

The Promise of Life

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I. Introduction. Text: II Timothy 1:1-7.

II. It was Paul's greatest boast that he had been called to be an Apostle by the will of God.

A. He reminds Timothy that he speaks as an authentic spokesperson of the gospel.

B. He calls the gospel the promise of life.

1. The gospel is the power of God for salvation. (Romans 1:16)

2. The gospel is a treasure within.

3. The gospel is unsearchable riches.

4. The gospel is Christ within.

5. The gospel is the glorious message of the blessed God.

C. All human beings have a hunger for life—only in the good news is this quality of life found.

1. Grace, mercy and peace make up the daily supply for the life in Christ.

2. Grace gives us the forgiveness of sins daily and the consciousness of God's love and presence.

3. Mercy withholds the punishment we deserve.

4. Peace is the inner sense of well-being when one realizes that there is a way through the trial no matter how dark it looks.

III. Paul's prayer for Timothy.

A. God is to be the ground of our confidence, not circumstances.

B. One can have confidence in prayer because of a cleansed conscience.

C. Paul prayed constantly for Timothy because of...

1. Timothy's tears of love.

2. His sincere faith.

3. Timothy's spiritual gift.

4. There was clearly the indwelling Spirit of God in him.

- a. The Spirit that is in us is not a spirit of fear.
- b. Christians are forbidden to fear.
- c. God gives us the spirit of power.
- d. God gives us a spirit of love.
- e. God gives a spirit of sound judgment.

Application questions:

1. Which description of the gospel stands out to you? What strikes you most about it?

2. What are grace, peace and mercy with regard to the gospel?

3. How can we have greater confidence in prayer in light of this passage? Explain.
