

*8Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9who 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 granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 2 Tim 1:8-12*

We are examining a second letter from Paul to Timothy, his *true child in the faith*. 1 Tim 1:2. Paul was encouraging Timothy to *join with me in suffering for the gospel*. 2 Tim 1:8 Suffering was part of the experience of Christians in the early church. This is a concept that we, as Christians today, need to embrace. Hardship is part life but it takes on special significance for the Christian. Our Christian walk, how we endure suffering and trials, will be part of our witness, our testimony to the world in which we live. Paul tells Timothy, *be sober in all things, endure hardship (suffer), do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry*. As we study this epistle it we need to see ourselves in Timothy's place. As Paul encourages him to walk pleasing we too need to hold onto this message and embrace Paul's call to, *join him in suffering for the gospel*.

This is a message for disciples. We know that there are those around us, that claim they are Christians, but they are only concerned with what God is going to do for them. They want a gospel that makes them feel good. Paul tells Timothy to endure, knowing that many of those around him, who claim to be christian, really aren't. They won't listen to sound doctrine. *3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires. 2 Timothy 4:3 God,*

*9who 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 granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 2 Tim 1:9,10*

God has saved us. This is a great truth the believer, we as sons of Adam, need to be saved. We can see ourselves in the image of Judah, gone into captivity because they failed to follow God. Seventy years they were in captivity and then God in His mercy caused their return, following a decree from Cyrus the Great, ruler of Persia. Ezra acknowledged the peoples sin and God's deliverance, *And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this. Ezra 9:13* As the Jewish people needed pardon from their rebellion, we as sinners, need to be saved.

*Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. Micah 7:18*

This God, *who pardons iniquity*, in the OT is God whose plan it is to redeem man by sending His Son. In Romans 3:23 Paul wrote, *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. Man, in his natural state, needs to be redeemed, we all needed a savior. God save

us from being *dead in trespasses and sins*, and makes us right, in right standing, with Himself. Paul elaborates on God's plan of redemption in Ephesians 2.

*1And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Eph 2:1-10*

*Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling. 2 Tim 1:9 God saved us and He called us, as an invitation to a feast, in the NT everywhere in a technical sense, the divine invitation to embrace salvation in the kingdom of God (Thayer) Called us with a holy (pure, morally blameless) calling. God has invited us to be made us alive together with Christ and to share in the surpassing riches of His grace.*

*not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 2 Tim 1:9*

*Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. Gal 2:16 NLT*

*4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7*

This is a basic truth of Christians, we are *made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ*. As Paul writes in Ephesians that salvation is *not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph 2:9* Right standing with God is not the result of keeping the law, living the lives we think will satisfy God and that being good enough.

*20I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain (for nothing).” Gal 2:20,21*

But because we are saved, because we are made holy, made righteous by the blood of Christ, God enables us to live righteously, we are *created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them Eph 2:10*. In those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. Titus 3:8 The believer is born into newness of life and that life is a holy life.

*12So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Roman 8:12-14*

*not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 2 Tim 1:9,10*

The NT is full of the terms grace and peace, *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:3* In 2 Timothy states, *according to His own purpose*, in line with God's plan, His own design, He has granted grace to those He has called. His grace, His unmerited favor, was part of the eternal plan *was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity*. But then there came the time, *while we were still helpless, (when we were yet without strength, utterly helpless) at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Rom 5:6 NIV* God's eternal purpose (*in Christ Jesus from all eternity*), His plan to grant grace to those who would believe, Paul writes, *has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*. God's plan was that His only Son would die for the ungodly.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Gal 2:20*

The believer becomes part of this eternal plan, If we are in Christ we are new creations. Our old man, who we were born to be in Adam, is *crucified with Christ*. We are to no longer live after the flesh, that old life. We are to *live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Rom 8:4* We are *walk in the Spirit, and we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh. KJV* *let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. NLT Gal 5:16*

*10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 2 Tim 1:10*

Paul has this an intense calling, he is a *preacher, an apostle and a teacher*. His letters fill up half of the NT. And he states because of this truth he has just discussed he is will to suffer anything, being imprisoned and even death. And he is not ashamed because he has found the truth of the gospel, the good news of God's great redemption. He is will to consider all things as loss for the gospel truth. *I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ. Phil 3:8*

*12For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 2 Tim 1:10*