

## Restore Our Confidence

### 2 Timothy 1:1-14

#### Introduction

We are accustomed to placing confidence in almost everything, whether it is in products we purchase, service we hire, even the waitress who waits our table. We place confidence in things we trust will be reliable for when the time comes for it to be tested.

Confidence is a large part of our faith, but it is also challenged. When Paul wrote to Timothy in his second letter, Timothy was going through a crisis. His father in the faith was in prison for being a preacher of the gospel. Persecution was almost certain for any Christian, even to the point of death. False teachers were constantly on his heels. They never rested. Timothy's confidence must have been affected, which was affecting his ministry. Paul wrote to rekindle Timothy's fire.

- I. Timothy had reasons to be confident. – 1:1-6
  - A. We have the promise of life, which is in Christ.
  - B. Paul's unceasing prayers for him.
  - C. Timothy's faith-heritage
  - D. The gift of God
  
- II. There is no reason to cower. – 1:7
  - A. The word "fear" in this verse means "to cower" or to show disgraceful fear or timidity in the face of opposition.
  - B. God has given three things to overcome cowardice.
    1. Confidence in the power of the message. – Romans 1:16, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Hebrews 4:12
    2. Confidence in the love of God
    3. Confidence because of a sound (healthy) mind
      - a. This is speaking of spiritual well-being.
      - b. The mind of the world is sick and often perverted.
  
- III. Do not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord. – 1:8-11
  - A. What can cause us to be ashamed?

1. Fear of standing out and standing alone. So, we refuse to stand up.
2. Relativism has become its own legalistic religion in the secular world.
  - a. The concept of Relativism is that, there is nothing certain, or that there is no such thing as truth.
  - b. Of course, by stating such a certainty, that there is nothing certain, creates a contradiction.
  - c. Relativism has adopted legalism resorting to the point of intimidation and even persecution if it is opposed.
  - d. Relativism is atheism. It is taught rampantly in our universities and higher learning institutions.
  - e. Christians must not be intimidated, but be willing to stand for the truth of God and his word.
- B. Our youth must be equipped with the knowledge they need to withstand the opposition they surely will face.

IV. The Gospel of God is the only thing that holds the answers. – 1:10-13

- A. The gospel proves there is a God.
- B. The gospel holds the answers about death. – 1:10
- C. The gospel holds the answers about life after death, and immortality.
- D. Because of the gospel, we can know. – 1:12
  1. “I know whom I have believed...” This is a settled conviction with no doubts.
  2. I “am persuaded that He is able...” His confidence level is high.
- E. Because of the certainty of gospel we can stay committed. – 1:12

### Conclusion

The world is telling us that there is nothing certain except what they want to impose upon us – legalistic relativism. God’s pattern of sound words (the gospel) is anchored and securely fastened in our God and Savior Jesus Christ. This gives us real confidence when holding firmly to the truth. But like Timothy, our confidence may need restoring. If so, your confidence can be restored, but only in Christ.