

2 Timothy Part 1

Note:

In this teaching, the following terms are used: “new creation”, “new man” or “new self”, “Christ in You”, “holy spirit” and “gift of holy spirit”. All these terms refer to that which is received and born in a person when he or she becomes born again.

Turn to 2 Corinthians 4

There are some prerequisite requirements for understanding the epistles of first and second Timothy. The reader must have a working knowledge and understanding of the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery. There must be some experience with walking in the newly created spiritual self, or walking by the spirit. Therefore, the person endeavoring to understand these epistles must have an accurate knowledge of the preceding epistles, Romans through Thessalonians.

Paul was a man, a visionary who practiced what he preached. This section of 2 Corinthians is very appropriate to illustrate Paul's attitude and outlook towards the challenges of life that confront a visionary as he or she functions in the body of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5

5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory (*the exercised power*) of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Paul was not promoting himself, his own ministry, attracting followers and disciples to build a religious denomination. He promoted Jesus Christ as Lord, as a servant in the body of Christ. God had given him the light of the knowledge of the exercised power of God so that he could give that light to others. Paul was faithful in his calling to open our eyes so that we could turn from the power of Satan to God and His power.

Paul recognized his own personal, physical limitations for service.

2 Corinthians 4:7

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

It was the power of God that enabled him to minister and serve so effectively, with such a prevailing impact. Paul left us a pattern to follow, not a recipe, but a pattern, an example. That pattern, that example is a life of service which is conducted by walking by the spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:8

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; **10** always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **11** For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So death is at work in us, but life in you.

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Paul stood against the vicious spiritual attacks from the devil, the god of this world. But he did not stand alone; God delivered him out of all these attacks so that he could live and serve day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:13

13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, **14** knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. **15** For it (*his service, his enduring, the operation of the power of God*) is all for your sake, so that as grace (*not law, not religion, not religious ritual*) extends to more and more people it (*grace*) may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. **16** So (*in spite of all the pressures, challenges, spiritual attacks from the devil*) **we do not lose heart**. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self (*that is the newly created self of the spirit which is in Christ Jesus*) is being renewed day by day (*Its always completely new each day. It never grows old or wears out*). **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory (*exercised spiritual power*) beyond all comparison, **18** (*this is all happening*) as we look not to the things that are seen (*the momentary afflictions*) but to the things that are unseen (*the eternal weight of exercised spiritual power; the eternal rewards*). For the things that are seen are transient (*temporary*), but the things that are unseen are eternal (*permanent*).

This epistle is written at the end of Paul's life, while he was awaiting execution as a criminal. 2 Timothy is a declaration of the success and triumph of a wonderful, faithful, man of God. In Rome, imprisoned and in chains, Paul has the unparalleled privilege to bring forth, by revelation and spiritual believing, one more epistle. Even in these last days, Paul keeps himself spiritually fired up, serving and functioning in the body of Christ, for the one true God. In this epistle, imparted by spiritual believing, God reveals some wonderful, personal truths about Paul which he is to record and communicate with his dear child in the faith, Timothy.

Turn to 2 Timothy 1

This is the last epistle of the apostle Paul that is in the Bible. It is written about a year after 1st Timothy. It is thought that Timothy is in Ephesus at this time, which is 67 or 68AD.

2 Timothy 1:1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the **life** that is in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
3 I thank God whom I serve (*He is thankful, not complaining!*), as did my ancestors (*who were of the tribe of Benjamin*), with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.
4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy (*or - and so make my happiness complete. Revised English Bible*).

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5 I am reminded of your sincere faith (*no hypocrisy, no hidden agenda*), a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

6 For this reason I remind **you to fan into flame the gift of God** (*as Paul continues to do*), which is in you through (*or - which was accompanied by*) the laying on of my hands,

When a flame is burning, power is at work. It is the power at work which gives the flame its brightness and which produces the heat. Timothy is reminded to continue to manifest the power of God in his life, as Paul continues to do as an example.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 indicates that it is possible to “quench” the operation of the gift of holy spirit. It is possible for a visionary to allow himself to stop functioning, to stop manifesting the power of God, to stop walking by the spirit. However a visionary is to have that spiritual gift of God burning white hot and keep functioning, no matter what the circumstances. 1 Corinthians 14:32 reveals that the spirit of a prophet is subject to the prophet. This is a general principle which is just as true in the 21st century as it was in the 1st century. We don't ever have to wait for a feeling, or wait for the “anointing” or anything else in order to fan into flame that gift in us. This “fan into flame” is not a whipping up of emotions or an emotional state. It is to continue to walk by the spirit, to operate the gift of holy spirit, to manifest the power of God. It is to continue to serve as a visionary as directed by the head of the Church, Christ Jesus, no matter what anyone else says, no matter what the circumstances.

