

THE CALLING OF A GOOD MINISTER

Introduction: When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, several years after his first letter, some things had changed. (1) Paul was no longer a free man, but now he was waiting for his execution by Nero - 1:16-17; 4:6. (2) Paul had alerted Timothy to the false doctrines being taught at Ephesus - 1 Tim 1:6-7, but now it is evident that some members had embraced these false doctrines - 2 Tim 1:15; cf. Act 20:29-30. (3) His first letter was more official, but this one was personal, encouraging Timothy to be a good minister of Christ by the calling of the Spirit dwelling in him.

Lesson aim: To follow a good minister who is not fearful, but has power, love and sound judgment.

Verse: "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind" (2 Tim 1:7).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. Paul Pondered the Grace of God — 1:1-5

1. What did Paul call himself when he wrote to Timothy? 1:1
2. What did Paul call Timothy? 1:2
3. What did Paul do for Timothy? 1:3
4. What did Paul desire Timothy to do? 1:4; 4:9
5. What persons had a great spiritual effect on Timothy's early life? 1:5

II. Timothy Was to Practice the Gift of God — 1:6-12

6. What was Timothy to stir up (rekindle)? 1:6
7. What had God given Timothy to counteract his fear? 1:7
8. What was Timothy exhorted not to be ashamed of? 1:8; Rom 1:16
9. What did Paul command Timothy to do? 1:8; Phil 1:29
10. What assurance should believers have when they are afflicted for the Gospel? 1:9
11. What has Christ done through the Gospel? 1:10
12. What was Paul appointed by God to do? 1:11
13. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel, even though he suffered much for it? 1:12

III. Timothy Was to Protect the Gospel of God — 1:13-18

14. What was Timothy commanded to hold fast (grip tightly)? 1:13
15. How was Timothy to keep this command? 1:13
16. How was Timothy to keep (guard) the Gospel from being corrupted by false teachers? 1:14
17. What did two men in Asia (Turkey) do to Paul? 1:15
18. Give four reasons why Paul wanted God to be merciful to Onesiphorus? 1:16-18

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| a. | b. |
| c. | d. |