

10-2-22 World Communion Sunday

Sermon- Feed Your Faith

Scripture- 2 Tim 1:1-14, CTW PS 137

Hymns- 696,44,103

Theme- On this day when the world's Christians come to the table set by God through the Holy Spirit, we focus on strength in our numbers. Paul says that we are to revive God's gift that is present in all who believe. When we look at the state of Christianity in the world we can become discouraged because His church is under fire. Paul's message to Timothy serves as a reminder that there is strength in the midst of adversity!

## **I. The People of God Must Come To The Table He has Set For All Of Us In This Time of Fear?**

### **A. Paul Reminds us that we should not feed our fear...we should feed our faith!**

As David said in **Psalm 56:3** Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Paul writes this letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. It was a difficult time for ministry in the life of Timothy, AND for the Apostle Paul.

Timothy was having trouble in the church at Ephesus where he served, and Paul was in prison. So, the letters of 1 and 2 Timothy are God's words of encouragement when we face fearful times.

AND, when we DO FACE FEAR, we must learn how to FEED OUR FAITH and NOT our fears. How can we feed our faith and not our fears?

### **B. Paul Tells Timothy that YOU FEED YOUR FAITH:**

#### **1. THROUGH THE WILL OF GOD v. 1a**

Everything Paul did since his conversion was because of following the will of God for his life. Nothing happens to us but what God knows about it in advance.

Christian Pastor and Musician Mark Lowry notes, "Did it ever occur to you that nothing has ever occurred to God?" He knows about it before it ever happens **AND He allows it for our good and His glory.**

Paul in **Romans 8:28** reminds us "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

## **2. YOU FEED YOUR FAITH THROUGH THE WAY OF THE SON v. 1b**

The way of Jesus is life! That's the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He offers life, by His grace & mercy and gives us peace!

Don't ever forget the words in **John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior, if you will repent of your sin and believe that Jesus died on the cross in your place for your lawbreaking and believe that He was buried and rose to life...**you can be saved!**

You can never **FEED** your faith if you don't **HAVE** faith in Jesus Christ!

**1 John 5:11-12** says "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; **he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

Paul wanted Timothy to continue in full peace of mind and heart, the inner tranquility produced by divine grace and mercy. He wanted Timothy to have the best that God the Father and Christ

Jesus our Lord offer to redeemed sinners: grace to cover sin, mercy to overrule misery, and peace to dominate life.

### **3. YOU FEED YOUR FAITH THROUGH THE WORTH OF FRIENDS v.3-4.**

**2 Tim. 1:3** "I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day."

Timothy was valuable to Paul as a son in the faith and a partner in ministry. You can tell that because of the Apostle's prayers for Timothy. Paul spoke with authority to Timothy! It is wonderful to have friends who will pray **for** you and **with** you. Godly friends are valuable to you!

**Let me ask you a question:** Do the people you consider to be YOUR friends, help or hinder you in your service to the Lord? If they hinder you, you need to get some new friends! You feed your faith with the kind of friends you have. As you come to the table today to be refreshed, know that your real friends are there with you too!

**Proverbs 12:26** Reminds us "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray."

Timothy was probably like the believers at Ephesus when Paul left. They loved him and hated to see him go:

**Acts 20:36** (NKJV) 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

This is a reminder to all of us that you feed your faith with godly friends who will encourage you in your walk with the Lord.

#### **4. YOU FEED YOUR FAITH THROUGH THE WORSHIP OF FAMILY v.5.**

Paul here says "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Timothy's mother and grandmother were great influences in his life. Why? Because they worshipped and served the Lord. They had an evident faith that was on display for Timothy to see.

We don't know anything about Timothy's dad, he may have died or may not have been a believer. We just don't know. But we DO KNOW that Eunice and Lois worshipped the Lord. They served God and Timothy witnessed that!

**Deuteronomy 6:6-8** Known as the SHEMA states God's desire for our relationships clearly: "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be on your foreheads as reminders.

