**April 2024 Books of the Month – 1 & 2 Timothy**

Through this month of April, we are blessed to take a closer look at two of Paul the Apostle’s letters to his spiritual son, Timothy (fittingly named 1 & 2 Timothy). These letters give us a glimpse of Paul’s ministry following his likely release from his two years under house arrest in Rome, as described in Acts chapter 28.

These letters show Paul pouring into Timothy. Paul is equipping a leader in the church in order to help him better equip those whom he is in charge of serving. This reminds us of the value of pouring into others. By teaching and instructing others in their walk in Christ, we are indirectly touching countless lives. This is because those that bless and touch and equip will undoubtedly bless and touch and equip others.

In both of these letters, Paul warns Timothy about the need to watch out for false teachers. From the earliest days of New Testament times, false teachers have posed a danger to Christians and to churches. As Christians today, we must continue to guard ourself from false teachers. And the key to doing this is staying close to Jesus through prayer and worship and abiding in His Word in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. These things will enable us to have our spiritual discernment antennas functioning well, so to speak, which will help us to reject the lies that these teachings present.

In 1 Timothy, Paul spends additional time focusing on qualifications for church leadership and how worship gatherings are to be orderly, rather than chaotic in nature. He is writing to Timothy from Macedonia while Timothy was in helping to oversee churches in and around Ephesus. Paul invested significant time in Ephesus and dearly wanted the church to be healthy and vibrant in that important city.

In 2 Timothy, Paul was writing from a prison awaiting imminent martyrdom for his faithful ministry for Christ and the Kingdom of God. This was most likely during the persecution of Christians by the wicked Roman Emperor Nero. This book is in some ways Paul’s last will and testament. Paul is offering final instructions to Timothy to stay strong in the Lord and to continue to fight the good fight of faith, as Paul had long done. Finally, Paul emphasizes the importance of being grounded in the Scriptures (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Lastly, please check out our church Facebook page, as each Wednesday there will be a brief devotional there on various verses found in 1 Timothy.

He is Risen!

Tim

Resources:

A Chronology of Paul’s Epistles

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