

Glen Park Gospel Church Inc.
Worship Service for 19th July 2020

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16&17.

Hymn B 21 Now thank we all our God

1. Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms, Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God, Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God, The Father now be given,
The Son and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was is now, And shall be evermore.

At this point we bring our prayer to God as a fellowship of His people. We invite you to make your own prayer. Please divide your prayer into three parts. Having begun in praise to God for His being. Tell Him of your thanks and admiration. Pray for your Church family and its ministries. Pray for a selection of missionaries. Joan keeps us well supplied with mission letters, or for a quick reference use the prayer pages of Green leaf for this week. Third pray for your own family, for need and confession of failings and thanksgiving for His love and forgiveness. Finish with prayers of confession and intercession for our nation, and its present stresses and needs.

C S Lewis tells us that If someone treads on our toes, that is a sin against us we must be ready to forgive them. If we tread on someone's toes that is a sin against them and we need to confess it and ask for forgiveness. We then need to ask God's forgiveness because we have also by our clumsiness broken His moral code in injuring them. This is an aspect we often forget in our prayers. Then we can sing the next hymn.

Turn the page . . .

Hymn B 384 I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus

- 1 I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only thee;
Trusting thee for full salvation, Great and free.
- 2 I am trusting thee for pardon; At thy feet I bow,
For thy grace and tender mercy, Trusting now,
- 3 I am trusting thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;
Trusting thee to make me holy By thy blood,
- 4 I am trusting thee to guide me; Thou alone shall lead,
Ev-'ry day and hour supplying All my need.
- 5 I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall;
I am trusting thee for ever, And for all.

A message on:

Zeal, Courage and Steadfastness in the Christian Life -

2 Timothy:1-14

The days in which we are living are unprecedented in the experience of many of us. It is not only Covid19 but also there is a change in the way we think becoming evident because in the echelons of power and in the streets. Wrong values lead to wrong thinking and wrong thinking leads to unconscionable and bizarre actions. More than ever this country and its people need a true gospel of Jesus Christ.

With these few comments to start and direct our thinking this morning here are a few thoughts on 2 Timothy 1. As you work your way through, ask and answer the question, "How do I know that I have my thinking aright?"

Historical background.

This was probably one of the last letters Paul ever wrote. He was in prison, a dank and fetid dungeon called the Sepulchre because prisoners there were often eaten alive by rats. In a few years things had turned bitter hard for Christians as Nero set fire to Rome and then blamed them. As a leader, Paul was a known target. He was arrested, probably in Troas, in Turkey and transported to Rome so hurriedly that he left behind his warm winter clothing. He had recently been tried on another charge once and was acquitted. Now as conditions quickly hardened he had no one to help him in his defence. Many of his fearful companions deserted him. He expected to be soon sentenced and executed. Now he is handing over the leadership of the churches to his successors.

Thus we read:

"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who

have loved his appearing. From 2 Timothy 4:5-8

I have reached the end, but you Timothy, have it all before you. You need the resources to see you through the difficult days ahead. Methods and technique are one thing, but without the inner resources of the soul you will not last the distance. Let me encourage you with three thoughts. First, There is zeal to walk in the way of the Lord and to lead others to share in it. Secondly, going along with that because the opposition is quickly mounting against us, courage and the incentive to it in such a day is something we all need. The third of these thoughts, Steadfastness and the ongoing incentive when things get tough.

1. Zeal and the incentive to it v6. Something we have.

What hidden resource did Timothy already possess?

:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

William Sangster, when he was a pastor of the Methodist church in Scarborough, had an eccentric member who tried to be a zealous Christian. Unfortunately, the man was mentally deficient and usually did the wrong thing. While working as a barber he lathered up a customer for a shave, came at him with the poised razor, and asked, "Are you prepared to meet your God?" The frightened man fled with the lather still on his face. How do I know my zeal is any better than his? What simple test did Jesus give us?

