

1 Timothy 1:1-2

On Assignment in Ephesus

Greetings in Christ ...

I. Apostolic Authority

A. Paul's Conversion & Call

B. Minister to Ministers

II. Pastoral Responsibility

A. Ephesus

B. Young Timothy

C. And a Young Church

III. Christ Centered Ministry

A. God Our Savior

B. Jesus Our Hope

C. The Heart of Ministry

... prepare for your mission.

Children, Listen ...

1. What was Saul/Paul doing when Jesus stopped him on the road?
2. What does Paul call Timothy that shows us he had a special love for him?
3. What is it that Paul tells Timothy to do?
4. Paul is encouraging Timothy to do his tasks for the Lord well. How can you encourage someone today to do well in what they are called to do?

A Daunting Task

The weathered Apostle Paul is writing to his young 'apprentice' to encourage him to bravely pursue a daunting task. Timothy was called to guard the Gospel against attacks on its authority and integrity. This was no easy task, especially in light of the fact that Timothy was not only young, he was in the city of Ephesus, a city immersed in riotous paganism and a semi-antagonistic synagogue. To make matters worse there were Gospel-distorting heretics plaguing the church. Timothy would need to stand fast. God would give him the strength and courage, just as he gave him the truth, but he would have to be resolute. Isn't it amazing how the charge to Timothy is so relevant today. The Gospel is constantly under attack from without and within the "church." Thank God for men like Paul and Timothy who were unwavering in their commitment to the Word of God. But there is a message here not only for church leaders, but every believer who has received the "deposit" of the Gospel. Cherish it, know it, have it in your heart, and be prepared to defend it against all detractors. It is the truth from God and His life-giving Word to us.