Folks, regardless of the difficulties we face and the current unpopularity of faithful practices, your children need to see you worship and call on God during these difficult days. You feed your faith with family worship.

#### **5. YOU FEED YOUR FAITH THROUGH THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY v.6**

In **2 Tim. 1:6** Paul says "**Therefore** I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

The idea of laying on of hands may have referred to the day when Timothy got saved, or perhaps when he was called into the

ministry. Either way, Paul had an impact on his life, and he was considered a fellow laborer with Paul.

What a legacy we can leave for our children when we call on the Lord and worship Him in times of crisis and calamity!

That's how you feed your faith and the faith of your family by letting them see you call upon God and worshipping Him.

Plan a time of prayer and Bible reading for your family. Let your kids see you being God's hands and mouth and feet for Him!

By the way, I believe Paul is addressing Timothy not only as a son in the faith, but as a God-called preacher of the Gospel.

## **6. YOU FEED YOUR FAITH THROUGH THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT v.7**

In **2 Tim. 1:7** Paul reminds us all "For God has not given us a spirit of fear (TIMIDITY), but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

The word translated fear is **not the normal Greek word for fear which is phobos**. We get our word phobia from that word. But word use here is **deilia**. It is only used here and means a timid, cowardly, shameful fear that is generated by weak, selfish character.

The Lord is **never pleased** with our cowardice, our lack of confidence, or our being shameful of Him.

If you're cowardly in your faith, that's not because of God. Because God has given us everything, we need to follow Him in faith.

What has God given us? Power, Love and Discipline. When we are shaky in our faith, it's because we're focusing on ourselves instead of on the Lord.

Paul said in **Ephesians 1:18-20** the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

## **II. So, Where Are You in All of This?**

**A. As we Approach the Table of God Today, It is to be with a Humble and Contrite Heart, In Awe Of the Power of God to use it all to benefit the kingdom.**

A famous Preacher of the Word, **Dr. W.A. Criswell** had an unusual and humbling experience in his life. Some of the men in his church asked a photographer, **Yousuf Karsh** to come to the church to make a portrait photograph of **Criswell** for his 35th anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

At the time, **Mr. Karsh** was the most famous portrait photographer in the world. A large book of Karsh's photos, *Faces of Destiny*, has his photographs of Albert Einstein, Albert Schweitzer, Winston Churchill, Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, John Kennedy and many presidents of the United States.

As Dr. Criswell visited with Mr. Karsh, he asked him who, out of all the great men and women of the earth he had photographed, would he select as the greatest of all?

Dr. Criswell thought he might say, "Winston Churchill" or "Albert Einstein." But Karsh said, "Out of all the people with whom I ever worked in photography, far and above the greatest to me was **Helen Keller.**"

Dr. Criswell said, "Helen Keller?"

Karsh replied, "Yes, Helen Keller." She was blind and deaf. The only way to reach her was through the sensitivity of her fingers.

Dr. Criswell asked, "Why Helen Keller?"

Karsh replied, **"One cannot describe the beauty of her character and the gentleness of her spirit. I haven't gotten over that yet. Character, like a photograph, develops in darkness."**

Ladies and Gentlemen, we may be in a dark time...not just for our country, but the world. Stay close to Jesus. Whatever you think about what's happening...regardless of who's at fault...God has allowed this to happen in His Will.

The Way of the Son is life in Jesus Christ. It has always been and will always be. The Worth of our Friends in Christ are valuable to us!

Let's Worship as a Family. As we are able, let's do the Work of the Ministry...we can be the Lord's hands, feet and mouth in this dark and difficult time.

And we can do that because the Witness of the Spirit in our lives is one of Power, Love and Discipline. Let's feed our faith and not our fear.

**Deuteronomy 31:6** says: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Amen? Let Us Come to the Table today with the multitude in the Faith and enjoy all that HE has prepared for us. AMEN?