

1 Timothy 1:12-20

Focus on **being** who you are called to be, rather than **doing** what you are called to do.

Three sections

1. Paul's testimony - vs. 12-17
2. Timmy's commission - vs. 18-19a
3. The Warning - vs. 19b-20

Ephesians 4:1 "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

Paul's Testimony

What is a testimony? What is the purpose of a testimony?

Testimonies remind the devil of what he lost, Revelation 12:11 shows that they are a weapon of the overcomer, but in this context I would say that the testimony of Paul is interjected here for the purpose of edifying the believer, specifically Timmy.

THIS IS A HARD TIME FOR TIMMY - heresy flourishing

This testimony is given not only for the purpose of a fleeting encouragement to him, but to edify him for the long term by giving him a couple nuggets that are placed in this testimony for him to saturate himself with, which would make him become more like Paul.

1 Corinthians 1:11 - Paul was the apostle of apostles, so in the same way that Timothy was impacted by this testimony, so to should we be.

Vs. 12 Strength and Appointment

2 Corinthians 5: 18-20 "18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

- **1: We must trust that the ministry each of us have been called to do is appointed by the Lord.**

- Each person has a calling, each person has a purpose, each believer - to an extent - has a part in the ministry of reconciliation - and you are chosen for that role.

- We are appointed...but we are also strengthened.

- **2: We must have our strength from the Lord.**

- You may not feel like you can do it - This is SUPER GOOD. It shows that you need God.]

- How do you think Timmy felt?

Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."

2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 “⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

The strength of a believer is rooted in God, and in God alone. Period. And this strength is at its fullest in our WEAKNESS.

Hebrews 13:20-21 “²⁰Now may the God of peace [Who is the Author and the Giver of peace], Who brought again from among the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood [that sealed, ratified] the everlasting agreement (covenant, testament), ²¹Strengthen (complete, perfect) and make you what you ought to be and equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will; [while He Himself] works in you and accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (the Messiah); to Whom be the glory forever and ever (to the ages of the ages). Amen (so be it).”

- What does Paul call the believer to be? It is a call to assurance and confidence in God, to be strong in the Lord and to not doubt how He uses us in ministry, because it is appointed to us. What you’re called to do has already been decided, but how you allow Him to mold you by His strength into who you are called to be will determine whether or not you fully accomplish what you are called to do.

Vs 13-14

- What you did in ignorance and unbelief has nothing to do with who you are in Christ.
- Paul attained mercy, and the grace of God flowed over him, which were accompanied by the faith and love that Paul would walk in during his ministry.
- They taught Timothy 4 things, and they teach us the same four things as well.

- **1: We are not to be obsessed over what mistakes we may have made.**

- 2 Corinthians 5: 17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come The old has gone, the new is here!”

- **2: We are not to walk in ignorance, nor allow anyone to walk in ignorance.**

- Hosea 4:6 “My people perish due to lack of knowledge [ignorance]”

- **3: The mercy of God is freely given to those who repent.**

- **Acts 3:19** “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” [Mercy is refreshing].

- **4: The grace we were given should cause us to also walk by faith and in love.**

- Faith - Romans 1:17 "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed —a righteousness that is by faith from first to last just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."
- Love - 1 John 4:12 "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

Vs 15-16

- Paul's conversion (Saul to Paul) led to him becoming an example.
- I didn't receive mercy just so I could be saved, and sit around and wait until I went to heaven - I received mercy to be an EXAMPLE through which Christ might show His perfect patience. God had to be patient with me.

- **1: We must live our lives as examples of Christ**

- But the purpose of being an example with our lives is so that we would become a pattern for those who will eventually come to salvation. [Ephesians 4:1 again]
- THIS is one of the keys to striving to be who you are called to be, rather than to do what you are called to do.
- The more time you take in becoming an example, the more accurately you will pattern the life of what Christ believes a Christian should look like.
- While discerning who we are called to be in Christ, we must take these 7 attributes into account, and live by them. 1) We must have our strength from the Lord, 2)we must trust that the ministry each of us have been called to do is appointed by the Lord, 3)we must not focus on our prior mistakes, 4) we must not walk in ignorance, 5)we must recognize that the mercy of God is free to those who turn, 6)we must walk by faith and 7)we must walk in love.

