
Sermon Notes

August 1, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Power, Love, and Self-Control 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Famous Last Words

- ❖ Sometimes, a person's last words provide a window into what made them "tick"
 - some last words are profound and inspiring, others are trite and insipid
 - Nathan Hale, Marie Antoinette, Winston Churchill
- ❖ Most Bible scholars regard Paul's second letter to Timothy as his final words
 - Paul's last will and testament
 - written in a Roman prison cell (probably between 67 and 68 AD)
 - cold and alone
 - facing execution
- ❖ Despite adversity, Paul celebrates the hope he has in Christ
 - concern for sound doctrine
 - have boldness, endurance, faithfulness in the face of false teaching
 - pass the faith on to those who are younger

A Tale of Two Lives

- ❖ A brief biographical recap of Paul's life
 - Paul gives a thumbnail sketch of his life before and after Christ invades it
 - *a clear conscience*
 - though Paul thought he was doing the right thing before he met Christ (*i.e.* killing Christians!), he later finds out and confesses that his conscience repeatedly deceived his mind and killed his spirit (*cf.* Romans 7)
 - when Paul meets Jesus, he finds out what it truly means to have *a clear conscience*
 - having *a clear conscience* is the birthright of everyone who comes to Christ in faith
- ❖ Paul provides thoughts and reminiscences about Timothy's background and what they have shared together
 - Paul's devoted prayer for Timothy
 - the reminder of Paul's prayers encourage Timothy, the memory of Timothy's tearful love encourages Paul
 - Timothy's spiritual heritage
 - a sincere faith handed down to him through the faithful ministry of his *grandmother Lois and mother Eunice*
 - the importance of Christian Education in the home!

Fan Into Flame

- ❖ Ministry gifts
- ❖ The gift of the Holy Spirit is received when you believe in and receive Christ as Savior
 - the Holy Spirit is frequently referred to as “a gift” throughout the NT
 - power and love are frequently used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
 - when the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, He is manifested with wind and fire
- ❖ Exercise whatever gift the Holy Spirit gives you with power, love, and self-discipline
 - don't be timid, don't be shy, don't be cowardly, don't be a slacker
 - the Spirit breathes power into His work
 - the Spirit stirs up our affections so that we love God's kingdom and the work God gives us to do for that kingdom
 - the Spirit empowers a self-control and discipline
- ❖ Paul and Timothy are two VERY different people
 - but the same God who calls and gifts Paul for ministry is the same God who has called and gifts Timothy
 - God equips and enables each of us for service through the power of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Oswald Chambers: “All through history God has chosen and used nobodies, because their unusual dependence on him made possible the unique display of his power and grace.”

- God calls you to do things that lie beyond your natural capabilities
- in fact, God **always** gives you more than you can handle so that you will rely on Him and HIS power
- ❖ The gifts are ours... the gifts are there... but there is always a need for more fire

Personal Application

1. Make a brief biographical summary of your spiritual life. What persons or events has God used to bring you to faith and to bring you along in the faith? Give thanks to God for your spiritual heritage and for the way He has graciously worked to bring you to Himself.
2. What are some ways that you can continue to “fan into flame” the gift of the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts the Holy Spirit gives you? How can you better exercise whatever gift the Holy Spirit gives you with power, love, and self-discipline?
3. Identify some places in your life where God calls you to step out in faith and do things that lie beyond your natural capabilities. How will you follow the Lord's lead and trust Him for the power you need to serve Him as He wants?