**CHAP. I. 1, 2.**] ADDRESS AND GREETING.

**1**.] See 1 Cor. i. 1; 2 Cor. i. 1;  
Eph. i. 1; Col. i. 1. **according to** (in  
pursuance of, with a view to the fulfilment  
of) **the promise of life, which is in Christ  
Jesus** (all this is to be taken with the  
word *Apostle*, not as following the *will of  
God*. Theodoret explains it well, “So  
that I proclaim to men the eternal life  
which hath been promised.” Chrysostom.  
sees, in this mention of the promise of life  
in Christ, a consolation to Timothy under  
present troubles. And this idea seems to  
be borne out by the strain of the subsequent portion of the Epistle, which is  
throughout one of confirmation and encouragement).

**2**.] **my beloved child**]  
“Can it he accidental,” says Mack, “that  
instead of ‘my *true* child, as Timothy is  
called in the 1st Epistle, i. 2, and Titus i.  
4,—here we have ‘my beloved child?’ Or  
may a reason for the change be found in  
this, that it now behoved Timothy to stir  
up afresh the faith and the grace in him,  
before he could again be worthy of the  
name *true* (genuine) in its full sense?”  
This may be too much pressed: but certainly there is throughout this Epistle an  
altered tone with regard to Timothy—  
more of mere love, and less of confidence,  
than in the former: and this would naturally shew itself even in passing words of  
address. To find in the word “*beloved*”  
*more* confidence, as some do, can hardly be  
correct: the expression of feeling is *different*  
in kind, not comparable in degree: suiting  
an Epistle of warm affection and somewhat  
saddened reminding, rather than one of  
rising hope and confidence. I regret to  
be, on this point, at issue throughout this  
second Epistle, with my friend Bishop  
Ellicott, who seems to me too anxious to  
rescue the character of Timothy from the  
slightest imputation of weakness: thereby  
marring the delicate texture of many of St.  
Paul’s characteristic periods, in which tender  
reproof, vigorous reassurance, and fervent  
affection are exquisitely intermingled.

**3—5.**] *Thankful declaration of love and  
anxiety to see him.* {3} **I give thanks to  
God, whom I serve from my ancestors**(from my immediate progenitors: not,  
from my remote ancestors, Abraham, &c,  
The reason for the profession may perhaps