his memory with one in which that face was last joyous.

Paul knows that Timothy even now weeps for the absence and hardship that has come to his mentor. So, he is always remembering to pray for Timothy's joy—and especially the opportunity to be an instrument of that joy when he sees him again. "Introversion" is something that believers need to get over in order to conform to the mind of Christ in believers. We ought to desire to see each other in order to cheer each other.

Rejoicing over one another's fellowship. It isn't only Timothy who will be full of joy. Paul unashamedly says "I may be filled with joy" in v4. It's not selfish to aim at true joy. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him (cf. Heb 12:2). And He desires that we might have His joy (cf. Jn 15:11, 16:24, 17:13; 1Jn 1:4). Well, part of imitating Christ's own joy is rejoicing in the fellowship that we have with one another (cf. Jn 17:24; 2Jn v12). Believers ought to rejoice in one another's fellowship!

Whom has the Lord brought into your circle and lineage of His work in your life and through your life? What part does thanksgiving for them have in your prayers? For whom, especially, ought you to be praying more? How do you aim at others' joy? What pleasure do you take in seeing others?

Sample prayer: Father, thank You for Your great mercy from one generation to the next of servants. From the fathers, to Paul, to Timothy, to us, serving You with a pure conscience is a gift for which You are worthy of praise. And as You pass the faith along from grand parent to parent to child, You show Yourself faithful. Forgive us for how infrequent we are in thanking You. Forgive us for being infrequent and irregular in prayer for one another. Forgive us for how little we desire to see each other and gladden each other. But You have sent Christ to bring us into Your family. And He rejoices to gather us to Himself. For His sake, forgive us, and make our joys to imitate His joy, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

ARP16A "Keep Me, O God" or TPH409 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Timothy 1 verses three through five, these are God's words. I thank god whom i serve with a pure conscience as my forefathers did. As without ceasing, i remember you in my prayers night and day. Greatly desiring to see you being mindful of your tears. That i may be filled with joy.

When i call to remembrance the genuine faith that has in you. Which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois? And your mother Eunice. And i am persuaded. Is in you. Also. So far the reading of gods inspired and And then tort So paul is thankful for Timothy. Remembers, Timothy knight and day in prayer.

He has Good reason in his recent memory of timothy, As he remembers Timothy to god. To be praying for him. But whenever he prays for him, he's praying to a

god who is working in Timothy and this makes him very thankful. And so here are two things that we are reminded to do with other christians and especially with those christians.

Uh, with whom, the lord has intersected his work, in our lives, and his work in their lives. And those two things to do is to remember them. And to remember them in prayer and to give, thanks for them. We know that we Art to give, thanks for them. Because god his goodness.

Is there only hope and who's goodness has already begun in them. Is has done. So. As part of his work that has been going ever since he's Created man. And redeemed, man. And so he says, i thank god who my serve with a pure conscience as my father's did.

And then there's the Interlude about prayer. And then he comes to the Um, to the Finishing of the idea of why he thinks god Um, When he remembers Timothy in prayer and that is, when i called to remembrance The genuine faith that is in you. Which dwelt first in your grandmother, lois and your mother Eunice.

And i am persuaded is in. You also. And there's two lines of thought here about the place that Timothy's faith is genuine faith. That is intimacy has in the work of god and the first isn't a line that goes from the fathers to paul. Two Timothy. Uh, you remember, he referred to Timothy in verse 2 as a beloved son.

And then he says, He thanks god. That's timothy has now joined the family business as it were. Because there are fathers that paul has had in the ministry. He says, whom i serve with a pure conscience as my forefathers did. Now, of course, paul calls himself, the chief of sinners, he remembers where he was and, and what he was like, when the lord jesus arrested him from his former life, and resurrected him to give him spiritual life, and called him to this ministry.

And of course, when we read even about Adam, the first of our fathers, who believed in the gospel and called his wife eve, out of that faith in the promised son that would come from his wife, who is now the mother, Of the living or whether we are thinking about to knowa or Abram and then abraham, Isaac and jacob and so forth.

That all of these who came to serve god, with a pure conscience, did not begin that way. But grace. Found them, god. God laid hold of them by grace and gave them spiritual life and called them to be his servants and it was by god's grace that he has done that for any of them.

And now it's by god's grace that paul serves him with a pure conscience, and in this letter, he's going to be calling Timothy to serve god with a pure conscience. And yet he already sees god at working Timothy. Enabling him to have this pure conscience. And growing him in grace, and which he will serve.

