Today our devotional is from the introduction to 2 Timothy.

Paul is in prison. Not the nice stay he had earlier in Rome, where he could rent better rooms, have visitors, preach and teach. Now he has been seized by Caesar to take the blame for the burning of Rome. Paul had defended himself before Nero two years before and had been set free because there was no legitimate charge against him. His preaching must caught Nero’s attention because after Paul’s release a large section of Rome caught fire. The rumors began to point to Nero, so he found these new Christians the perfect people to blame for the fire. They had no political power and were few in number. So Paul was in a Roman prison for condemned enemies of Rome. Paul recognized that it was most likely that he was going to die.

The first thing Paul brings up is that all that he is or has done, is according to the promise of life. Christ Jesus brought that life, and it is for Jesus Christ that Paul does everything. Remembering life while facing death is Paul’s strength. A lot of unseemly things are going to happen between now and Paul’s death, because the Romans were famous for torturing the condemned to get a confession out of them before the execution. So looking at the end of his salvation, eternal life becomes a great solace to Paul.

Then Paul reveals to us the secret of his faithfulness to the Lord: “*I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day*.” Paul’s “that day” is the day of his death. Solomon made the odd statement in Ecclesiastes 7:1 that the day of one’s death is better than the day of one’s birth. Both Solomon’s and Paul’s statements reveal a person who trusts that the end of this life is the beginning of our life with Christ. What can separate us from the Love of Christ? Not this life nor even death.

Paul knows Christ in whom he believed. Paul never turned back from following Christ. Paul trusted Christ to be right in every circumstance. When things looked bleak from a prison, where he had been beaten and thrown, he sang praises to God (Acts 16:25.) Paul knew that this world is not the judge of heavenly things. He entrusted God to give him the final judgement. He trusted so much that he looked to the summation of his life where God would say, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”

In Christ Pastor EA

So Paul is going to write important things in his last letter. He turns his mind first to a happy thought. That thought is Timothy. Timothy has been his assistant, his faithful co-worker, and trusted church authority and problem solver. But here he is remembering him in the most personal of terms; beloved son. This is not just a friendship, this is a communion between two faithful believers who have worked together, suffered together, and have been victorious together over at least 15 years. Now one of them is facing death. Paul longs to see his friend and beloved son for comfort in these final days.

Paul knows that Timothy is someone who can be called on to come. Timothy is someone who serves. It does not matter if it is as a lowly baggage boy to start (Acts 16:1). It does not matter if he is just an assistant teacher (Acts 17:14.) He does not care if he is just a letter carrier (1 Cor. 4:17) or if he is trusted with the simmering problems in the large church at Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:2-4), Timothy serves.