

**TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW**  
**2 TIMOTHY 1: 1 - 7**

**OPENING**

- Can you recall the first time ... or an early time ... when someone from an older generation entrusted you with leadership?
  - What is most memorable about the experience?
  - Did you feel ready?
- It is sometimes said at Ellerslie that “each generation must reach their generation” with the life of Jesus.
  - I what way(s) do you resonate with that?
  - What do you feel are the biggest barriers in **your** generation to people embracing Jesus’ life and love?

**OBSERVATIONS FROM SUNDAY’S TEACHING**

- What were some of the key “take-aways” or insights you got from Sunday’s teaching?
- Read Galatians 3:15-18 and 1 Timothy 2:8, 9.
  - It was said that this passage reveals a key “aha” / “watershed” insight for Paul in his understanding of God’s plan and the way he works.
  - Rehearse for each other the point that was made regarding a “promise” vs. a “law” approach to viewing the way God works.
  - Have you ever experienced that same experience ... or similar?
- The point was made that we want to create a culture and establish an environment that communicates a sense of “promise?”
  - Who are some of the people who do that well?
  - What could you or your group do to help create or enhance that culture?
- Refresh each other’s memory regarding the 3 different kinds of life that humans were designed to experience.
  - How do these distinctions help in understanding life in Jesus?
  - Share some ways in which you have struggled, or perhaps continue to struggle, with living **at** or **for** the “bios” or “psyche” levels of existence.
  - Can you point to ways in which accepting and understanding the “zoe” Jesus has given you has helped you gain a clearer perspective on ... or perhaps given you a fuller sense of life on the “bios” or “psyche” levels of living?
- Verses 6 and 7 remind us of a gift God has given us, the Holy Spirit. As Paul contemplates his situation, and the situation he is calling Timothy to lead, he has two options. First is the human response of fear. The other comes from the work of the Holy Spirit for power, love and self control.
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- It was pointed out that each of these outworkings of the gift of the Holy Spirit speaks to one of our natural excuses:
  - “Power” speaks to the excuse, “I’m not ready; not qualified”
  - “Love” speaks to the excuse, “Let someone else do it; I don’t have time”
  - “Sound mind” / “Self-discipline” speaks to the excuse, “I don’t know enough.”

Which excuse do you identify with most?
- How have you experienced the empowerment of living out of the power, love, and mindset of life in Jesus?
- Which one of these are you having the greatest struggle embracing right now: the empowerment of Jesus’ life ... his love ... or controlling your mind according to his mind?

### LOOKING THROUGH THE TEXT

- As you read the first 7 verses of 2 Timothy, can you identify ways in which the phrase, “the promise of life in Christ Jesus” colors everything Paul says and is thinking?
- When you think of the 3 levels of “life” and recognize that it is *zoe* that is used here, does that help understand what Paul means when he says (e.g. Ephesians 2:1) that by birth and nature we are in a condition of “deadness?”
- Read Genesis 2:7-9; 3:24. How did man’s creation differ from every other created thing? Think of some things that this means. After the fall, God prevented people from accessing the tree of life. Why? How was “life” lost in the fall?
- Read Revelation 21:27 to 22:2. What are the three references to “life” in these verses? What changes between the first two and the last two chapters of the Bible?
- God created people to share in His life. A part of the “lostness” that we feel is a yearning for this life that was lost in the fall. Have you ever felt this yearning?
- Read John 17:3 and 1 John 5:11, 12. How do we receive “*zoe*” or life? John says that eternal life means that we know God. Think about what it means to “know” God.
- This is a quote from an article mentioned in the sermon:
 

Some Christians assume that when we die everything will change and we will instantly become creatures of light. That is a fantasy. Why would you want God to do something after you die that you refused to allow him to do while you are alive? Resurrection is not magic. It is a *transforming* of something already present in earthly existence to a higher plane, a fuller, unfettered realm of freedom and love; it is the *transplanting* of a struggling sprout from the leached ground of this world to the rich loam of the world to come where it can bear fruit forever. What is the “something” that must be present now, even if only weak and incomplete, that will be transformed and transplanted later? It is *zoe*, the God-life that comes to believers by faith.

James R. Edwards, Life in Three Dimensions, (Touchstone Journal, Summer 1993)

In what way does that quote illuminate our human journey and struggle?

- Read Romans 6:4. Out of Christ's death come resurrection and life. Out of our death comes our life. Jesus Christ gave us the gift of life, now, in part, but to be fully complete in heaven. What does "zoe", God's life, look like right now?

### **LIVING IT OUT**

- Some call 2 Timothy Paul's last will and testament. In verse 7 Paul is not afraid of the future, but confident. Why is he confident? Is his confidence based on his circumstances? How can we experience the same confidence?
- Where do you fit into the mission of Jesus at Ellerslie? Where might you fit? Is there any way you feel you would like to be part of offering "*the promise of life in Christ Jesus*" to a certain group of people through Ellerslie?

### **PRAYER (consider breaking up into small groups of 3 or 4, either as couples, or as just men and just women):**

- What is the "tiredness" factor you are facing right now that you would like prayer for?
- Can you identify ways in which you might need to grow in living *from* the "zoe" level of life in a way that impacts challenges you are having in the other two levels of life?
- Thank God for the "life" he gives at all levels.
- Pray for the passing on the ownership of mission of Jesus, the church, to the next generation. Pray that we will remain "together for tomorrow" as we make some surface programming changes.