

MY FAVORITE TEXT

By Henry T. Mahan

2 Timothy 1:1-12
TV-487a

Henry Mahan T. Tape Library
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

I'm going to be speaking to you today, from the Book of **Second Timothy, Chapter 1, verses 1-12**. Now, if you would, I would like very much, for you to open your Bibles, I know we could put this scripture upon the screen for you, but I would like it much better for you to open your own Bible and follow along with me as I read. I'm going to be speaking from twelve verses. I'm going to be speaking from **Second Timothy, Chapter 1, beginning with verse 1**. We're going to talk, the Lord willing, if I have the time, we're going to have something to say about everyone of these verses, verses 1-12 of **Second Timothy, Chapter 1**. Now, this is the title of the message, (in the event you might want to write for the tape), the title of the message is, "My Favorite Text." We hear people talk about their favorite song and their favorite Scripture verses and their favorite Psalms, well, I believe that if I have a favorite text, it might be this portion of Scripture, right here. Everything is here! There's so much here, so many blessings. You follow along in your Bibles as I begin with **Second Timothy, Chapter 1, and verse 1**.

Paul says this, "*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Now, God from the beginning promised eternal life in the Messiah, Who is our Lord Jesus Christ. So now, He calls and appoints apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors and teachers to proclaim this promise of eternal life in Christ, and to point all men to the Saviour, that in Him, they might have life. This is what John wrote in **First John, Chapter 5**, "*This is the record, God hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son, and He that hath the Son of God hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*" So then, "*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Watch **verse 2**: he said, "*I'm writing to Timothy, my dearly beloved son, grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and from Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the glorious promise of life in Christ Jesus, I'm writing to Timothy, my beloved son. Now Timothy was not Paul's natural son. Paul wasn't married. He didn't have a wife, and he didn't have a child. Why does Paul call this young man his son? Well, I think I can give you three reasons. First of all, he calls him his son because of Timothy's youth. Paul was an old man and Timothy was a very, very young man.

Secondly, because he was his son in the ministry. Paul taught Timothy the gospel. He learned the gospel from Paul. Thirdly, he calls him his son because of his great affection for him. He loved this young man Timothy, and called him his son. *“Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ, to Timothy, my dearly beloved son.”*

Now, listen to what he requests for Timothy. He says, *“Grace, mercy and peace to you from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.”* These are the three greatest gifts, (grace, mercy and peace). Have you thought about them much? What is grace? Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve. Someone said grace is unmerited favor. Well, it is, it is God giving to us what we do not deserve. What’s mercy? Mercy is God not giving to us what we do deserve; that is mercy. If a man is forgiven of his sins, that’s mercy. *“The wages of sin is death.”* God not giving us death, but rather in Christ, giving us life, that’s mercy. So, grace, is God giving us what we don’t deserve, mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve, and then, (peace). We have peace with God; Christ made peace with God. *“He reconciled us to God through the blood of His cross.”* There is the peace of God that passeth understanding, the quietness of spirit, a rest in all things, and then, there’s a peace with others.

Paul says, *“Timothy, my beloved son,”* I pray for you that God’s grace and mercy and peace through Christ, (all these things are grace and mercy because of Jesus Christ our Lord). It’s not that we deserve it, it’s because He deserves it. It is not because I’m worthy, because He’s worthy and He purchased these things for us. You see, *“Of God are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.”*

Look at **verse 3**. *“I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with a pure conscience, that without ceasing I pray for you night and day.”* When the apostle thought of this young preacher, Timothy, this young son in the gospel; two things happened. He said first of all, *“I thank God for you.”* You know, when Paul was writing to the church at Thessalonica, he said, practically the same thing, *“Beloved, brethren, beloved of the Lord, I thank God for you.”* And here he writes two things to Timothy, he says, *“When I call you to remembrance, when you’re on my mind; I thank God for you and I pray for you.”* You know, that’s three marks of friendship, genuine, sincere, friendship and the love of brethren; I think of you, I often remember you, I thank God for you, I know God gave you to me, that God gave your friendship and fellowship and I pray for you. I remember you; I thank God for you and I pray for you. Three true marks of friendship!

