



Notes on 2 Timothy by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Who was Timothy's "real me?"

1. Paul served God with a "pure conscience" and so should Timothy (**1:3**);
2. Paul noticed Timothy's "tears" or openness to be hurt for Christ (**1:4**);
3. Paul called Timothy's faith "genuine" (Greek *anupokrito* – undisguised) (**Romans 12:9; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Peter 1:22; James 3:17**)
4. Paul urged Timothy ("therefore") to deal with the fact of his "gift" (**1:6**)

Be Unashamed of...

1:8-11 - "the testimony of our Lord"

1:12 - Paul who suffered for that testimony **1:16** - Onesiphorus who ministered to Paul

Watch Paul's "Therefore"

1:6 - having given reasons for not neglecting God's gift (**1:3-6**);

1:8 - having given a description of the kind of attitude to have with the truth (**1:6-7**);

2:1 - having named the Lord and disciples (Paul & Onesiphorus) who served God so that Timothy should also be strong.

2:10 - having shown various figures of speech to realize the effort one makes to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Paul stressed "Certainty" -- that is, that Timothy keep faithfully following what he knew Paul had preached and proven to be true.

1. **1 Timothy 1:15**: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." **Matthew 9:13; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32; 19:10; Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8; 1 John 3:5**
2. **1 Timothy 3:1**: "This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work." **Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:12; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:15**
3. **1 Timothy 4:9**: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance." **1 Timothy 1:15**
4. **2 Timothy 2:11**: "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him." **Romans 6:5, 8; 2 Corinthians 4:10; 1 Timothy 1:15**
5. **Titus 3:8**: "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men." **1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 1:9; 2:14; 3:1, 14**

2. Paul stressed "Continuity" -- that is, stability, surety, safety in that which had saved Timothy.

"Hold Fast"

2 Timothy:1:8: "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God"
Romans 1:16; Ephesians 3:1; Philippians 1:7; Colossians 1:24; 1 Timothy 2:6; 2 Timothy 4:5; Revelation 1:2

1. **1:13:** "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." **Romans 2:20; 6:17; 1 Timothy 1:10, 14; 6:3; 2 Timothy 2:2; 3:14; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 10:23; Revelation 2:25**
2. **2:1:** "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
Ephesians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2
3. **2:3:** "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
1 Timothy 1:18; 2 Timothy 1:8; 4:5
4. **2:15:** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
5. **3:14:** "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them" **2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2**

Why be so conscious of the "next generation" remaining faithful?

1. **2 Timothy 4:6** - Paul knew his own time was limited
2. **Judges 2:7-10** - Israel had left an example NOT to follow **Cf 1 Corinthians 10:11**

3. Paul saw Timothy was "wise" in Scripture but needed "Confidence" in himself as "God's fellow worker" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Stirred Up Timothy's "Aggressiveness"

1. Paul gave Timothy the task of building up Ephesus (**1 Timothy 1:3, 4**), but Timothy may have become timid to that task (**1 Timothy 1:18; 4:12, 16**). However, instead of Paul withdrawing from using Timothy [as Paul had done to John Mark before (**Acts 13:13; 15:36-41**)] only to use him again (**2 Timothy 4:11**), Paul seemed inclined to instruct Timothy instead of "disciplining by avoidance." Hence the reminders in **2 Timothy**:
2. Timothy had his mother and grandmother's faith (**1:5**);
3. Timothy had a "gift" from God he should use (**1:6**);
4. Timothy had NOT been given timidity by God (**1:7**);
5. Therefore Timothy had nothing for which to be ashamed (**Cf Romans 1:16**)

"Parables" of Christian Growth and Development:

1. **2:1-2** - "my son" must learn to "grow up"
2. **2:3-4** - "soldier of Jesus Christ" must learn to suffer hardship
3. **2:5** - "athletics" must follow the rules
4. **2:6** - "farmer" must learn the reward of serving God
5. **2:15** - "worker" must learn diligence in studying God's Word
6. **2:20-21** - "vessels" must learn to be prepared/set aside for every good work
7. **2:24-26** - "servant" must learn obedience to God and humility to sinners

2 Timothy 3:1-5 -- Beware of False Lovers of:

1. "self" (**v.2**)
2. "money" (**v.2**)
3. "despisers of good" (**v.3**)
4. "pleasure" (**v.4**)
 "rather than lovers of God" (**v.4**)
 "from such people turn away!" (**v.5**)

Paul's "Remembrances" of...

1. The "last days" in which they were living, **3:1-9** (a reminder of its dangers was Demas who loved "this present world" (Greek literally - "the here and now," **4:10**). This would remind Timothy of the ever-present enemy and dangers;
2. His first "missionary" tour, **3:10-13** (which set the stage for Timothy to obey truth); **Cf Acts 13:14-14:23; 16:1-5**
3. Timothy's "back-grounding" in the faith, **3:14-15** (which overcame childhood "difficulties"); **Cf 2 Timothy 1:3-5**
4. The absolute power of the written Word of God, **3:16-17** (which had showed us Christ);
5. The overriding purpose of an evangelist, **4:1-5** (which Paul had exemplified);
6. The realistic projection into the future of the faithful, **4:6-8** (which all Christians may have);
7. The topsy-turvy and uneven course of brethren which often creates extra hardship, loneliness, and harm, **4:9-21** (and, which shows only the Lord and "the faithful few" should be relied upon, and even then, it could sometimes be only the Lord!).