So that's one reason to thank god for Timothy. Because even that good, which he now sees in Timothy is not from Timothy. It is from god. It was in the fathers but it wasn't from the fathers. It was from god in the fathers. It's in paul, but it certainly was not from paul.

And so, as he thinks about, As he remembers. What a believer is this great miracle, this great display of the power and mercy. Of god. In which he, in which the lord is acting throughout history, He gives thanks for timothy. And so god has this this pattern in in redemption and in especially those who he calls to service in his church which is everyone to some extent.

But of course, When paul was talking about himself and Timothy, he's He's talking to about that special call of the gospel minister. Uh, but there's not only the, the pattern of god's powerful working to redeem those whom he uses as ministers in the church servants in the church. But there's also that covenantal faithfulness of god.

Who says, i will be gods to you and to your children after you. And he had said it to Eunice. When he brought her to faith and he had before, Eunice said it to lowest. Uh, when he had brought her to faith, And so lois. Um, That comes to faith and Um, Unison.

Perhaps. This is after Eunice has already married. And because Eunice gets married off. Uh, to a greek unbeliever and probably that's before she believes. Although believers, do make, Uh, make mistakes like that costly. Uh, mistakes. And yet here was a godly christian grandma. And her daughter. A christian single mom, not an actual single mom.

But a single mom as far as christianity goes. And the discipling of her son. And they trusted their savior who loved them and they trusted their savior who not only had saved their souls. But deals. With us in a covenantal way and treats our children, even if just one of the parents is converted.

He treats the children as if both of the parents were converted, And he says in first corinthians 7. That the The unbelieving husband or wife is sanctified by the other so that the children will be called. Holy And every covenant child of just one believing parent is as holy as set up our to god as if both parents were christians.

So great, just the covenant faithfulness of god and you Of course also encourages in the context and you don't know whether god is going to save your spouse through you too. And so, so your god's covenantal dealings with this dear grandma. And the steer mom. Without a christian grandfather or or father or husband.

In the home. And god has kept his covenant promise. He's produced in their grandson and their son. The faith. That was first in them. And so when, when paul thinks about timothy and what god has been doing in Timothy's family and what god has been doing in his church and raising up for her, those ministers, whom he redeems throughout the ages.

And now, paul is inserted into that line, that includes people like Joseph and Moses and Daniel and, and paul gets to be in there and then he thinks about his son in the fifth Timothy, and Timothy gets to be in there and what a great mercy, it is. Uh, we should be amazed that god would call me.

It would call your father to. Join that line and to see that. His entirely the grace of god, isn't it? But how consistent and faithful? Is god and his mercy that he keeps calling ministers and we should pray for him to raise up more of them. That he would redeem.

Boys by grace like he redeemed Timothy. Whom he is particularly calling to the ministry of the gospel. And that he would sanctify them and work on them by his spirit to To give them this desire not just to serve god and go through the motions. But to serve god with the pure conscience.

So be thankful to god. For this great continuity of his mercy, to send ministers of the gospel. Throughout history and we'd be thankful to God for every time we see a covenant child being brought to faith and we say yeah, he did set apart that child as holy By putting that child in a christian household and he has kept his

his covenant promises and bringing that child to faith.

We give thanks This convicts us, i think, because Very often we aren't. We don't remember one another much at all. Let alone remember one another with thanksgiving. And then, Remember one another with prayer. And one of the things that is driving him to remember, Timothy in prayer. Is the memory of the last time he saw Timothy.

Because the last time he saw Timothy Timothy, his face was wet. Not with rain. Not because he had just had a shower or a bath. But last time he saw Timothy Timothy's face was wet with tears. He says greatly desiring to see you being mindful. Of your tears. And so he remembers how sad Timothy was that he wasn't going to get to see Paul for a while.

And he knows that Timothy's love for paul especially now that paul is in chains and paul is Is getting close to dying. Like he says, in this letter That. That this makes it even harder on Timothy. And some of the things he says in the letter, Show us that he knows that Timothy is suffering in the ministry.

He is being attacked and he's having difficulty. And so paul, this, this old apostle, To his. Um, Well, the the minister whom he has most mentored, and to whom, he is closest, to remembers his tears. And every time that that flash of the memory, Of the tears on Timothy's.

