Reflections [5 - 11 October 2025](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2025/139-september-october-2025-c/proper-22) – A treasured story

**Bible study on 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Dear Lord, some of us come today
in need of nourishment and refreshment,
some of us in need of company and friendship.
Some come with joy and hope to share.
Help us to all to join as one family, supporting each other,
and praising and worshipping you.
**Amen.**

**Read the passage**

*Consider different ways to read the text. For example, hearing it in more than one version of the Bible.*

**1**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

13What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

**Explore and respond to the text**

*Start by reading the Bible notes below. You may want to read them more than once or pause after each paragraph to reflect on what you have read.*

**Bible notes**

2 Timothy reads like a last will and testament. Paul expects to die soon for his faith and entrusts his legacy to his ‘beloved child’ Timothy. The language is affectionate and intimate, with its mention of tears of sadness alongside joy (v.4). Its unifying thread is the call to fight for the truth of the gospel against false teachers who deceive and disturb believers in Christ (see 2:14-19). Timothy is also unsettled by the prospect of Paul’s death. Martyrdom brings shame rather than honour, both to martyrs and their sympathisers. So where will Timothy find the strength he needs to fulfil his calling?

Paul reminds Timothy of the human and divine strands of a treasured story of faith. Like Paul’s, the faith of his mother and grandmother has strong Jewish roots, which provide stability under stress (v.5). Paul’s suffering can also bring strength rather than shame, because it reveals the grace and calling of God (vv.9-12), which Paul has extended to Timothy by commissioning him to his ministry (v.6). Paul’s brief reminder of Timothy’s human resources leads him quite naturally to invoke the divine resources that sustain his faith and ministry, summed up by one of Paul’s favourite words, ‘grace’ (vv.2, 9).

Notice how God’s grace is revealed in Timothy’s story: as a reason for gratitude (v.3); as the call to share in Paul’s ministry (vv.6, 9); as a source of divine strength that turns shame into honour (vv.7, 8); as the expression of God’s eternal purpose rather than a reward for Timothy’s abilities or ambitions (v.9); as the divine trust that will guard him in the face of opposition (v.12); as the Holy Spirit, which like faith is ‘living in us’ (vv.5, 14).

God’s grace is embodied in ‘the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus’ (v.10). The italicised words, borrowed from the worship of pagan gods and the Roman emperor, highlight the unique power of Christ Jesus over death by refusing to give it the last word, not least in the face of martyrdom (vv.10,12). This is good news worth proclaiming and teaching, as the treasured story of ‘the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus’ (v.13).

**Reflection**

*Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.*

There are many ways to protect something – you could put it in a strong box or a safe, wrap it in bubble wrap or cotton wool, or add a password to keep it secure. But God’s Word shouldn’t be password protected – we treasure it by passing it on. The good news, our treasured story that is encompassed within the pages of the Bible and has been handed down to us, needs to be shared with others, directly through sharing the Word of God, but also in the witness of how we live our lives, as Timothy is encouraged to do.

**Questions for reflection**

*You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week’s Bible passage.*

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**Questions**

* What has been passed down to you, that you treasure?
* How could you share your faith with friends and family so that it is something they treasure too?
* What might be holding you back from telling others about Jesus?

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word.
As we read it, give us a deeper understanding of it.
Open our eyes to the treasures within your Word
and help us to see opportunities where we could share
it with others.
**Amen.**