

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY  
"The 'I's' Have It With Paul"  
2 Timothy 1:11, 12

Introduction

1. The "Gospel" is a glorious truth with Paul. For him there is nothing which thrills his soul more. He is committed to it in every way. He is bold enough to call it "my Gospel" (Rom. 2:16).
2. It is this same Gospel about which he has written to Timothy. The young preacher had espoused it (v. 5). He was asked to be unashamed of it in anywise (v. 8). This is the blessed Gospel which saves, calls, and works (vv. 9, 10).
3. This "Gospel" is still Paul's theme. He has something to say about it in personal relationship. Listen:-
  1. APPOINTED to it. v. 11.

The verb used here is one which means to "put or place." In Romans it is recorded that Paul is "separate" to the Gospel. Both are true. This verb is a strong one and used in a variety of circumstances (cf. Acts 13:47; 20:28; 1 Cor. 12:28). Being a passive aorist, the verb is surely a glorious witness to the activity of God in Paul. The text marks out three appointments:

a. Preacher. The noun here means one who brings good tidings. This is indeed the function of a true preacher. It is probably the same as an ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20). The emphasis is on a public aspect of his appointment. It means he is a true herald of Christ. Preachers must watch that they do not clutter up their preaching, but stick to the Gospel!

b. Apostle. Since a divine appointment is involved, it is well to understand this word in both its technical and non-technical sense. The former means that Paul was given an official position in the church (1 Cor. 15:9, 10); the latter marks him out as one sent from God with a message. This is the official and peripatetic aspect of his appointment.

c. Teacher. This gift is private. It relates to a select group of persons. There were teachers in the local church (Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:28, 29). Although some MSS do not include the term "Gentile," it is certain that Paul was indeed one teacher for them (Acts 15; Gal. 2).

This shows that God makes a difference between Jews and Gentiles. He also distinguishes between these two groups and the Church (1 Cor. 10:32). This is good dispensationalism!

2. SUFFERED for it.

There is a price to pay for the Gospel. Not to be saved, but for identification with it! When you become spiritually comfortable, turn and see what Paul suffered for the Gospel (2 Cor. 11:28-28). All out Christian service involves a price. Whatever is meant by "these things" is surely included in the Corinthian passage. Those who minimize this aspect of the Gospel just do not understand the claims of the Cross!

3. UNASHAMED of it.

The suffering price of the Gospel did not cause shame with Paul. There were reasons for this. Here they are:-

a. He believed. The verb "know" connotes innate knowledge. Paul truly knew the Lord. But this is in connection with his faith. The verb "believe" is perfect and denotes a settled conviction. We don't always know what, when, where, etc., but we do know WHOM! This is an essential supreme knowledge.

b. He was persuaded. In some things we can have different opinions, but in others "no!" Revelation is absolute and allows no freedom! In these free and easy days, it is often a crime against good taste to be dogmatic. But dogmatism has a tonic quality about it (Gal. 1:8). Paul had it. He uses the perfect passive form of the verb to show his utter conviction concerning God's keeping power. The word "able" denotes "power" (cf. Luke 1:49; Acts 25:5; 1 Cor. 1:26). The verb "keep" means to keep sure like a military guard! Hallelujah.

c. He had committed. In the greek this is really a noun and means "deposit." Paul had made a deposit with God. Oh, what a restful steady thought this was to him. The deposit would be kept till the rapture or "that day." Paul lived but was looking for the return of our Lord. This alone is our joy, inspiration, and support. Oh, the rapture of the forward look!

Conclusion Paul's repeated use of "I" in this section shows his utter conviction before God. We ought to be as dogmatic! Are you? God grant that you will be!