

# FAITHFUL THROUGH PERSECUTION

2 Timothy 1:1-18

2 Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy in 67 A.D., five years after his release from house arrest in Rome.<sup>1</sup> During those five years, Paul, Timothy and Titus visited churches in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), Macedonia and Greece in what some call Paul's 4<sup>th</sup> missionary journey. Titus was left on the island of Crete to complete the organization of the churches there (Titus 1:5). Timothy was left in Ephesus to deal with false teachers found there (1 Tim. 1:3). Paul went on to visit churches in Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica and Corinth. During this time persecution broke out against Christianity, instigated by Nero who blamed Christians for the devastating fire that destroyed the city of Rome. Paul was captured in 67 A.D., shipped to Rome and thrown into a cold, wet, dungeon to await trial. From there, Paul wrote Timothy who was still in Ephesus. Paul was lonely, having been abandoned by many on account of the persecution. Only Dr. Luke and a man named Onesiphorus were with Paul in Rome. Paul recognized death was near. He longed to see Timothy and asked him to come to Rome. **In this, his final letter, Paul sought to fortify and inspire Timothy to persevere in faith and service in the midst of persecution.**

**Because of the persecution, many of Paul's co-workers abandoned Paul and the work of the ministry.**

2 TIMOTHY 1:15-18 (ESV)

**Paul was thankful to God for Timothy and his genuine faith.**

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-5 (ESV)

**What would persecution reveal about my faith in God? What would I want it to reveal?**

**In light of his faith, Paul challenged Timothy to continue to serve God without fear, but with power, love and self-control.**

2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7 (ESV)

**In persevering and serving God, we experience His power and love which calms our emotions and counters the fear associated with persecution.**

**In verses 8-12, the Apostle Paul called Timothy to share in suffering, reminding him of their holy calling to serve God's eternal plan.**

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12 (ESV)

**Helping people take hold of eternal life with God makes the suffering worth it.**

<sup>1</sup> February 60 A.D. to March 62 A.D. Acts 28:30-31.

In verses 12-14 Paul explained why he was confident that the Gospel will never be silenced.  
2 TIMOTHY 1:12-14 (ESV)

**No persecution will ever silence the Gospel! Do not let persecution silence you. Why let persecution rob you of joy now and reward in the life to come?**

I hope and pray the Holy Spirit will use 2 Timothy to deepen our faith and strengthen our resolve to be faithful to Jesus until He takes us home in death or in the Rapture.

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### **GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS**

- **Prayer Quilt for Gerrie Gordon. Please tie a knot and pray for Gerrie.**
- **Baptism Class, Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM, Modular.**
- **Women's Ministry "Mom's Panel", June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 PM.**  
Free! Sign up on the patio and bring a salad to share. Childcare provided.
- **Men's Breakfast, Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM**  
\$10, signup on the patio.
- **Blood Drive, Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 7:00 PM, Modular.**
- **VOM Needs for May: 1 gallon zip seal bags, medical tape.**