



river west church

Why Timothy Matters

2 Timothy 1

Pastor Guy Gray

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The Incredible Story of Paul and Timothy

Over the next several months we will study the book of 2 Timothy. But we will do more than study a book. We will dive deep into a story – the incredible story of Paul the Apostle and a young man named Timothy.

Timothy became a Christian at an early age, probably as a young teenager. The Apostle Paul heard about Timothy on his second missionary journey and asked him to join his mission. Timothy risked everything. He said YES! For the next 15 years (or more) Paul and Timothy were like father and son. You can just feel the deep love between Paul and Timothy in this letter. But there is another dimension to this relationship. Timothy became Paul's trusted partner in ministry. Timothy was called to serve Christ in ways he never thought he could. Timothy was stretched and challenged. That process is still taking place even in the pages of 2 Timothy.

Here's Why Timothy Matters

Timothy matters because he actually lived this story. He lived a life beyond himself, found courage he didn't think he had, and answered God's call in his life for the sake of the Gospel. Timothy matters because he is the model for each of our lives as we seek to grow as Christ followers. This is true for every one of us. Timothy is the prototype, not just of someone who is called to be a pastor, but anyone who is called to follow and serve Jesus Christ.

If you are a Christian, you have trusted Jesus for your salvation. But there is more. You have also confessed that Jesus is LORD of your life. That means you have given your life to His purpose, His plan, and His mission. As a Christian believer, you are called to a specific role in Christ's ministry, in the church and in the world. This is why Timothy matters – to each of us. Timothy is our real life guide. He shows the way into the kind of life and ministry God calls each of us to.

Courage, Passion, and Calling

None of this was easy for Timothy. This is also why Timothy matters. If Timothy didn't struggle with his courage, passion, or calling, we would never be able to relate to him. The beauty of the story is that Timothy is just like us. He wants to quit, or sit on the sidelines while someone else steps up to the plate to take the risk. He is afraid, embarrassed, and reluctant. Do you ever feel that way about your faith or Christian service?

So here comes Apostle Paul to speak words of encouragement, challenge, and direction to Timothy. That's exactly what we need too. This is the power of 2 Timothy for our lives. God is going to speak to each of our hearts through these studies. He is going to stir us up. He is going to re-ignite our passion for Christ. He is going to speak to us about our Christian calling. He is going to build our courage. Let's open our ears and our hearts and listen!

Paul's Final Word

When you get to the end of 2 Timothy the intensity builds. Here's why: these are Paul's final words. Paul wrote 2 Timothy from prison in Rome. It is possible that he was executed within days of writing this letter. It is so touching and so powerful.

Paul doesn't whimper or complain. He goes out with his head held high and his eyes fastened on Jesus. But what is most impressive is how Paul uses his last days on this earth to love, inspire, and challenge Timothy. Paul is literally handing over the power, promise, and responsibility of Gospel ministry to Timothy. There is something profound in this hand off. Paul loves Timothy, but it's not just about Paul and Timothy and their relationship. It's about the Gospel. It's about the mission. It's about living up to the call of Christ in our lives during the time that God gives us in this world. Generation to generation, God passes the responsibility of Christian life and ministry forward. He hands it to us, and then through us to others.

Now – this is our time. You are the Timothy. You are a part of something bigger than yourself; bigger than you can imagine. This is the work of God in our world. Can you hear Paul's passion? I hear it. Will you answer God's call, even if you feel inadequate or afraid?

I'm going to answer. Will you join me?