Faith comes into his mind. He prays to god. Oh lord comfort Timothy o, lord strengthen him. And he's writing a letter by the by the the inspiration, the carrying of the holy spirit that will Comfort him and turn him back to christ. Give him confidence in the gospel. Remind him.

That the scriptures have everything in them that he needs to be equipped for every good work. And so, he praise For Timothy's joy. Any labors for Timothy's joy and in the ministry? And he also can't wait to see Timothy. He's looking forward to seeing him. And to see, To replace that most recent image of the Of the tier stained grieved face.

Uh, with the image of The the sun as it were to his father. Delighting to see him again, rejoicing to see him again. That we should pray for and work for and desire. To be used to bring our brothers and sisters joy. Especially the ones with whom. The lord has most intersected our life.

Which right now, for all of you. Special means one another. That you'd be thankful to god for each of your brothers and sisters in this home. That you would remember one another in prayer. You'll find it much more difficult to be crossed with one another in your reactions. If you're constantly lifting up your hearts to god in prayer from one another's, joy.

And the way you help one another in biblical things. Will be much improved. If in your heart you're really aiming at your brother, That your brother's joy or your sister's joy? When you do that, helping And so we can learn much here from what it looks like when the spirit increases genuine love and recognition of what god is doing.

So that out of love for god and love for neighbor and especially now love for brother. Uh, we would be thankful to god for his work, and then desiring to participate in that work desiring. With the similar, desire of jesus who came that his joy might be in us, and who spoke that his joy might be in us.

And that we might have our joy fulfilled. Indeed. Not only should we. Uh, desire and pray and labor for. Our brothers, joy. But we should ourselves. Should delight to see one another, this can be a difficult thing, especially if you if we have that weakness of personality called introversion, Extroverted or introverted or just words that we use to recognize that.

That in our finite and fallen state, each of us has strengths and weaknesses. And there are strengths that belong to each. To each of them. But one of the weaknesses of introversion, as we find it hard sometimes, To consider it. Delightful as we anticipate seeing people, And yet, the bible teaches us that with believers, We ought to have a such a view of god and his work in them, in such a view of our participation in his work, in their lives, and their participation and is working our lives.

That, that will overrule. Are natural introversion. No, it doesn't mean it's not exhausting. After all, we're still finite. We still do the sleep for a third of your life to survive. The other two thirds thing. But we should. Learn to delight. And seeing believers. To rejoice at the site of their face.

And the lord conforming us. To christ more and more, we will. It's christ who longs for the presence of his bride. That's christ to. Who says in the song of songs over and over again, come away with me. It's christ to praise to his father. I desire that those whom you have given me, Would be with me where i am.

To see me. And as the desire of christ and the delight of christ, And seeing those who are his is more produced than us. The more, we will delight to see one another. Now, this is something that, of course, Paul would have been way ahead of timothy, and it's something we grow in.

It's not something that gets fixed by hearing it once. But it is something that Uh, that the lord had seasoned and matured the old apostle that And it's something that he uses his word. As we worship him in reading and hearing independence upon his spirit who conforms us to christ that he grows us in as well.

So let's ask him to do that. Let's pray.

Father, how Far, we have to go in loving, you and being thankful to you and seeing The faithfulness of your work and your church ministry of the gospel through history, your covenant faithfulness and families. Well, lord. We ask that our covenant theology would not Just be a point on which we know ourselves to be Um, closer to your word and how we think than others?

But that we would truly think this way. And In a way that affects how we Uh, think about and feel towards you and remember and pray for rejoice over give thanks to you. For what you are doing in. Um, The children. From christian homes. And we pray. Lord that Uh, that you would make our hearts full of thankfulness to you.

And that you would give us a desire to be used by you. In your work and one another's lives. And for one another's joy. Pray, especially for What we were thinking about as far as how we relate to one another, in the home that you're you're spirit. Would use this portion of your word and Um, And would work on our hearts towards one.

Another. And that it would come out in the way we speak to and look at and interact. We want another You pray, lord that you would make us. Delight to see

one another. That we would. Be conformed to the mind and heart of christ in those things as well.

Thank you for doing this for paul. Thank you for doing it for Timothy. Thank you for recording. Yet in this letter and thank you that you have done it then. Are still doing it now. In believers in saints, like we are. Whom you have redeemed entirely by your grace.

And so we give you thanks and we ask you for these things in jesus name. Amen.