

**TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW**  
**2 TIMOTHY 1: 7 - 18**

**OPENING**

- There are three people who stand out in these paragraphs: Paul, Timothy and Onesiphorus? Their enduring faithfulness shines out. Think of someone that has similar character. Tell some stories about them.
- What was it about them that made them different? How can we learn from them?

**OBSERVATIONS FROM SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

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- ...

**LOOKING THROUGH THE TEXT**

- What is Paul's "situation"? Paul did not see his situation the way that other people saw it. Consider how various groups saw his situation: his supporters and detractors in the church; people outside the church and the Roman government. Why would they see his situation in different ways? Paul was a prisoner, but to whom?
- There is too much great material to cover in these paragraphs. Verse 14 puts together many of Paul's thoughts:

"Protect that good thing entrusted to you, through the Holy Spirit who lives within us." (NIV)
- The word picture here sees one man giving his treasure to a friend to care for and protect while he goes away on a journey. Guarding the treasure, the friend fulfills his duty by protecting and caring for the treasure. This is the good thing entrusted to Timothy. Paul has entrusted Timothy with a great treasure. What is it? What is Paul's intent?
- The treasure is to lead the church, in its broadest, worldwide, sense, to complete its Gospel mission. Verse 9 describes two pieces of the Gospel, salvation and calling. Some people think of the Gospel as basically going to heaven. In verses 9 to 12, Paul describes this and much more. What are some of the "more" that he describes? How does the Gospel impact our lives in the here and now?
- Timothy's, and our, ability to complete this duty comes from "the Holy Spirit who lives within us." Verses 6 and 7 help us a bit here. The leaders of the church had recognized the Holy Spirit working in Timothy's life and laid hands on him, ordaining or

commissioning him as a preacher and teacher of the Gospel. His faithfulness with that gift lead to entrusting him with the treasure of verse 14. The Holy Spirit indwells all believers right at the moment of faith. Verse 7 describes the Spirit as not fearful, but having power, love and levelheadedness. To what extent is this true for you? How do you sense or feel the Holy Spirit working in your life? Are you happy with your response?

- Romans 12: 1 and 2 helps us to understand how to “rekindle” or “fan the flames.”

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Paul urges us to worship. But his view of worship is not an hour a week. Worship becomes our entire life, everything we say and do. What step could you take to add one hour of worship to your lifestyle every week? How would it affect the people around you.
- Paul also urges that we allow our minds to be transformed. When we take time to meditate on the truth of the Gospel, primarily seen in the pages of the Bible, the Holy Spirit changes how we think. There are three people mentioned in verses 15 to 18. How did they do? What do you think Paul and Timothy did differently? How will the hour of worship in the previous section impact your fear or timidity?

### **LIVING IT OUT**

- What does it mean to make the Gospel a priority? Consider two possibilities. Have a personal list of people to build evangelistic relationships with. Bring someone to Alpha within the next two years. Can you hold each accountable to these commitments?
- We do not choose to suffer, we choose God’s will. Do you agree with this statement? Talk about a time when you suffered for your faith. Would you do it again?

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

- Pray for passing on the ownership of the mission of Jesus, the church, to the next generation. Pray that we will remain “together for tomorrow” as we make some surface programming changes.
- Pray for any commitments that you made today.