2 Timothy 1:7

7 for God **gave** us a spirit (*Who gave it? God, not man, not some religious organization*) not of fear (*no devil spirit of bondage*) but of power and love and self-control (*or a sound mind*).

The newly created spiritual self is not a devil spirit of bondage, but it is spiritual power, spiritual love, and a sound mind. This is Christ in each one of us! The newly created spiritual self is our real self, and we continue to have freedom of will.

2 Timothy 1:8

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share (*with me*) in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

Timothy is to continue to serve as a visionary, teaching and preaching the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery. The rulers of the darkness of this world will continue to fight and reject this gospel and will continue to cause hardships for Timothy. However he can handle this as Paul did, by the operation of the gift of holy spirit, by the power of God. This is why Paul was reminding Timothy of the basis for his power and the basis for his ability as a man of God, serving in the body of Christ, just as Paul is doing.

2 Timothy 1:9

9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ

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Jesus, who **abolished death** and brought **life and immortality to light** through the gospel,

Turn to Acts 26

See, the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery ARE the words of Christ Jesus. God saved us by way of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. God saved us and He called us because of His purpose and His grace. This salvation, this calling, this grace was given to us IN Christ Jesus BEFORE THE AGES BEGAN. This salvation, calling, and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus. This appearing CANNOT be referring to the ministry of Jesus to Israel. It CANNOT be referring to the four gospels in the Bible. Our calling and salvation which he gave us before the ages began is NOT to be found in the four gospels. So what appearing of Christ Jesus is this referring to? For the answer, we must check Paul's calling in the book of Acts.

Acts 26:13

13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. **14** And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' **15** And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. **16** But rise and stand upon your feet, for **I have appeared to you** for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which **I will appear to you**, **17** delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you **18** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith (*that is*) in me.'

Turn back to 2 Timothy 1

Our savior, the Lord Jesus, appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus. He personally commissioned Paul, revealing to him that the Lord would appear to him in the future. Paul was commissioned as a servant and witness to those things in which the Lord would appear to him. These future events did happen and there were multiple appearances.

Galatians 1:11 and 12 says:

Galatians 1:11

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel (*It did not originate with man; man did not initiate it*). **12** For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of (*from*) Jesus Christ.

This is the appearing of Christ Jesus that Paul was referring to in 2 Timothy 1:10. To the end, Paul continues to teach the revelation of the great mystery of God. As a servant and a witness, he continued to testify to those things in which the Lord appeared to him.

2 Timothy 1:11

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11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,
12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

As mentioned before, Paul experienced hardships as a visionary. He was not ashamed of his calling or his hardships or his legal challenges. He proclaims his trust that God in Christ is able to guard the deposit, his ministry which was entrusted to Paul until that Day when Christ returns.

At the end of life, the thoughts of a man or woman turn to question what their lives have meant, whether anything they have accomplished will endure or make a difference. Many long to make a “mark in life” or in this world. Paul made his mark, although it was not in this world. His accomplishments, all his work, everything that he was to give an account for, is being kept by God. Paul had made his mark on the pages of eternity. Nothing in heaven and earth can remove or negate his work in the Lord. You see why he was not ashamed, not complaining, not downcast? Because of the power of God resident in each believer, we too have the same opportunity to make our mark, our imprint, our prevailing impact on the pages of eternity, as we walk in newness of life by the newly created spiritual self.

Colossians 3:3, 4 testifies:

Colossians 3:3, 4

3 For you (*the old self of the flesh*) have died, and your life (*the new spiritual self*) is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Each one of the believers lives are hidden with Christ in God. There is no evil which can prevent each one of us from appearing with Christ in glory!

2 Timothy 1:13

13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (*in order to fulfill these instructions, Timothy must walk by the spirit*).

14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Until he falls asleep, the visionary is responsible to guard the 'good deposit', the gift that has been given by God in order that the visionary can serve as a gift of God's grace in the body of Christ. The visionary cannot guard the 'good deposit' by senses means. This requires walking by the spirit just as Paul and Timothy did.

