

Focus on 2 Timothy 1:1–14

Semicontinuous Lam.
1:1–6
Lam. 3:19–26
Complementary
Hab. 1:1–4; 2:1–4
Ps. 37:1–9
2 Tim. 1:1–14
Luke 17:5–10

WHAT is important to know? —From “*Exegetical Perspective*” by Lewis R. Donelson This journey from suffering to glory is the heart of the gospel. The challenge here is to hold to this gospel of

11). Timothy is called to hold fast to this gospel, to “guard the good treasure entrusted to you” and to do so “with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us” (v. 14). The passage as a whole raises the ancient question that haunts many Christians. Do we trust the yet unfulfilled promises of the gospel, when so much evidence in our lives seems to contradict them? Can we live our lives accordingly?

WHERE is God in these words? —From “*Theological Perspective*” by Joseph L. Price As a culmination to this opening, the author incorporates a stanza of an early church hymn that grows out of the underlying issues of doctrinal authority and personal experience: “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (v. 12 KJV). The writer proposes that Christian experience serves as the litmus test to verify the salvific work of Christ. He is persuaded by the depth of his belief in Christ as the one who transforms that he will be held in divine acceptance and favor until “that day,” the end of time and the judgment of all.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

—From “*Pastoral Perspective*” by Olive
Elaine Hinnant

Paul’s fear that Timothy will be ashamed and not tell others of his faith reminds us that this good news is always one generation away from extinction. If one generation becomes ashamed of the gospel and does not risk testimony, how will the next generation know? This seems to be the ultimate concern here; at the end of his life, Paul needs Timothy to carry on for him. Churches take this responsibility seriously when we provide Christian education classes to pass along knowledge of the Scriptures and faith to all ages.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

—From “*Homiletical Perspective*” by
J. Peter Holmes

In the midst of struggles, there seemed to be no thought of anger or anxiety, but rather gratitude. Amid discouragement or even despondency about the setbacks and the challenges to the faith, the mentor’s gratitude helped Timothy to see that he was part of something so much bigger—Christ’s ministry. When we face setbacks, pausing to give thanks can make all the difference in the world. Gratitude puts things in perspective.

Timothy

Timothy came from the area of Lystra in the province of Galatia. His grandmother Lois (who had been converted by Paul) and his mother, Eunice, were Christians, and young Timothy had been instructed in the Jewish Scriptures from childhood.

By Paul's second missionary journey, Timothy had matured in the Christian faith to the point that Paul decided to choose him as a companion for his missionary journey. Timothy was then circumcised in preparation for the mission to Jewish hearers and synagogues and was set apart by the laying on of the hands of the council of elders in Derbe and Lystra. Paul mentored Timothy in the missionary work. Paul and Timothy were the first two Christians to enter Europe, where they established missions in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. Timothy stayed on to take care of these congregations, and later joined Paul in Athens. Paul also took Timothy on his third missionary journey.

Paul considered Timothy to be a son in the gospel, a beloved child. They continued to have a close relationship that lasted two decades. Timothy spent considerable time with Paul in Corinth and Ephesus. Paul used him to carry communications between congregations, and Timothy may even have assisted in writing letters. He represented Paul at various times in Thessalonica, Corinth, Ephesus, and Macedonia.

The setting for this Second Letter to Timothy is that Paul is in prison in Rome. He has recently had a trial that proved an opportunity to witness for Jesus. Some of his friends have deserted him or gone on missions, although Luke is still with him. Paul longs to see Timothy, especially since he suspects that the coming winter may well be his last. Paul urges Timothy to bring the warm cloak he had left in Troas as well as particular books and parchments. Aware of Timothy's situation, Paul writes encouraging words to his loved protégé.

