1st and 2nd Timothy

**Working Backwards to End Well**

*September 2023*

1. Who is Paul?
2. 27 books , 9 authors - in the New Testament, Paul is the author of 13 of these books, –
3. Saul is converted- road to Damascus (Syria) Acts 9:1-16
4. Founding churches: Galatians, Ephesians, Corinthian 1&2, Romans, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Philemon – missionary journey
5. Apostle: “one who is sent out” – includes 12 disciples and Paul

Pastor: means shepherd – “to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat”

Paul:

Dedicated his life to spreading the gospel to the gentiles through, preaching, teaching, missionary trips, founding churches and his divinely inspired writings.

“For this gospel (Jesus Christ raised from the dead, a descendant of David 2:8) I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason, I suffer as I do, but I am not ashamed” 2 Tim. 1:11

“ I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor and a man of violence.” 1 Tim. 1:12

“As for me I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:6-8

“ I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him..” Phil. 3:8

“ Now that you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and my suffering….all who want to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” 2 Tim. 3:10

“ Of course there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into this world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing we will be content with these. “ 1Tim. 6:7

Who is Timothy?

**Passing the Baton**

Timothy 1

Instruction on how to structure a church – from one pastor to another

Timothy 2

Passing the responsibility from one generation to another

What does he tell Timothy? Paul’s exhortation and advice?

Rekindle ;1;6

Hold 1:13

Guard 1:14

Be strong/entrust 2:1

Kindly to all, teacher, patient 2:24

Continue 3:14

IN view…proclaim 4:2

**Roles: Metaphors**/ways to think about our walk with Christ

“consider what I say, the Lord will give you understanding” 2 Tim: 2:7

**Soldier** – share in suffering, committed, a fighter, only answers to the commanding officer (God), does not get entangled in every day affairs, understands they are at battle

**Athlete** – endurance, focus on the completing the race, single minded, disciplined, focus on the prize(obedience, worthy of Christ), running well, following the rules (God’s law, Jesus’ message)

**Farmer** – does the work, feeds the people (scripture is food), takes in the harvest (spreads the word, new believers), farmer plants the seed, God does the work/growing.

**Worker** – one who labors to spread the word, not ashamed of the work or Jesus/crucifixion (or Paul/imprisoned/in chains)

**Utensil** – dedicated and useful to God, needs to be clean/purified, some for ordinary uses, some for special use, ready for every good work

**Servant** – a teacher, patient, kind, not quarrelsome, a devoted follower, one who puts others needs before their own.

Paul’s **warnings** to Timothy:

Don’t get drawn into everyday affairs 2:4

Avoid wrangling over words 2:14

Avoid profane chatter 2:16 –profanity: when we treat something sacred with abuse or vulgarity (context of false teaching)

Senseless controversies – quarrels 2:23

Meaningless talk, endless genealogies - 1 Tim. 4

**Application for Us**

“Better is the end of a thing than its beginning” Ecclesiastes 7:8

“Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards” Kierkegaard

Focusing on the end, can help us re-orient the now – what do we want to be true of us, at our end? How can we adjust our course to make that vision a reality?

Questions for consideration and discussion:

1. Which role do you feel most called to embody/learn from?
2. Which exhortation speaks most to you today?
3. Is there an aspect of the Gospel that you are ashamed of? Hiding from?
4. If Paul wrote you a divinely inspired letter of exhortation and corrections – what do you think he would tell you?

**Supporting Scripture:**

“ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim. 3:16-17

“let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1

“But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace.” Acts 20:24

“Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own; but this one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward my goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philip: 3:12-14

“but they who wait fro the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

“Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. “ 1 Cor. 9:24