

October 23–29. 1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon:
“Be Thou an Example of the Believers”

Overview

Paul’s letters known as 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are often called Pastoral Epistles because they contain Paul’s counsel to leaders in the Church

A Holy Calling

Paul recounts how his life was change thru the grace of Christ

1Tim 1:12-16

[12] And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

[13] Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

[14] And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

[15] This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

[16] Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

What did Paul think of his former life?

(Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious sinners; of whom I am chief)

Paul states that the mercy he was shown is a pattern for other who believe
What does Paul’s conversion teach us about pattern that leads to being justified by Christ?

Marion G. Romney

"Our knowledge [of Paul] should strengthen our faith and give us hope and courage that even though we have strayed, in some degree, from the paths of wisdom, we likewise can, if we will, come all the way back. The forgiveness and peace that they obtained we can also obtain. In order to do so, however, we must repent as sincerely, learn wisdom, and "apply our hearts unto" it as diligently as did they.

"In Paul's First Epistle to Timothy, he indicated that his experience in coming back was meant to be a pattern for us.... And then this important thought: 'Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus` Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which

should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting' (1 Tim. 1:12-16)."
("Learn Wisdom in Thy Youth," New Era, Dec. 1978)

He makes it clear to Titus how they both must live their lives and fulfill their callings now that they have been redeemed of Christ

Titus 3:3-8

[3] For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

[4] But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

[5] Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

[6] Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

[7] That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

[8] This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Paul makes it clear that it was "the kindness and love of God" and "his mercy" that brings about their salvation.

What does Paul teach us about the importance of good works?

(Not by works of righteousness which we have done
they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works)

Paul makes it clear to Timothy that they have been called of Christ to fulfill their callings

2Tim 1:9-11

[9] Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

[10] But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

[11] Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

What do we learn about gospel callings from Paul comments to Timothy?

(not according to our works, but according to his own purpose... given us... before the world began)

Monte J. Brough

"Why do these callings and responsibilities come to some and not to others?..."

"It is very dangerous for any of us to think we have earned the right to a Church calling. However, every member must come to know the sacred nature of his or her own service in the Church...."

"We must each prepare ourselves for every good work that might come to us and then accept the principle that revelation, not aspiration, is the basis for our respective callings." (CR, April 1997)

What did Paul state that he was called to do?

(I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles)

Paul states how the Lord will bless Timothy and what the Lord has provided him with to help him fulfill his calling

2Tim 1:6-8

[6] Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

[7] For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

[8] Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

What are some of the blessing of the Holy Ghost that will help Timmothy fulfill his calling?

(of power, and of love, and of a sound mind)

Angel Abrea

"This is the assurance found in the lives of faithful Latter-day Saints, coming from a change brought about by the power of the Spirit, that prompts them to bear testimony of the divinity of the work

"It is the testimony, it is the true knowledge that 'God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind' (2Tim 1:7). This gives us the courage, the strength, and the commitment to testify of Christ and his gospel regardless of circumstances or external factors. But for the weak and the unsure... external factors prove to be more important than learning of Christ and gaining a testimony." (CR, April 1988)

What admission does Paul give to help Timmothy with his calling?

(God hath not given us the spirit of fear
Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“Yes, this work requires sacrifice, it requires effort, it means courage to speak out and faith to try. This cause does not need critics; it does not need doubters. It needs men and women of solemn purpose. As Paul wrote to Timothy: ‘God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power.... Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord’ (2 Tim 1:7-8).

“I would that every member of this church, and every good man throughout the world, would put those words where he might see them every morning as he begins his day. They would give him the courage to speak up, they would give him the faith to try, they would strengthen his conviction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I believe that miracles would begin to happen over the earth.” (CR, Oct. 1969)

In addition to teaching and ministering Paul tells Timothy what else he must do to fulfill his calling

1Tim 4:12-16

[12] Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

[13] Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

[14] Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

[15] Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

[16] Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

What else was Timmothy admonished to do to help others come to Christ?

Russell Ballard

“We should be spiritually sensitive to moments when the powerful and important truths of the gospel can be shared with others. Perhaps more importantly, however, we should seek at all times to purify ourselves and to lead such worthy lives that the Light of Christ emanates from us in all that we say and do. Our day-to-day lives should stand as immutable witness of our faith in Christ. In the words of the Apostle Paul, ‘Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity’ (1Tim 4:12).” (CR, April 2000)

Don't Be Lead Astray

We know that the authority and true principles of the gospel we're lost shortly after the martyrdom of Paul and the other apostles. We also know the fulness of the gospel has again been restored to the earth

Paul talks about some of the perilous that will exist in the last days

2Tim 3:1-7

- [1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
- [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
- [6] For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
- [7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

What blessing have we been given that can help us “turn away” from such evil-doers and deceivers?