You know, Samuel wrote this one time, he said, *“God forbid that I should so sin against God as to cease to pray for you.”* Do you pray for your friends? Do you pray for your Pastor? Do you pray for one another? If you love one another, you do. I remember you; I thank God for you and I pray for you.

Look at **verse 4**. Do you see why I love this text? There are so many things here. Look at **verse 4**; *“I greatly desire to see you, being mindful of your tears.”* I tell you, when Paul left this young man in Ephesus, (left him with a work to do), he left him with a job to finish. He left him with a people to feed. When he left him there, Timothy was so sad for

Paul leaving him and Paul going to Rome; (he knew he was going to prison), everybody else knew he was going to prison. He left Timothy weeping. He said, *"I'm mindful of your tears,"* but Timothy had finished the work, but Paul, here, desires him to come to Rome. He said *"I have need of you; you come to Rome that I may be filled with joy. I greatly desire to see you, being mindful of your tears, but I will be filled with joy"* (when you come and help me, here in Rome).

Verse 5; listen to this. Paul said to Timothy, *"I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in you."* What does the word, unfeigned mean? When Paul is talking about this young man, here, he says, *"I call to remembrance, the unfeigned faith that is in you."* Unfeigned means (genuine, sincere, not pretentious, no hypocrisy). Paul said, "There's one thing that I know about you, your faith in God, your faith in Christ, your love for Christ is genuine and sincere, no pretension and no hypocrisy." Watch this next statement; *"I call to remembrance the genuine, sincere faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and now in you."* Think about this, what a blessing! Three generations of believers. Three generations in that one home.

Timothy, you see, his mother was Jewish and his father was a Greek. In that family, the grandmother Lois, the mother Eunice and now Timothy, were all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. They all were resting in the promise of God, that promise of eternal life in the Messiah. They believed it, what a blessing!

You know, families need to go to the House of God together, grandparents, parents, children who need to sit together, hear the Word of God together, worship together, pray together and speak to one another about the things of God. Look at **verse 7**, Timothy, listen to me; I have put you in remembrance, I've got something to say to you, *"Stir up the gift which is in you for the laying on of my hands,"* the gifts and graces that God has given you, don't be indifferent, don't be careless, but be zealous and stir up, be encouraged. Use these gifts and these graces, which God has given to you for the glory of God. Use them, be a good steward of the Grace of God.

What are these gifts? I'll tell you that eternal life is the gift of God. The Scripture tells us that, *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* If eternal life is in you, it is the gift of God. Repentance is the gift of God; *"the goodness of God leads us to repentance."* We repent because of the goodness of God. Faith is the gift of God. If a man believes, it wasn't born from his natural heart. Faith is not a flower that blooms in a natural garden; it's a spiritual gift. Listen to this verse: *"For by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourselves, it's the gift of God."* Knowledge and wisdom is the gift of God. James says, *"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."* Power to preach is the gift of God. The power to teach is the gift of God.

So, Paul writing to this young man, this beloved son in the ministry, he says, "Timothy, stir up, be zealous, use these gifts and graces to be used for God's glory." Look at that verse, *"God has not given us the spirit of fear."* We're not shy and timid and cowardly in this business of preaching the gospel. We don't fear men. In preaching the gospel we do not

fear men, or persecution. We do not fear failure, we do not fear demons, we do not fear these things, we fear God, that's right. We fear God. It's a fear of reverence, worship and awe, but we do not fear men, we fear God. God hasn't given us the spirit of fear. Paul said, *"If I try to please men, I'm not the servant of Christ,"* but God has given us, listen to this, three things. He's not given us the spirit of fear, but He has given us the spirit of power to preach the word. *"Our gospel came to you, not in word only,"* we're not arguing. You know, I expect people to believe what I am preaching, because it's the truth. I expect you to believe, because it is the Word of God. You know, that is just so. We have the spirit of power to preach His Word. *"Our gospel is not in word only, but it is in power of the Holy Ghost and much assurance."* He's given us the spirit of love, love for Christ, love for His people, love for the gospel and love for His word, love for His church and then He's given us the spirit of wisdom. Oh for wisdom to preach the gospel! For wisdom to avoid tangents, avoid minor issues and major on Christ. Preach His word and His gospel.

