

1 Tim 2

Before we begin I would like to go back to 1:12. There was some discussion on the phrase, "considered faithful". Can one be considered faithful before conversion? Is this a faithfulness of accepting Christ? Can one be considered faithful to what they know? In an examination of the word 'pistos' in the Greek Strongs indicates the first meaning of the word is 'trustworthy, faithful' of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or discharge of official duties. Also it is said of one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust and of one that can be relied on. Remember this is a verbal adjective – it describes our condition as we act. Vines uses the terms, "faithful, to be trusted, reliable." It is used in connection with God, Christ, words of God, servants of the Lord (and servants in general), or believers. In the case of a steward in the parable one is faithful to an earthly Master. It can also signify "believing, trusting, relying".

Considering the wide usage of the word it is just my opinion that both possible understandings could still be true considering this one text. It could be that Paul was faithful as a steward of his understanding of God and God chose that personality to co-labor with. It could also be true that the faithfulness mentioned is in fact his conversion and could thus be translated "believer" as it is in this same letter to Timothy 4:12 and 5:16 and 6:2. So God considered him as a believer and so appointed him.

Also we can apply the word in a sense that the foreknowledge of God saw he was of a trustworthy personality. See 2Tim 2:11

I am most concerned not in the exact translation or which one was actually in the mind of Paul as he wrote since he goes on to say it is all grace any way you look at it. No one here would argue that Saul's ignorant zeal toward God earned his salvation. I am concerned that we share in a way that exhibits the fruits of the spirit. The second letter warns us about arguing over words (2:14) as it is of no value and only ruins those who listen. Verse 15 tells us to *correctly* handle the word. I think that includes in a display of love and all the fruits of the Spirit. At times we are all sure we know the only possible answer only to discover we had missed something very important. Let's all share with a listening ear and a humble heart. Let us never be guilty of discussion turning into argument and sides as we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Some would rather I just go back to teaching instead of all of us digging together because conflict is inevitable. Iron sharpens iron. Come on stones, let us be willing to be shaped by the differences and get to know and love each other and appreciate those differences.

V1 First half of the chapter is on prayer and the second on women. Look at this breakdown of prayer and notice that we are to pray these things for everyone: requests, prayers, intercession and thanks giving. Paul was sitting in jail giving thanks for those in authority which would include Caesar who was anti-Christian. Intercession is the verb meaning to fall in with a person; to draw near so as to converse familiarly. Vines: seeking the presence and hearing of God on behalf of others. We should find this a normal part of our prayer life.

V2 Of course we need to pray for authorities who are under attack of Satan so they would not become instruments to hinder us from living a godly example. This should be a description of the life of a saint who is not under attack by authorities: peaceful, quiet, godly, holy! Paul did not desire to stir things up. The enemy stirred them up where he was sharing the Gospel to hinder him living a godly example. Some times the authorities protected him and sometimes they hindered him. The world thinks we are turning things upside down but actually we are trying to turn them right side up.

V3,4 This – prayers for everyone- joining Christ in our heart to converse familiarly with Him, praying for authorities, living a godly life...good stuff that pleases God's heart, because it is God's will for all to be saved, even authorities. God our Savior see 1:1.

V5 What a defining verse! We are to live like the Son Christ Jesus. He is the One who intercedes for us all and we are to do the same. This is why we pray for everyone following his example. We do not need a priest other than Jesus, but we do need other's prayers.

V6 A most precious price has been paid, and therefore, I need to pray that more accept the gift of salvation. He was the ransom, the price paid for our freedom from the slave market of sin. That should make the desire to pray others avail themselves of the ransom, an urgent desire within my heart. Due time – we live on this side of the cross so we know with clarity the wonderful love of God and the extent He was willing to go to deliver us.

V7 His purpose is to herald the Gospel and the apostolic call is to verify the resurrection from the dead. 2Tim 2:8 Paul had to emphatically state his authority and calling. It was as if some were challenging his place in the church. Those who would teach the law would not like his reaching out to the Gentiles. They still refused to see the inclusion of Gentiles in the Old Testament. Does the "us and no others" mentality still exist today?

V8 Continuing the thought of prayer for all, prayer with raised hands to God (a Jewish common posture for men praying). Notice the heart attitude should not include anger or doubt. It is not consistent with thanksgiving mentioned in v1.