Vs 17 - This may appear that Paul is simply praising God, but it's more than that - after sharing his testimony, he INSTANTLY gives the glory to God.

- **1: We must give God the glory.**

- We are not to touch the glory. All the glory that is a result of you becoming who God desires you to be is God's, not ours.

- **2: We must have and maintain intimacy with God**

- REFLECTS Paul's relationship with God [Reverentially intimate]

Vs. 18-19a Timothy's Commission

2 Timothy 1:6-7 reads “⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

- These prophecies that are being brought to remembrance by Paul to Timothy are most likely in reference to Timothy being bold, which may have been an issue for Timmy who comes off as rather timid.

- **1: We must “fight the good fight of faith” and wage the good warfare**

- **2: We must hold fast to that faith**

- **3: We must keep a clear conscience.**

- FEAR in battle leads to certain death, Paul was continuing to encourage Timmy to be who God called him to be in his waging of the good warfare, by keeping these prophecies in remembrance, holding fast to faith, and having a clear conscience.

- We have been called to wage the good warfare as well, 1 Timothy 6:12 calls us to “fight the good fight of faith”, holding fast to that faith, and keeping a clear conscience.

- These are more of the qualities that we should mold ourselves around as followers of Christ driving ourselves towards becoming the person who God called us to be, much like how Paul is encouraging and driving Timothy towards becoming who he was called to be.

The Warning - This church was sort of jacked up.

- The Church at Ephesus - Revelation 2:4-5 “⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place—unless you repent.”

- How does a church leave its first love? When people from the inside begin to become corrupted, this corruption spreads like a disease through the body of the church.

- **We must be distinctly different from non-believers and those who combat the faith.**

- This brings us to Hymenaeus and Alexander. 2 Timothy 2:17 says that their message spread like a cancer through the church. Cancer corrupts all that it touches.

- These two men, if you can call them that, rejected the faith, rejected sound doctrine, taught blasphemous doctrine -- for example, that the resurrection had already occurred. They caused those around them to fall into their false teachings, and overall, strongly resisted the teachings of the apostles.

- Paul tells Timmy this for two reasons - to show him how to handle those who acted in the same way, and to avoid doing such things himself.

- These two men were removed from the church, biblically, and for the same reason a tumor is removed from the body.
- Paul is warning Timmy not to become like these. Not to shipwreck his own faith. By becoming who God has called him to be, at the urging of Paul, Timmy eliminates the possibility of taking the path of these two blasphemers.
- 2 Corinthians 6:17 “Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord.” Paul is showing that they were separated so no one would be like them. We have to be distinct from those who don’t truly know Christ or the faith we possess in Him.
- Recap: We have to follow the teaching of Paul to Timothy; we have to focus on being who we are called to be, rather than doing what we are called to do.

- 1) We must have our strength from the Lord.
- 2) We must trust that the ministry each of us have been called to do is appointed by the Lord,
- 3) We must not focus on our prior mistakes.
- 4) We must not walk in ignorance.
- 5) We must recognize that the mercy of God is free to those who turn to Him.
- 6) We must walk by faith.
- 7) We must walk in love.
- 8) We must give God the glory.
- 9) We must maintain intimacy with Him
- 10) We must “fight the good fight of faith” and wage the good warfare.
- 11) We must hold fast to that faith and keep a clear conscience.
- 12) We must be distinctly different from non-believers and those who combat the faith.

- By doing these things, we can move close to becoming who God has called us to be.
- You and I aren’t called to be the same person, and within that we aren’t called to do the same things. Yes, we are called to do specific things, each and every one of us are called, and appointed for a purpose and a specific reason. But the ability to do these things we are called to do comes from being who are being called to be in Christ.

- Takeaway - Do you know who you are in Christ?

- By becoming who he has called you to be, you’ll begin to recognize who you are in Him. If The entire body of Christ would adjust their focus from only doing what they are called to do to being who they are called to be, then not only would the body of Christ be more perfect, unified, and whole, each person would do what they were supposed to be doing, as they became who they were supposed to be in Christ, and synergistically, like a well-oiled machine in which its parts know exactly what to do, so too would the body of Christ run.

- So how can you do this? Prayer