Look at **verse 8**. Now, listen to the instructions of the old preacher, words of wisdom from an old preacher in jail. Paul was in prison when he wrote this epistle. This is called one of his prison epistles. He was in prison in Rome for preaching the gospel. He writes to this young man, and he says, number one, now Timothy, *"Be not thou therefore ashamed of our Lord, don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,"* the gospel of our Lord. Don't be ashamed of Jesus Christ. *"I'm not ashamed of the gospel, it's the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, (male, female, bond, free, old, young, wise, unwise), the gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation."* I'm not ashamed of the gospel. In that gospel the holiness of God is revealed, the mercy of God is revealed and the grace of God is revealed.

"Ashamed of Jesus, just as soon at midnight be ashamed of the moon?

Ashamed of Jesus, sooner far, let evening blush to own a star,

Ashamed of Jesus, that dear friend, on whom my hope of heaven depends.

No, when I blush, be this my shame, that I no more revere His name, than what I do."

Don't be ashamed of the gospel. Now, watch this, *"Timothy, don't be ashamed of me His prisoner."* Now listen carefully to me, listen carefully, I've got something to say here. Paul was in bonds, in prison, for the sake of the gospel. Paul wasn't in prison because he was an evil person. Paul wasn't in prison, because he had violated the law. Paul wasn't in prison for doing something he shouldn't have done. Paul was in prison because his gospel was contrary to the recognized religion and to the recognized way of approaching God. He was in prison for preaching the truth, the gospel. He says to Timothy, "Now don't be ashamed of the gospel, and don't be ashamed to be identified with me, the prisoner of the Lord, don't be ashamed of those who are true believers." Now listen, don't be ashamed to be identified with people who are true believers.

Now, I don't want to be identified with a lot of religious people in this day. I don't want to be identified with them, to be considered one of them, because we're not even walking the same direction. We do not believe the same God. We're not preaching the same gospel. All this emotionalism, charismatic, phony religion, TV personalities and carrying on and all

kinds of entertainment in the name of God, and begging for money and selling trinkets, and using God's name to profit ourselves and living in mansions and driving expensive automobiles and wearing expensive clothing, diamonds and gold and all of these things at the expense of God's dear people. I do not want to be identified with any of these terrible, terrible things that are going on in the name of religion and in the name of God. Paul is not talking about being identified with everybody who uses the name Jesus and everybody who is using the name of God and everybody who says, "*Lord, Lord, is not going to heaven.*" And that's what Christ said, "*But he that doeth the will of my Father.*"

But, when you find someone who is preaching the truth, living the truth, and loving Christ and loving His Word, and walking with Him, and conducting their gospel and their ministry and their services in a way that is honoring to God, glorifying God and true to the Scriptures, you will identify yourselves with them. Don't be ashamed of them. I'm ashamed of a lot of things going on in the name of religion today, in fact, most of it. Most of it is not of God. But don't be ashamed to be identified with someone who knows God.

But, then He says, "*You be a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel, according to the power of God.*" Yes, the power and grace of God will support us in time of trouble. We're going to have trouble, but if He calls us to suffer, if He calls us to preach, if He calls us to do His will, He'll deliver us. This is the 974th broadcast over this station of this program. And we have never asked anybody, anywhere, anytime for one dime, and never will. We've never sold anything. We've never begged for anything. You know what? If God is in something, He will support it. If God is with someone, He will bless him. If God calls someone and sends him to preach, He will give him the power. If He calls on us to suffer, He will give us the grace, "*His grace is sufficient!*" One of the clearest indications that God is not in something is when man has to pay for it and has to ask to promote it and has to sell it, God's not in it. That's true!

