



**The Week of March 20, 2022**  
**2 Timothy 1:1-18**  
**Conversation Guide**

### **This Week's Take-Aways**

- **About the Church:** (Ephesians 4:11-16) The church is a body of baptized believers who have been bought by the blood of Christ and are bound together by the Holy Spirit. The church is the body of Christ and exists to carry out His purposes on the earth.
- **I engage in the missionary task wherever I am:** (Matthew 28:18-20) Through both my words and actions, I engage in gospel conversations with those around me. I take the gospel around the world by going, give, pray and send others

### **Intro Questions**

- With today's stock markets taking a wild ride so far this year, how risky is investing?
- Is there anything that is a truly a "sure bet?"
- Is gambling a sin? Is it unwise?
- How is investing in others through sharing the gospel and helping others grow in Christ an investment that pays eternal dividends?
- If time and situation allows, play the Bible Project 2 Timothy video. This video will provide important insights into the context and history of this letter.
  - RightNow Media- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/interactive-content/527846/details>
  - YouTube- <https://youtu.be/urlvnxCaL00>

## 2 Timothy Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, for the sake of the promise of life in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my dearly loved son. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup> Remembering your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.

- What was Paul's relationship with Timothy?
- How deeply did Paul love Timothy?
- How did Paul show his love for Timothy through his prayers?
- What would bring joy to Paul?

<sup>5</sup> I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also.

- How did Paul recall Timothy's Mother and Grandmother?
- What does this tell you about the passing of faith from one generation to the next?
- How does this passage parallel Deuteronomy 6:4-6?

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands.

<sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. <sup>8</sup> So don't be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me his prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God. <sup>9</sup> He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

- From the context of these verses, what do you think is the "gift of God" that Timothy received?
- "Faith over Fear" has been an oft used phrase in the pandemic, discern from these verses what Paul is saying the basis for this bold faith?
- Discuss how it makes you feel as believer that God has called you and destined you to do good works even before the world was created!

<sup>10</sup> This has now been made evident through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> For this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle, and teacher, <sup>12</sup> and that is why I suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day. <sup>13</sup> Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

- How does Paul summarize the gospel in verse 10?
- In what roles was he appointed to further the gospel in verse 11?

- Why is suffering a real possibility and almost certainty when you further the gospel?
- What role does shame have in keeping us from sharing the gospel?
- What was Paul's perspective that freed him from shame and made him bold?
- How important is sound teaching for a church family?
- What is the "good deposit" of verse 14, who is to guard it and what role does the Holy Spirit play?

*<sup>15</sup> You know that all those in the province of Asia have deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup> May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he diligently searched for me and found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant that he obtain mercy from him on that day. You know very well how much he ministered at Ephesus.*

- Paul closes this chapter with some glimpses into his interpersonal relationships from the jail cell and in chains.
- Deserters were a reality for Paul and he noted it without much comment. How do we face betrayal and desertion from a close friend?
- How did Paul's bold faith keep him from bitterness from being wronged?
- How did his friend "O" come through for the imprisoned Apostle?
- If the Christian life is a team sport, how important is it to find other teammates with a strong faith?

## Next Steps

- If there was a family member, mentor or friend who helped you grow in your faith; send them a note, email or text of thanks for investing in you.
- Memorize the second part of verse 12: "But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day."
- Identify some areas or relationships where you were hesitant to share your faith and prayerfully make a plan to do it this week.

## Spurgeon and the Doctrine of Scripture - Wednesday's Word

### by Paul Tripp

For all the supposed benefits smartphones have added to daily life, do you know what I might be most thankful for? The flashlight feature!

You probably used it half a dozen times yesterday alone: looking for something in the garage, reading a menu in a dimly lit restaurant, searching for something your child threw under the couch, or trying to get ready for bed without waking your spouse.

Why do we need light? Because darkness surrounds us. As a sinner living with other sinners in a fallen world, you encounter darkness every day. So while you may experience Instagram-worthy, sunny-day moments, they are short-lived. The reality is that life is more of a midnight walk through the woods.

From its very first words to the last, the language of darkness and light courses through the Bible:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep.” (Genesis 1:1-2)

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (Revelation 22:16)

While you can find hundreds upon hundreds of verses that include darkness and light, I don’t think a single one captures our need for light in a dark world better than Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet / and a light to my path.”

And it’s hard to find a better description of Psalm 119:105 than what the great nineteenth-century preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote:

“We are walkers through the city of this world, and we are often called to go out into its darkness; let us never venture there without the light-giving word, lest we slip with our feet. Each man should use the word of God personally, practically, and habitually, that he may see his way and see what lies in it. When darkness settles down upon all around me, the word of the Lord, like a flaming torch, reveals my way. Having no fixed lamps in eastern towns, in old time each passenger carried a lantern with him that he might not fall into the open sewer, or stumble over the heaps of ordure which defiled the road. This is a true picture of our path through this dark world: we should not know the way, or how to walk in it, if the Scripture, like a blazing flambeau, did not reveal it. One of the most practical benefits of Holy Writ is guidance in the acts of daily life: it is not sent to astound us with its brilliance, but to guide us by its instruction. It is true the head needs illumination, but even more the feet need direction, else head and feet may both fall into a ditch. Happy is the man who personally appropriates God’s word, and practically uses it as his comfort and counsellor,—a lamp to his own feet.”<sup>1</sup>

You need light for your marriage and your parenting. You need light for your job and your relationships with your neighbors. You need light for your struggles with desires and temptations.

You need light to help you deal with the unexpected. You need light to cope with new difficulties that emerge. You need light for when you have been sinned against. You need light to deal with weaknesses of the body and hardships of the heart.

You need light for those moments when you’re alone and overwhelmed. You need light for all the unknowns that will show up on your doorstep tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, and for the rest of your life.

You don’t need to bloody your nose and bruise your toes by bumping into trees and tripping over roots. You don’t have to grope around fearfully in the darkness. The light of the world has graced you with the light of his word! It will shine around your feet in the dark so you don’t stumble and fall.

<sup>1</sup> Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, vol. 5, *Psalms 111–119* (London: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 342, *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, [www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org).