



“The Conscience of Godly Leaders”

2 Timothy 1

Lesson 10

In A Nutshell

Godly leaders need to serve God with a clear conscience. They ought to do what they know is right. Paul encourages Timothy to serve God that way in this chapter, and he cites intimidation and fear as the greatest threat to the conscience of a godly leader.

To The Testimony!

The Constants of a Godly Conscience

2 Tim.
4:6-7

1. The book of 2 Timothy has a commonality with Paul's earlier letter to the Philippian church in that both were written by Paul while undergoing imprisonment (2 Tim. 1:16, Phil. 1:13). As you read the passages noted, what difference between the imprisonments becomes immediately apparent? What does this difference teach us about God's plan for godly leaders?

2 Tim.
1:1-2

2. Paul's circumstances had taken a terrible turn for the worse. Nero's hatred of Christians had flared up with the burning of Rome, and the winds of change, which accompanied that historical event, brought tragedy to the life and ministry of the apostle Paul. Verses 1 and 2 tell us about some things that never changed for Paul. What are the constants he mentions, which provided a source of strength in his trouble?

The Characteristics of a Godly Conscience

- 2 Tim. 1:3-5 3. Paul refers to his own "pure conscience" and to Timothy's "unfeigned faith" in this passage. These men served the Lord from the heart. There was nothing ulterior or insincere about them. But Paul makes clear that neither his pure conscience nor Timothy's unfeigned faith was without precedent. What precedent does Paul cite for a pure conscience and an unfeigned faith? What does this teach us about the importance of a godly heritage to leading with a pure conscience?

- 2 Tim. 1:6-7 4. What did Paul indicate was the greatest threat to Timothy's clear conscience and unfeigned faith? What threatened to violate Timothy's conscience and bring inconsistencies to his faith? How was Timothy to battle this threat?

- 2 Tim. 1:8, 15-18 5. Paul lists for Timothy two choices Timothy had before him in verse 8. What were the two choices? Did Timothy have other choices not mentioned by Paul? Why or why not?

The Making of a Godly Conscience

- 2 Tim. 1:9-11 6. We see again in verse 11 the Apostle Paul strengthened by his sense of calling to the ministry as a prophet, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles. In verses 9-10, he refers to an even more significant calling, one shared by all true believers, the

calling of the gospel itself. What does Paul teach us about the call of the gospel, the doctrine of salvation, in these profound verses?

The Chief Work of a Godly Conscience

From The Honeycomb

paratheke, "deposit, property entrusted"

This word is used three times in the New Testament, all in the Pastoral Epistles. We saw it in 1 Tim. 6:20, where it is translated, "that which is committed to thy trust." It is also in 2 Tim. 1:12, "that which I have committed," and in 2 Tim. 1:14, "That good thing which was committed unto thee."

Paratheke is always used with the same command word, a word that tells us what should be done with the entrusted property. This word is *phulasso*.

Phulasso is used in each of the verses above, as well as each of the passages below:

Luke 11:21, "When a strong man armed his palace, his goods are in peace."

Jude 24, "Now unto Him who is able to you from falling. . ."

2 Thess. 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and you from evil."

1 John 5:21, "Little children, yourselves from idols."

What does the word *phulasso* mean?

- 2 Tim. 1:12-14
7. Verse 12 speaks of a deposit we entrust to the Lord, and verse 14 speaks of a deposit the Lord entrusts to us. Guarding this deposit is the chief work of a godly conscience. What is Paul referring to when he speaks of "that which I have committed unto him" in verse 12? What is he referring to when he speaks of "that good thing which was committed unto thee" in verse 14? What do we trust the Lord to protect? And what does He trust us to protect?

Real Life?

"Our wonderful God only wants your greatest success and your perfect happiness! Send your gift now, and let Him give you all the blessings he has in store for you." So concluded the inspiring TV message entitled, "Rejoice!", by Reverend Billy Star, broadcasting from the Bright Lights Christian Church and Family Vacation Resort and Conference Center.

Pete turned it off before the ad for the upcoming Caribbean cruise package had a chance to come on. He had been laid off for nearly a month now, and for the first time in his life he missed a mortgage payment on his house. He had prayed and committed the need to the Lord, but somehow the answer had not come, at least not yet. He thought back to the time when he had bought the house. He was not living for the Lord then, but he was making big money as a part owner of a popular downtown bar. When he got right with the Lord, he sold his interest in the bar for far less than what it was worth. Finding work as a former bar tender had not been easy, and Pete was beginning to wonder whether he had done the right thing. He could walk into almost any bar with his experience and land a good paying position. As he sat down for another meal of beans and rice with his family, he asked the Lord to help him forget about the pressure he faced.

How might the principles of 2 Timothy 1 be an encouragement to Pete?