The ministry of the laying on of hands is a rite that every God ordained Christian Church should embrace through its eldership and practice. It is not a magical rite. It is a recognition dependance upon the The Holy Spirit in the ministry of witness. Look again at our text. Timothy did not receive this endowment because he was a pastor taking on a new charge, but because he was a man of God being obedient to the command to minister God's word.

Look up these references Acts 8:17-18 & 19:6, 1 Timothy 4:14 and Hebrews 6:2.!

:7 For God gave (when He gave the Holy Spirit to us at conversion) us not a spirit of fear,(not just you Timothy, but all of His children) but of power (for our self - capability in testing situations and tasks) and love (for others - motivation to act in the genuine best interests of another) and self control. (moderation, soundness of mind, - that is self control, or the ability to put things into balance³)

Halford Lucock says, "I was impressed several years ago when I read that Eugene Ormandy dislocated a shoulder while directing the Philadelphia Orchestra! I do not know what they were playing, but he was giving all of himself to it! And I have asked myself sadly, 'Did I ever dislocate anything?'"²

2. Courage and the incentive to it v12. Something we all need.

I am not ashamed v12 (Ashamed: 1. Abashed or put to confusion; disconcerted. 2. Reluctant through fear of shame to do something.³)

What are people ashamed of?

1. The testimony of the Lord Jesus. Or of Fellow Christians who are openly living for Jesus Christ. Here is a story I found in an old magazine. "Ashamed of you mother? I owe everything to you." A widowed single mother in Georgia, USA, took in washing to support herself and her son, who was very bright and worked his way to the top of College. Thus it fell to him to give the valedictory speech that year.

"Why are you not getting ready mother?" "I am not going. I have nothing nice to wear, only this faded dress. All the grand people will be there. You will be ashamed of me!" "Ashamed of you Mother? I owe everything to you. If you do not go, I will not go."

He insisted. She finally agreed. Together they made the most of her attire. Then with her hand on his arm he escorted her down the street to the auditorium to the seats reserved for them, amid the grandees with their silks and elegance. Then he took his place on the platform and delivered his address on behalf of the students. He received much applause and was presented with his diploma and a gold medal for being dux of the school. No sooner had he received it than he marched down into the auditorium and pinned it onto his mother's dress. "There, Mother, that is for you. You earned it.

Don't be ashamed, be courageous

1 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

There are three examples in our text, v15-18, two probably back in Troas where Paul was arrested. Phu-gel'los (means, 'run away') & Her-mog-en'ace (means, 'born of, or belonging to Hermes' Gr. for Mercury their pagan god.) Then there was Onesiphorus whose name means 'profit bringer'. Paul's recommendation is enough.

vv16-18 "May the Lord show mercy to the household of On-es-iph'or-us, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me—the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

The suggestion from the wording is that this is an eulogy, and that his service to a condemned man cost him his life. And another reference, 2 Timothy 4:19, seems to confirm it, but not positively.

An aged lady was asked by her pastor, "Mary are you afraid to die?" "I do not expect to die," she answered. "Do you mean that you are trusting Jesus and He has taken away your fear?" "No sir, I am not going to die." "Why should you be exempt?" "Sir, you do not seem to understand. When Jesus was crucified, I was crucified. When Jesus died I died in Him. When He was raised, I was raised. Death is behind me. I shall only sleep in Jesus!" On the tombs of 1st century Christians is often inscribed their confident testimony, "Asleep in Christ."

Until that day v12 What day? I suggest that v10 is the key The day of 'immortality', more properly 'incorruption', the day when this corruptible is raised incorruptible. The day of His appearing.

3. Steadfastness and the incentive to it v14. Something for us to Exhibit

Timothy was told to guard what he had entrusted to him by the Lord. With what was he entrusted? Paul is not explicit. Obviously Timothy knew Paul's thinking very well. Verse 13 offers an obvious answer. But is it the object to which Paul referred? Think it through. Don't go for the easy answer!

The form of truth however is very important. It is easy to think that we know it all, only to make shipwreck of faith, ours or that of someone else. Very many people get it wrong to their sorrow and some other's loss.

The well respected late A W Tozer wrote:

It would be impossible to over emphasise the importance of sound doctrine in the life of a Christian.

