

The Household of the Living God

Perseverance

“The Timeless Flame of the Christian Faith”

2 Timothy 1:1-7

I. A flame that is firmly fixed in our past (3-5)

2 Timothy 1:3–5 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

What Paul has in mind, and we do well to consider on this first Sunday of the new year, is the timeless promise of God.

A. Paul’s Past (the Old Testament)

B. Paul’s Past (the ministry partnership of Timothy)

For your own practice as a servant of God:

- 1) Paul prayed for other servants of God
- 2) Paul was patient and sympathetic of the emotional struggles of other Christians
- 3) Paul was encouraged by the partnership of Timothy

C. Timothy’s past (the instruction in the faith from his mother and grandmother)

⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Paul highlights the basis for his encouragement in Timothy’s partnership.

- 1) Timothy’s faith was “sincere.”
- 2) Timothy had been the recipient of a faithful heritage.

II. A flame meant to burn brightly into the future (6-7)

2 Timothy 1:6-7 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, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Paul urged Timothy to express loyalty to Christ despite hardship.

“Fan into flame”

Rekindling his gifts would require . . .

A. Dependence on God’s supernatural provision

7a “God gave us”

God did NOT give us . . .

7b “power, love and self-control.”

Instead of cowardice God gave Timothy a spirit of power, love, and self-control, spiritual abilities necessary for his task in Ephesus.

- “Power”

- “love”

- “self-control”

B. Reminders of the past faithfulness of God

Conclusion:

Takeaway truth: _____

Christ Jesus: _____

As a disciple of Christ, I should: _____