

# Sharing In Suffering For the Gospel

*Promise: The Word is at work in believers to strengthen them*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Habak. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Ps 62; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10  
(17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 22], 10/6/19)

*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. – v. 7*

**Lead In** – There are hints of Paul's concern in what lies ahead for him. But he seems even more concerned of the danger facing Timothy and the churches he has started. He is personally facing death by execution. But he is concerned with how other Christians will handle persecution and suffering. I remember one of my first attempts to offer comfort at the bedside of one nearing death...

## I. The Apostle's Concern For Timothy

- A. In a time before seminaries... 12 yr. mentorship
- B. Constant prayers as Timothy's tears remembered
- C. Timothy's youth, timidity, and health

## II. The Apostle's Concern For Timothy's Pastoring

- A. There are many that fall away and desert...
- B. False spirits and teachers keep springing up...

## III. The Encouragement for Sharing in the Suffering

- A. Reminder of God's power and grace...
- B. Death abolished and life and immortality to light...
- C. Follow the pattern of the sound words...

**Parting Shot** – Paul's encouragement is not to buck up and act brave. Asking ourselves whether we are capable of bearing up under torture and threat of death also not the path. I recall insight by Corrie ten Boom when young in life she witnessed the death of a baby. From Casper, "When you and I go Amsterdam, when do I give you your ticket?" ... "Our heavenly Father knows when we are going to need things too." ... Paul is convinced the Word is at work strengthening for persecution, temptation, suffer...

**2 Tim 4:6-8** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**Phil 2:20-22** For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

**Timothy** sent as an emissary to Thessalonica, Corinth, Philippi, and finally to Ephesus.

**1 Tim 4:12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

**2 Tim 1:7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**1 Tim 5:23** No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

## 2 Timothy 1:1-14 ESV

*Guard the Deposit Entrusted to You*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup>which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup>Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

**Infamous Names** of those falling away (deserting): Phygelus, Hermogenes, and Demas (in love with this world).

**Infamous Names** of false teachers: Hymenaeus, Philetus

**Exp to 6<sup>th</sup> Petition:** ...that God would watch over us and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful self may not deceive us and draw us into false belief, despair, and other...

**2 Tim 3:12-13** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

**2 Tim 2:3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

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