

[tiny tim]

:: 2 timothy 1.1-2 ::

We want to take some time to look at Second Timothy. It's a wonderful epistle with tons of incredible doctrine and spiritual understanding, but this segment we're going to call Tiny Tim.

We're doing that for a couple of reasons.

First, we only have a few minutes to look at these verses. A tiny amount of time, really.

Second, as we see how we are much like Timothy, we discover the message that God has for us, people who sometimes feel overwhelmed by situations in life or the world around us. People who sometimes feel small and stuck or insignificant in this life. That is not what God wants for us at all. We'll see that very clearly.

And third, our hope is that the name will remind us that one person **can** have a profound impact on the people of this world.

You and I are just like Timothy. That's what we find in this letter. That's why it is recorded for us, that we might receive the message that was given to him, that we might learn the things that were taught to him through the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We gain a little summary of Paul's purpose in writing this young Christian in chapter 2, verse 1:

2 Timothy 2.1 - You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

A very simple point, but one that has incredible power in our lives.

Remember, Paul is writing to Timothy. But, being under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Paul is also writing to you and I. Thus, we see that **God** says to each person here this evening:

2 Timothy 2.1 - YOU then, My child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

In this letter, God speaks to us about grace and mercy and peace. He speaks to us about power and love and self-control. He speaks about our testimony and our suffering and our sorrow. He speaks about our salvation and our calling and His purpose for our lives. He speaks to us about faith and stewardship and doctrine and service.

And that's just in the first chapter!

Because, as always, what we find is that the Scriptures, the Bible which sits in your lap, is given to us for our daily living. Not Sunday living. Not just academic living. But your day in, day out life. Your daily concerns. Your daily struggles. Your daily testimony. Your daily relationships. Your day by day calling and purpose and faith, which God has prepared for you from before the foundations of time.

And in *that* understanding, we read this:

2 Timothy 1.1-2 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child: grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul, an anointed apostle, is sending a letter to Timothy, a young man who is attempting to minister at a very difficult time in a very difficult place.

The difficult times we understand. The difficult place...not as much. Comparatively speaking we have it pretty good here in America.

But, though we enjoy incredible freedom in the United States, though we have incredible comforts and resources and wealth and prosperity and opportunity (*we shouldn't disdain or ignore those things, we shouldn't act like we **don't** have those things*), but though we live in this blessed place we still have struggles. We still have difficulties. They are real and significant and painful. And the first thing we learn in this epistle is that God *knows* all about your life. Whatever is going on in your home, at your job, in your heart, Jesus sees it and He has a plan and a message concerning it.

How do we know that? Because, as we see here, He is a **living** Savior, a **living** Messiah, who came and died, but He rose from the dead and is now, as Paul says, the *living* Christ. It is the most provable fact in human history that Jesus walked out of that grave three days after His crucifixion. And now He sits at the right hand of the Father that He might complete the good work that He has started in your life. So that He can make good on the promise He made to give us **life** more abundantly as we walk in a relationship with Him.

The will of God is for you to walk in the life and the lifestyle that He has prepared for you, and He has *promised* you many things for that walk.

It reminds us of Nehemiah, the mighty leader of Israel, who said,

Nehemiah 1.8b - And the king granted me what I asked, for **the good hand of my God was upon me.**

Paul goes on to call Timothy his beloved child in these opening verses. Second time we've heard that phrase this evening. Children of God, the good hand of the Almighty Maker of Heaven and Earth is upon you. If you don't believe that, then you're going to miss out on the plan and the purpose and the power that God has provided for your life today.

This little letter was written to encourage a young believer, and it reminded him that he was not alone. And if you're feeling alone tonight, it is time for you to remember that the good hand of your God is upon you and He has offered you much for this life.

Three things are specifically given in our text: grace, mercy and peace.

Grace is yours. If you're a Christian here tonight, if you've been born again, then you have been saved *by grace*. It is yours! The free and unmerited favor of God, the sanctification of God; 'the state of one who is under Divine influence,' that is grace and it is *yours*! It is a resource that resides within your heart, given from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

That is God's part, what is our part?

Our part is to extend grace. Grace we have received, and grace we must give to those around us. We need to speak with grace (Colossians 4.6). Being loving and compassionate to anyone around us. We need to share the grace of God with others, that grace that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for you and for me. Grace means living selflessly and sacrificially. Grace means being longsuffering and understanding. Grace is a resource that is already within your heart. One that we choose to utilize or choose to ignore. Children of God have received it and must extend it.

After the grace of God comes the mercy of God.

Mercy has been offered to you. Not just once in salvation, but each day. That tender compassion that God pours over your life, new every morning as Jeremiah wrote. Mercy from the heart of a God who is acquainted with our suffering and our grief. The tender compassion of a Savior who never turned away those who called on Him for help.

As a child of God, mercy is present with you. Though, like Jacob in Genesis 32 we say,

Genesis 32.10 - I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant...

God continually extends us the forgiveness and kindness and provision that was made possible through the sacrifice of His Son at Calvary. A child of God is filled with mercy, a resource that we have to fuel our lives and our decisions and our activity.

Finally, after the mercy of God comes the peace of God.

As a beloved child, Timothy received God's peace. That rest and trust that goes so far beyond the thoughts of the world, the feeble security of this earth. That peace which is full of hope and full of confidence and full of understanding about what it is God is doing in our lives.

Given by God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord, peace is available to you tonight. The everlasting peace of God which reminds us that money is nothing and investments are nothing. The plans of the world and the security that it offers are nothing. But that our only Provider, our only Security, our solitary hope is in the Person of Jesus Christ, whose love casts out all fear and fills our hearts with peace during any storm, any situation, any circumstance.

Those are the resources available to us right now. Those are the gifts that God has deposited into our lives as Believers. And we decide whether we will draw upon them, or whether we will attempt the voyage alone.

Timothy was a wonderful man. A trusted leader. A great pastor. A friend of apostles. But most of all, he was a simple servant, a child of God, who was sent a letter of encouragement and reminder.

You, oh child of God, are so precious to your Father. And He has deposited in your life all that you need, not just for today, but for all of your tomorrows.

Start small. Be a tiny Timothy. And watch the world turn upside down.