Right thinking about spiritual matters is imperative if we would have right living. As men do not gather grapes of thorns nor figs of thistles, so sound character does not grow out of unsound teaching.

Here is another thought:

2 Timothy 1:13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. The standard of sound words, Faith, love, abiding in Jesus Christ. Which is most important? How can we decide?

Here is a word of encouragement, To quench the fire is to fail in zeal, not lose your salvation. Paul says to Timothy, "kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you" Also, compare v11 with v14. The common words in these texts 'guard' and 'entrusted' are the same word in the Greek. Another encouragement when we consider the subject of each verse.

Pastor R J Duckett: (A man of God we knew well)

"The right study of the Bible is more important than prayer. If our knowledge of doctrine is correct, prayer will naturally take its rightful place."

Zeal, Courage & Steadfastness, three graces of living the Christian life.

To finish, the answer to the unanswered question from page one, "You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?" Matthew 7:16.

Acknowledgements:

- 1 W. Wiersbe, Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers, p. 215.
2. Progress Magazine, December 31, 1992.
3. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary.

Hymn B 732 At the Cross.

- 1 I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, Or to defend His cause;
Maintain the honour of His Word, The glory of His cross.

Chorus

At the cross! At the cross! Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

- 2 Jesus, my God! I know His name, His name is all my trust;
Now will He put my soul to shame, Nor let my hope be lost.
- 3 Firm as His throne His promise stands; And He can well secure
What I've committed to His hands, Till the decisive hour,
- 4 Then will He own my worthless name Before His, Father's face;
And, in the new Jerusalem, appoint my soul a place.

Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. From: Numbers 6:24-26.

Before we finish: something to share,

Laurie sent me some follow up to last week's Bible study. I wrote to him and asked him to let me share it with you. I have a reason for this. I will explain when you have read his letter. Don't fear. It is all good . . .

I wrote about it at the time-

It is on the healing of the Leper. I believe that you will find it instructive and enjoyable. Take your time and see if there is some other new aspect that you can share with me and possibly some one else. It has been a blessing to me as I put it together. Although the passage is short it is full of meat, good spiritual food. Enjoy.

There was a comment in the study about the fact that Jesus touched the Leper. This was forbidden. Their community Leprosy laws then were very similar to our Covid19 laws today. And the study included the paragraph, quote:

"The method Jesus used was a loving caress. Jesus did an astounding thing. Something that shocked everyone who was present. He touched him! He touched him whilst he was still a leper! Absolutely forbidden! For this was no mere tip of the finger. Touch is the same word as in Mark 10.13-16, when mothers brought their children to Jesus and He took them in his arms and touched them to bless them. Luke's Greek word for touch is *hupto*. (Silent 'h', long 'o') And it means 'to fasten to, to adhere to.' Jesus stuck to him like glue! And coming out of this definition is a subsidiary meaning to kindle, to set on fire. That touch kindled a fire that set him ablaze. If you were a leper shunned by all the people and Jesus not only heard your appeal, but then came right up and firmly held you, wouldn't He have set your heart ablaze too?"

Laurie writes

I had missed that the touch was more like an enthusiastic hug.

Often thought though, that the requirement to show yourself to the priest, while in accordance with the law, was also right in the faces of the priests as to who Jesus represented. They had little excuse for not realising Who Jesus was. Or did Caiaphas really think that he could get away with murdering their Messiah in order to continue the profitable "business as usual"?
Laurie.

I thank Laurie for stimulating my interest with new aspects to God's word. I really like this interaction. Don't you?

Now here is the point of all this. I invite you to get in on the act. Today's study is full of unfinished observations and questions. Let's stimulate one another to a deeper and more extensive study and knowledge of God's word. I invite you to write to me with ideas and questions (I can't guarantee to answer all of them, but some one else might. I can answer your email. (Email please, not cell phone txt - too time consuming)) So include all the people on our list, at least initially. If it gets to big and heavy we can handle that. But for the moment let's get involved in God's word as a fellowship.