

2 Timothy 1:1-14 Real Duties of Ministry

“So do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord . . .” All ministers should require themselves to read Paul’s pastoral letters (*1 & 2 Timothy* and *Titus*) at least once a month. We tend to ease into non-challenging lifestyles and safe behavior. We’re so eager to placate big givers, please everyone, and impress our peers, that we neglect our first calling—preaching Jesus’ good news.

Paul neither shied from telling the message nor fretted about hardship that comes from bold witness. In fact, he begged timid Timothy, “Join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God.” Many of us ministers want to enjoy the financial fruits and leadership status, but we make little effort to bring about God’s soul-harvest.

Paul knew about suffering. First, enduring hardship for the Lord nearly always creates an opportunity to demonstrate and talk about belief and reliance on in Jesus. Second, while facing these faith challenges, we validate the fact that we rely on God, not on our oratorical skills, showy leadership, or gladhanding abilities.

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