Timothy is encouraged to follow the sound words, which is the gospel of the grace of God, the great mystery, as well as the spoken and written words which Paul imparted to Timothy and others. Paul desires for Timothy to have peace as he serves. In the context of having peace in our lives, Paul writes in Philippians 4:9

9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

As the believer and visionary alike practice these things, the “pattern of sound words”, then the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. So, Timothy can have peace,

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regardless of the challenging circumstances that he faces.

2 Timothy 1:15

15 You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

16 May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains,

17 but (*in contrast to being ashamed*) when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—

18 may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

All the believers in Asia minor had turned away from Paul. Nothing is known of the two men mentioned in verse 15. Paul is concerned with the household of Onesiphorus; he writes of this man in the past tense – apparently something had happened to him. He was of great help to Paul.

Now Paul is not “ignoring the facts” regarding the spiritual situations Timothy is facing. On the contrary, he instructs Timothy how to proceed in the face of these challenges.

2 Timothy 2:1

2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (*or be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*)

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Timothy is to find, identify and teach faithful teachers who will teach the gospel of the grace of God, including the great mystery. This knowledge is to be entrusted to them so that it continues to move within the body of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

3 Share (*with Paul*) in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted (*the military recruiter*) him.

The military allegory has to do with the spiritual war against the rulers of the darkness of this world. As Timothy walks by the spirit he has access to the spiritual wisdom he needs to stay unentangled with the the affairs of this life. Timothy learned how Paul lived unencumbered by the things of this life. Notice how Paul did not instruct Timothy in detail about what to do to stay unentangled. Those details vary from person to person and their unique circumstances, which is why it requires spiritual wisdom to accomplish.

2 Timothy 2:5

5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 9

The athletic allegory has to do with our self discipline. We keep our flesh in submission to the

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spirit. This is not referring to legalistic religious laws or commandments contained in ordinances.

1 Corinthians 9:24

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. **25** Every athlete **exercises self-control in all things**. (*why?*) They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable (*he is looking at the things which are not seen*). **26** So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **27** But I discipline my body and keep it under control (*I pummel my body and make it a slave*), lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified (*from winning the imperishable rewards*).

Turn to Romans 6:6

6 We know that our old self (*of the flesh*) was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. (*What died? The old self of the flesh!*)

Romans 6:11

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Let not sin therefore reign (*or rule*) in your mortal body, to **make you obey** its passions.

Notice something here – we are not to obey the passions of the flesh. Does it say to fight against the passions of the flesh so they are gone? Does it say to reform the flesh? NO! It says not to let the sin and the passions of the flesh rule over us! Feelings will come and go, feelings are no indicator of your spirituality.

Romans 6:13

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14** For sin will have no dominion over you (*will not rule over the new self of the spirit*), since you are not under law but under grace.

Finally, turn to Galatians 5:16. So how do we keep the passions of the flesh from ruling in our life?

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify (*or fulfill*) the desires of the flesh. **17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and **the desires of the Spirit** are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Return to 2 Timothy 2

What is it that overcomes the desires of the flesh and enables us to do what we, the new spiritual self desires to do? Walking by the spirit, not by the flesh. All this is expressed in the athletic allegory.

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2 Timothy 2:6

6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 3

The farming allegory is expressed and explained in 1 Corinthians 3:6

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

9 For we (*the visionaries, the farmers*) are God's fellow workers. You (*collectively the Church*) are God's field, God's building.

Turn back to 2 Timothy 2

God gives the growth. The wages, the benefits are given both now and in the future when Christ returns to gather us together. This farming allegory includes the work we do now and our eternal rewards of the future.

2 Timothy 2:6

6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

As Timothy thinks and ponders over what Paul has imparted, the Lord will give him understanding in everything imparted here.

All three allegories are mentioned here in 2 Timothy 2. We cannot magnify any one of these allegories out of bounds, as all three are needed. We dare not forget that we are in a spiritual war with the rulers of the darkness of this world. The spiritual resources we have for this war is the entire armor of God. The resources we have as athletes is to walk by the spirit. As we labor in God's field, God gives the increase and guarantees our wages, our benefits. The visionary takes the entire armor of God and stands firm against the spiritual attacks. The visionary develops self-control by walking by the spirit. The visionary plants and waters as a fellow worker with God in God's field.

2 Timothy 2:8

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,

9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

What a revelation! While Paul is in prison, locked up and in chains suffering as criminal, waiting to be executed, he remains spiritually fired up as always. God continues to open His word to Paul so that Paul can speak with spiritual believing and impart it to others. Though the visionary is bound, the word of God is NOT bound. It WILL accomplish what God intends

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for it to accomplish!