Elray L. Christiansen

"Now, despite these conditions that Paul described, this is a favored time and a favored day of the Lord. We ought to be thankful that we live in this particular day, notwithstanding all the fears and the troubles and the anxieties which come upon us because of unsettled conditions that prevail in the world. Our gratitude comes mainly because we are the glad recipients of the restored gospel brought back to earth.... There is no need to walk in darkness or in uncertainty. In our day the Church has the vision and the inspiration and the word of the Lord to give to the people to keep them from the pitfalls of life, from sorrow, regret, and failure." (CR, April 1963)

The way to combat these evil-doers and deceivers is to continue to teach sound doctrine

2Tim 4:2-5

- [2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
- [5] But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Why is it that some people “will not endure sound doctrine”?

(but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears)

N. Eldon Tanner

“The last days are here and now, and Paul's prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes. Men are refusing sound doctrine, and after their own lusts they are turning their ears from the truth and are listening to those who preach to their own liking. As a result, we are suffering many tribulations throughout the world. We have reached a time in our history which I believe is the most crucial mankind has ever had to face....

“The only clear and sure solution to our problems is to make our professed Christianity real, to make it personal, apply it in our lives, accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and as the real living Savior of mankind, ‘for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved’ (Acts 4:12).” (CR, Oct. 1968)

Titus is also admonished to combat these false teachers

Titus 1:10-16

[10] For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

[11] Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

[12] One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

[13] This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith:

[14] Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

[15] Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

[16] They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

What does Paul tell Titus to do to combat “vain talkers and deceivers”?

(rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;
Not giving heed to Jewish fables)

Paul contrast these deceivers with true ministers of the gospel

1Tim 1:3-7

[3] As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

[4] Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

[5] Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

[6] From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

[7] Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

What are some of the characteristics of those who are focused on ministering true doctrine?

(Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned)

Joseph Smith

"How precious are the souls of men!... Nothing is so much calculated to lead people to forsake sin as to take them by the hand, and watch over them with tenderness. When persons manifest the least kindness and love to me, O what power it has over my mind....

"The nearer we get to our heavenly Father, the more we are disposed to look with compassion on perishing souls; we feel that we want to take them upon our shoulders, and cast their sins behind our backs." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 240-241)

To combat these false teachers who are purposefully trying to deceive, we have been given a powerful tool.

2Tim 3:12-17

[12] Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

[13] But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

[14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

[15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

[16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

[17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

What is Timothy admonished to do to avoid being deceived and to stay on the path?

(But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured... All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction)

Ezra Taft Benson

“The Apostle Paul also saw our day. He described it as a time when such things as blasphemy, dishonesty, cruelty, unnatural affection, pride, and pleasure seeking would abound. He also warned that ‘evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived’ (2 Tim 3:13).

“Such grim predictions by prophets of old would be cause for great fear and discouragement if those same prophets had not, at the same time, offered the solution. In their inspired counsel we can find the answer to the spiritual crises of our age.... [Paul] said this to Timothy: ‘But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.... From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation’ (2 Tim 3:14–15).

“My dear brethren, this is an answer to the great challenge of our time. The word of God, as found in the scriptures, in the words of living prophets, and in personal revelation, has the power to fortify the Saints and arm them with the Spirit so they can resist evil, hold fast to the good, and find joy in this life.” (CR, April 1979)

Paul states that his mission has been to combat this evil and help others to come to Christ

2Tim 2:9-11

[9] Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

[10] Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

[11] It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

What reason does Paul give for being willingly to endure all the trials and hardships of his ministry?

(I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ)

2Tim 4:6-8

[6] For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

[7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

[8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Thomas S. Monson

"At the end of our mortal journey, may we be able to echo the words of

Paul: 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.' (2 Timothy 4:7.) By so doing we shall be given that 'crown of righteousness' which perisheth not, and hear the plaudit from our Eternal Judge: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.' (Matthew 25:21.)

"Each will then have completed his journey, not to a nebulous 'Anywhere,' but to his heavenly home-even eternal life in the celestial kingdom of God." (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Thomas S. Monson, Ch. 5, pg. 5)