

A POWERFUL COMBINATION

“To Timothy” – II Timothy 1:2

PAUL’S CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN WRITING II TIMOTHY

II Timothy provides several clues that Paul wrote this epistle while suffering in a Roman jail (II Timothy 1:16-17; 2:9). His circumstances were undoubtedly dire and the deprivation he experienced was highly challenging. This grizzled, formidable campaigner called what he was going through suffering (II Timothy 1:12). I think we can take his word for it. The temptation to give into despair must have been severe.

AN IMPORTANT TASK

Paul did not give in to it, however. He had things to do. One task was to write consequential words to Timothy. Paul had stationed Timothy in Ephesus to pastor and guide the church there (II Timothy 1:3).

NUMEROUS CHALLENGES

As all pastors do, Timothy encountered numerous challenges leading this faith community. For one, false teachers always put forward novel ideas, shaking the faith of some (I Timothy 1:3). So disseminating right doctrine was a constant need (II Timothy 4:2). We could mention several others, but suffice it to say, Timothy's plate was full.

PAUL’S DESIRE TO HELP

Paul wanted to help Timothy, who was like his son (II Timothy 1:2). The memory of tears rolling down the cheeks of this one he cared so deeply for when they last parted was seared in Paul's memory (II Timothy 2:4). He wasn't able to travel to him, so a letter would have to do until Timothy could hopefully come to him (II Timothy 4:9).

PAUL’S STRATEGY

So interspersed among vital doctrinal teaching and reminders of the reality of living the Christian life in a society opposed to its teachings, Paul sought to encourage Timothy by:

- Communicating the depth of his love for him
- Encourage him in his devotional life:
 - Keep the good thing that is in you by the Holy Ghost – II Timothy 1:14
 - Be strong in Jesus’ grace – II Timothy 2:1
 - Flee youthful lusts – II Timothy 2:22
 - Follow after:
 - Righteousness – II Timothy 2:22
 - Faith – II Timothy 2:22
 - Love – II Timothy 2:22
 - Peace – II Timothy 2:22

If you are facing challenges today or want to help someone who is, combine love and encouragement. They are a powerful combination.