

LIVING FEARLESSLY IN A FALLEN WORLD

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2 Timothy 1:1-7

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2 Timothy - PAUL'S LAST LETTER

Circumstances: a prisoner of Nero, in a Roman dungeon, aware of his likely sentence (death)

Outlook: joyful, hopeful, full of encouragement, using every opportunity to share the Gospel

contrast with The Teacher of Ecclesiastes

Remember the gift of FAITH (vs 5)

"Faith has a good memory and can tell the Christian many stories of God's past mercies." (paraphrase of William Gurnall)

Remember the gift of SERVICE (vs 6)

Fan into flame (stir up) the gift of God

Examples: coal furnace; stoking a campfire

The danger of inertia (loss of power)

Why remember?

1. Remembering encourages the heart with JOY
2. Remembering fills us with HOPE

"Count your blessings, see what God has done."

3. Remembering exhorts us to greater SERVICE

Develop the **depth** of your relationship with Christ and let Him determine the **breadth** of ministry.

Remember the gift of **POWER, LOVE, and a SOUND MIND** (connecting verses 2 and 7)

The Connection between GRACE and POWER

GRACE:

1. Unmerited FAVOR
2. **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**
3. **POWER** to act in accordance with God's Will

POWER: ability and strength, strength that is under control

The Connection between MERCY and LOVE

MERCY: the action that sees the need

LOVE: seeking God's highest and best for the person

The Connection between PEACE and SOUND MIND

PEACE: the peace of God that passes all understanding and peace with God (assurance of relationship)

SOUND MIND: thinking clearly when all around is chaos

"If I have observed anything by experience, it is this: a man may take the measure of his growth and decay in grace according to his thoughts and meditations upon the Person of Christ, and...His Love." (Audey Shepard)

Remember HIM, who is ABLE (verse 12)

QUESTIONS:

In what ways are you impacting others through testimonies of God's faithfulness and prayer?

When you are in positions of leadership, how are you leading boldly, and not with fear?