2 Timothy 2:10

10 Therefore (*because God's word is NOT bound*) I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Paul is able to endure because he walks by the spirit. He keeps his focus on the things of eternity that are not seen with the physical eyes. He pays close attention to himself to make sure he stays spiritually fed and strong. He does this for the believers, for the elect, so that they can obtain all the benefits of salvation both in the here and now and in the future, for all eternity.

1 Timothy 2:11

11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

Turn to Romans 6:4

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Since we, the old self of the flesh has died with him, we are **now, today** able to walk in newness of life. Since we have died with Christ, we know that we will also live with him in the future.

Turn back to 2 Timothy 2:12

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

Turn to Romans 5:17

17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

When do they reign? Right NOW, AND in the future.

Turn to Romans 8:5

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6** For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **7** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **8** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Ruling in life with Christ is dependent on us walking by the spirit, not by the flesh. If we walk by the flesh, we will not endure. We keep looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We consider him who endured so that we do not become wearied and faint in our minds.

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Turn to Galatians 5

The last half of 2 Timothy 2:12 says “...if we deny him, he also will deny us...”.

Galatians 5:1

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. **2** Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision (*religious legalism and its rituals*), Christ will be of no advantage to you. (*When? In the present time. Where? In the physical world.*)

Galatians 5:3

3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. **4** You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. **5** For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Turn back to 2 Timothy 2

The denial of Christ is to return to religious legalism, which negates the benefits of the grace of God in our lives in the physical realm. It also prevents us from earning additional eternal rewards. This yoke of slavery is such that the one so enslaved is led into idolatry.

2 Timothy 2:13

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

God created our new spiritual self in Christ Jesus. We are identified with Christ. Paul had persecuted the Church in Jerusalem and Judea. He caused believers to be put to death. When Jesus confronted Paul personally, he said “...I am Jesus whom you are persecuting...”. Jesus is clear on who we really are, because it is Christ in you, the hope of glory! So, if we walk unfaithfully, in the flesh, the real self of the spirit remains identified with Christ. Christ will not deny himself. As in 1 Timothy, Paul gives a summary of the mystery. This time it is a summary of the mystery and its impact on the individual believers. It is given in reference to the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, mentioned verse 10.

2 Timothy 2:14

14 Remind them (*the elect*) of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling (*or rightly dividing*) the word of truth.

In these two verses we have “words” and “the word of truth”. People will argue about the doctrines and commandments of men, about the doctrines promoted by deceiving devil spirits. In contrast, Timothy is to occupy himself as a workman who rightly divides the word of truth.

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2 Timothy 2:16

16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will **lead people** into more and more ungodliness, (*this irreverent babble is being promoted to those who rise up as counterfeit leaders*)
17 and their talk will spread like gangrene (*this is deadly; gangrene is not compatible with life*). Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,
18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.
19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

Now we have the architectural allegory. 1 Corinthians 3:8 says:

9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. **10** According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now we know what the foundation represents! It represents Jesus Christ. No wonder it has that seal that has been revealed to Paul. The babble of Hymenaeus and Philetus was not building anything of lasting worth on the foundation. Anyone who desires to build on that foundation is to depart from iniquity. Iniquity are the secret plans and schemes of evil which move under cover of darkness in the courses of this world. In order to continue to work iniquity, one has to deny Christ and deny God. Iniquity assumes that no one sees the plans and schemes. However, God sees it all and can communicate the treasures of darkness to you by way of Christ in you!

2 Timothy 2:20

20 Now in a great house (*that's the believers, collectively*) there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable (*in his or her practice*), he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready (*or furnished*) for every good work (*That's the visionary*).

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (*no hypocrisy, no hidden agendas*).

Cleansing him or herself is done by walking by the spirit. Remember Galatians 5?

2 Timothy 2:23:

23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after

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being **captured by him** to do **his will**.

Paul continues to walk by the spirit, fervently communicating to Timothy the revelation, the vision for his service in these challenging circumstances. In these last three verses, Timothy is to minister the gospel of the grace of God to the gentiles, opening their eyes, giving them an opportunity to escape from the power of satan by turning to God and His power.

Paul will not be there with Timothy to help, but he is doing his utmost to help strengthen Timothy for his service in the challenging days ahead. Paul has his eyes firmly fixed on the eternal things that are not seen, undistracted by his own afflictions, so that he can joyfully continue to serve with great impact in the body of Christ.