

Live With Purpose

2 Timothy 1:1-12:

- Paul sounds like a man who's coming to an end. He looks back at his life and his loved ones.
 - He thinks about his ancestors who worshipped God.
 - He thinks about Timothy constantly. He loves him and remembers his faith, which also was found in his mother and grandmother. He encourages Timothy to be zealous and not fear.
- Paul considers the gift of grace and the call as a preacher, apostle and teacher.
 - He did not shrink back from suffering, because it is in this suffering that he unites himself with Christ.
 - Paul is not ashamed of his life, though at the time, it looks humiliating and perhaps like a defeat.

You ever do this? Look back at your life and begin to take inventory? Paul will do that in the letter. Look back at your family line: good, bad and ugly. Think about your roots and what makes you "you." Think about those you love - those who really stick out. Those who have helped you. Those who give you hope. Those that encourage you. Then you think about what God has done *for* you and what's He's done *with* you. For Paul, it led to a reminder of his place in the Kingdom. He's reminded what he's been entrusted with and his role. He has purpose. **It** all has purpose.

2 Timothy 2:1-13:

- Paul turns his attention specifically to Timothy and reminds him of his responsibilities.
 - He's to equip others and who can share in teaching others. Since April we've discussed:
 - Godly Givers (Giving of ourselves)
 - Arguing With God: Malachi (Seeking justification)
 - Our Propitiation (What Jesus means to us all)
 - Grace: More Than A Feeling
 - Mommas Helping Mommas
 - Building God's House (Lessons from David)
 - The Woman At The Well (Evangelism)
 - A Lost Generation (Lack of Faith)
 - Abortion
 - Divorce
 - Job As A Father
 - Lamenting
 - Making A Change
 - Perfectly Courteous
 - What's the point of pouring our time, energy and attention into such things?
 - Because there is a rhyme and reason to our lives. We were made to glorify God. He has saved us all and we're being transformed. We're being sanctified. We're preparing for our ultimate home with God.

- He then gives him specific areas of focus and they're good reminders for us all:
 - **Soldiers** who suffer please the one who enlisted him.
 - Not every day feels like a war, but those days will come. It's part of our lives. They're shouldn't lead to forgetting God, rather reminding us of what we're in - a war. However, whether the day be troublesome or not, our focus is to please God.
 - Sometimes pain and suffering in life results in distraction. I really love music, for example, but is that what I live for? I hope we get to enjoy music in eternity! Who knows - haha. If I had pursued a professional career as a musician instead of preaching, would that have been wrong? Not necessarily (if I could do so in a godly manner), but what if it became the center of my heart's desire?
 - Do you feel like you're distracted in your life right now? Have you forgotten what your purpose is all about? What do you feel like you're fighting right now - is it the correct war? Remember, Satan is typically offering you something to distract from the pain in suffering. Be very careful, brethren. It comes in many different forms.
 - **Athletes** play by the rules.
 - **1 Corinthians 9:25-26** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly;
 - We love sports in the U.S. Football is part of our DNA. But what's the point? One of you recently mentioned how much we pay athletes and how ridiculous it is. I don't disagree.
 - How many of us can rattle off the rules of a particular sport: baseball, soccer, football, basketball, etc. How many of us spend hours watching it? But compare that to our knowledge, discipline or love that goes into God's kingdom? How many have the rules of God in their hearts or are familiar with the big "players" in the Bible?
 - **Farmers** work hard and will reap what they sow.
 - **James 5:7-8** "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."
 - Paul already made the point that we're saved because of "His purpose and grace" and not by works (1:9). But brethren, we work. And it can be exhausting. And many times we're just patiently waiting as farmers. Working and waiting. Working and waiting. Working and waiting. If we're not careful, it can become like the beginning of Ecclesiastes. The sun comes up. The sun goes down. The wind goes 'round. What's it all about? When you put God in the center of it all, you get back on track. You're walking and working with purpose without getting entangled. What are you working towards?
 - Those who don't believe in God don't see things like we do. They're not persuaded that there's a real purpose behind life. They believe you've got

one shot, one life to enjoy, and you'd better make the most of it all. They would argue that they appreciate life more than Christians because of this mentality. However, their aim becomes to **please themselves** and fall prey to a war they didn't even know they were in. They **play by their own rules**. They work hard, but **work in vain**.

- **The Purpose:**

- Salvation in Christ Jesus. Vs. **11-13** could be our motto, don't you think?
 - **2 Timothy 4:6-8** "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."