

Bible Study for September 26 – October 2, 2022

Read: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Notes:

Towards the end of his life, Paul must have been feeling discouraged. After spending so many years building up congregations in service to the Lord, the church was in a fragile state. The Roman empire had turned against Christianity with persecutions, many congregations were at the mercy of heretics, and Paul was an aged man living in a miserable prison cell, unable to freely move about to give encouragement at a time when it was sorely needed. What Paul needed then, was someone to take charge in his place, and he turned to his trusted colleague of over 15 years; Timothy.

2 Timothy then is a different type of epistle, being more of a personal letter to Timothy rather than one directed to a congregation. It has a very personal feel to it, offering advice and encouragement to the next generation of Christian leadership.

In these verses Timothy's faith is praised, and verses 9-14 are a summary of the faith in Christ's resurrection which constitutes the Christian hope. We also hear how Paul informs Timothy that he remembers him in prayer day and night.

Questions to Ponder:

What teacher or coach had the knack for bringing out the best in you? How did they do that?

What do Paul's emotions in verses 3&4 reveal about his relationship with Timothy?

From where did Timothy learn the faith? See verse 5.

From verse 7, what spirits has God given us? Why might we refrain from using them?

Have you ever been left feeling ashamed about being a Christian? How did you get over it?

When you first decided on your own to be a Christian did you assume that it would be "a bed of roses", or "a bed of nails"? Why?

What have you learned about the cost of following Jesus?