

TTS Scripture S1 – 2 Tim 1:1-7

[[INTRO]]

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of 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 am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. 6 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.
[2 Tim 1:1-7]

[1] Authorship – ‘Educated Beyond Their Intelligence’

2 Timothy 1:1ff – “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus... To Timothy”

BUT: for over a century, many academics have suggested Paul didn’t write this.

- **Pseudepigrapha.**
 - Also: Colossians / Ephesians / 2 Thess / Titus.
- **A ‘Pauline school’** wrote these epistles.
 - Re: Deuteronomy + the ‘Mosaic school’.
- **Three main arguments:**
 - Vocabulary and style.
 - Ecclesial structures.
 - Some theological differences.

DISCUSS: What is our response to this?

Is there a problem?

Think theologically + exegetically.

I’d suggest there are seven good reasons to reject this.

[1A] FIRST: force of the plain sense.

- Author attribution.
 - Doesn’t close the case but not to be dismissed either.

[1B] SECOND: historical.

- Polycarp's *Epistle to the Philippians*.
- Clement's *Epistle to the Corinthians*.

[1C] THIRD: exegetical.

- Death and resurrection aren't central – but epiphany instead;
 - E.g. 2 Tim 1:10
 - BUT: 1 Cor 15:5-8
- Overly positive statements about the Law;
 - E.g. 1 Tim 1:8ff
 - BUT: Rom 7
- 'Defensive' model of tradition.
 - E.g. 2 Tim 2:2
 - BUT: 1 Cor 15 + 2 Pet 3

[1D] FOURTH: logical.

- Circular:
 - "We KNOW (a) is invalid because it contains (b); and we KNOW (b) is invalid because it isn't found in (c); and we KNOW (c) is valid because it doesn't contain (b); and we KNOW (b) is invalid because we find it in (a); and we KNOW (a) is invalid because..."
- Presumptive:
 - It assumes Paul wrote monolithically, never changed, never altered his tone, etc.
- Self-justifying:
 - The model moves the goalposts so it can prove itself.

[1E] FIFTH: spiritual.

- It's no coincidence that many modern scholars seek to dismiss these texts as in some way illegitimate.
 - Re: male eldership / masculinity + femininity / solid model of tradition etc.
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[2] Setting 2 Timothy in Context – Life & Ministry of Paul

Life of the Apostle Paul

- Early life and pre-conversion
 - **Born in Tarsus** (S. Turkey) – c. 5BC-5AD.
 - Jewish family – father a Pharisee [Acts 23:6].
 - **Jewish education:**
 - *“A member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born to Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the Church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless”* [Phil 4:5-6]
 - Participated in **persecuting Christians:**
 - Held the coats of Stephen’s killers [Acts 7:58]
 - Invaded homes and sent Christians to prison [Acts 8:3] – reminiscent of the Gestapo!

- Conversion & Early Ministry
 - **Conversion dated to around 31-36AD.**
 - *“Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?”* [Acts 9:4]
 - Spent a few days in Damascus blind – until healed by Ananias, then baptised.
 - Immediately **begins to make the Gospel known.**
 - In Damascus and Arabia.

- First missionary journey [46-48AD] – Acts 13-14
 - Initially led by Barnabus
 - Antioch (S. Turkey) back to Antioch.
 - Focused on southern / central Turkey.

- Council of Jerusalem [48/49AD] – Acts 15
 - Question of Gentile circumcision and inclusion.

- Second missionary journey [49-52AD] – Acts 16-18
 - Paul and Silas – and Timothy (picked up from Lystra).
 - Jerusalem to Corinth.
 - Through Asia Minor, to Macedonia, to Greece.
 - Stays in Corinth for “a considerable time” [Acts 18:18]

 - Third missionary journey [53-57AD] – Acts 19-21
 - Paul and Priscilla & Aquila.
 - Corinth to Jerusalem.
 - Everywhere – doubling back on himself.

 - Journey to Rome [59-60AD]
 - **Spent time in Jerusalem** [Acts 21-23]
 - Arrested in the temple
 - Brought before Roman tribune
 - Brought before Jewish council
 - **Escapes to Caesarea** [Acts 23]
 - Imprisoned for two years
 - Exercises his right as Roman citizen for appeal to Caesar [Acts 25]
 - Paul sails for Rome and shipwrecked on Malta [Acts 27]
 - Arrives + preaches in Rome [Acts 28] – c. 60AD.
 - Lives there for two years – likely imprisoned and killed.
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[3] Setting 2 Timothy in Context – 1 Timothy Into 2 Timothy

So where do 1 & 2 Timothy fit?

- Right at the end – in that last season of Paul’s life.
- Timothy’s leading the Church in Ephesus:
 - *“I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine”* [1 Tim 1:3]

- Not sure if functioning as Elder, as Paul's ambassador, or something else.
- After Paul's arrival in Rome:
 - *"When [Onesiphorus] arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me..."* [2 Tim 1:17]

What was 1 Timothy all about, then?

- Paul charges Timothy to stay and serve in Ephesus [1 Tim 1:3-5]
- He twice gives his reason for writing his first epistle:
 - *"I am giving you these instructions, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight"* [1 Tim 1:18]
 - **To encourage and fortify Timothy – keep going!**
 - *"I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth"* [1 Tim 3:14-15]
 - **To clarify what a God-glorifying Church looks like.**

To this end:

- Establish a life of prayer and thanksgiving [2:1-7]
- Worshipful masculinity & femininity [2:8-15]
- Order Church government with Godliness [3:1-13]
- To Timothy: here's how to order yourself! [4:6-16]
- How to live as the family of God [5:1-6:2]
 - Generations / Marriage / Widows / Welfare / Slaves.
- Wield the crook against false teachers [6:3-10]

[4] Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-7 Together

Re: 1 Tim 2

Rumbling in the distance