Now, he says, "*Don't be ashamed of the gospel, don't you be ashamed of me, His prisoner, and don't you be afraid to bear the afflictions and sufferings of the gospel*" Whatever it costs you to preach it, preach it. Don't compromise anything in this world. Don't sell out. Don't be an Esau, which sells your birthright for a mess of pottage.

Then he said, because "*He hath saved us.*" He saved us by His obedience, by His blood. He hath saved us! He hath saved us from the curse of the law. "*Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things in the book of the Law to do them, Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.*" From the curse of the law, He saved us. He saved us from the curse of the law; and He saved us from condemnation. Justice says, die. Christ died and I don't have to. There's no judgment to them who are in Christ, there's no condemnation to them who are in Christ. Your sin, "*be sure your sins will find you out.*" My sins found Him on the cross and He paid for them and they'll never find me out, they are gone. "*They are separated from me as far as the east is from the west.*" (Separated and remembered no more)!

He has saved us from death. "*He that believeth on the Son shall never die.*" Listen to **verse 9**: "*He saved us, He called us.*" Did you hear that? He called us, He saved us, He

called us, and He loved us, not according to our works. I don't deserve what God has done for me. I don't deserve what God has given me. I don't deserve what God has prepared for me and you don't either. He saved us, not according to our works, not according to our deeds, not according to our religion. His love, His salvation, His grace and His call is according to His own purpose. Why does God love me? It's because *"It seemed good in His sight. Herein is love, not that we loved God, He loved us. We love Him because He loved us."* We call on Him because He called us. We seek Him because He sought us. Now listen carefully, *"He hath called us with a 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."* Did you hear that? It was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. That's right! What God does in time, He purposed in eternity.

God never learns anything new. He knows all things. Jesus knew from the beginning who would believe on Him and who would betray Him. *"I have loved you with an everlasting love,"* (He said). *"Therefore with loving kindness, have I drawn thee. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, as He chose us before the foundation of the world, and predestinated us in love to the adoption of children."* (Oh my)!

Christ is the great Shepherd of an everlasting covenant. Christ is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Christ is the Word, and listen, **verse 10**: *"He is now manifest."* That's right! *"God hath called us with a Holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ before the world began, but is now manifested by the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

"He was in the beginning. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was made flesh, and the Word was with God, and He dwelt among us, and the Word was God, and we beheld His glory." Oh, I tell you, *"Great is the mystery of Godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of the angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world."* (Good news)! That's the good news of our gospel.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ, listen to this, *"Hath abolished death and brought life."* How do you abolish death? He died! How did He bring life? He arose! How did He bring immortality? He lives forever! Our Lord Jesus Christ hath been manifest and appeared, and by His appearance He abolished death. (He died)! Because Christ died, you won't have to, He brought life. *"Because I live, you shall live."* And Immortality, and one day, *"this corruptible will put on incorruption; this mortal shall put on immortality and then shall be brought to pass, the saying, death is swallowed up in victory."*

Paul says in **verse 11**: *"I'm appointed a preacher of this gospel."* And for this cause, this gospel, I suffer these things.

Now look at **verse 12**: *"Nevertheless, I am not ashamed, I know whom I have believed."* He didn't say I know what I believe, I know when I believed, and I know where I believed. He said, *"I know whom."* Salvation is not a whom, a what, a when, or a where. *"I know*

whom I have believed. I'm persuaded, He is able to keep that which I've committed to Him against that day."

There's your gospel. There's a definition of faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ hath appeared, abolished death, brought life and immortality to life, through the gospel and I'm not ashamed of that gospel. *"I'm not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I'm confident and persuaded that He's able to keep what I've committed to Him."* That's my favorite text!