

## THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

### "Letter to Timothy"

2 Timothy 1:1, 2

#### Introduction

1. Here is one of the more personal letters of Paul. It is remarkably less official. Things had taken a turn for the worse since his first imprisonment. Erstwhile associates in Asia had turned from him (1:15). Faithless Demas had become worldly (4:10). Grievous times were ahead (3:1) and the executioner's sword was already bending over him (4:6).
2. Yet amidst all of this, there is a calm with which Paul wrote. He brought a sense of triumph to encourage his younger fellow-missionary. Paul was no Stoic. He wrote about the Lord's presence rather than grim determination. And how Timothy needed it. He was young (1 Tim. 4:11). He was sick (1 Tim. 5:23). He was shy (1 Cor. 16:10). The Lord is just the same to us today! Let us live unto Him, no matter how great the trial!
3. Right from the beginning, Paul provides some glorious words of confidence. Read them for your own spiritual delight. This is Paul's salutation to Timothy: -

#### 1. Paul's POSITION v. 1.

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ"

The use of the term "apostle" suggests that the letter is at once official, albeit private (cf. 1 Tim. 1:1). An apostle Paul was by divine appointment (1 Cor. 15:7-10). He could not have fulfilled the requirements (Acts 1:21, 22), but God by His own fiat declared Paul to be an apostle! What a high order he held! The connection was "Jesus Christ." What to God we had men in our ranks today who knew the thrill of such an apostleship. True, it could not be official like Paul's, but it could be spiritual. It would then be the same as a "servant of God."

#### 2. Paul's CONVICTION v. 2

"by the will of God"

Earlier he had written that this appointment as an apostle was by "commandment" (1 Tim. 1:1). In either

case, it was of God and a point not to be forgotten! It shows that the source of the apostleship is God. It was His blessed will. Paul knew the reality of this will of God in his life right from the beginning (cf. Acts 9:15; Gal. 1:1, 12, 15). Such a conviction must be the experience of every servant of God today. Without it, there will be no steadfastness and no counteractive power against self-glorification.

### 3. Paul's PERSUASION v. 1.

"according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus."

The Greek preposition employed here should be rendered "with a view to" hence "with a view to the fulfilling of the promise of life." It was the divine counsel that life, which is in Christ Jesus, should be the portion of the believer. The life is probably more life ministered and experienced in the believer than life as proclaimed through the Gospel. Interestingly, the order for the name of our Lord is changed here over that first mentioned in the verse. There it was "Jesus Christ" giving support to what He was on earth and ending up in heaven. Here it is just the opposite, "Christ Jesus," pointing to Him as from heaven and coming to earth. This is not mere observation, but true Christian doctrine. The apostleship of Paul was connected with this kind of life arrangement.

### 4. Paul's CONSIDERATION v. 2.

The first epistle speaks of Timothy's dependability for there he is a "true son" (1:1). Here, however Paul expresses his deep feelings for Timothy--"beloved child." The use of the Greek term for choice love must not be overlooked. Timothy is one "born" by Paul, pointing to his birth in Christ through the witness of Paul. There were deep feelings between Paul and Timothy. This is the sort of relationship one longs for in all of God's work! It is no wonder that he commends "grace, mercy, and peace" upon him. The use of the single preposition "from" shows the absolute unity between the Father and the Son. Blessed be God for Paul who cannot resist noting that "Christ Jesus" is "our Lord."

Conclusion A letter with such a beginning is enhanced only as we enter into its glorious truths. So be it!