

Theme: We are called to life in Christ by the will of God and we are directed and strengthened in that life by the grace God.

Background: Last letter we have from Apostle Paul. If there are others, they have not survived.

Introduction: A "Last Will and Testament?" I think I want the opportunity to make it.

I. Paul's Letter

A. His circumstances

1. From prison
 - a. Clear from the letter itself (1:16; 4:6-8, 9-13)
 - b. Not like his first "house-arrest" in Rome
2. How he arrived here
 - a. Arrested under Nero
 - b. Died around 67AD

B. His purpose

1. Leaving Timothy behind - "I have no one like him" (Philippians 2:20, 22)
2. Knew what Timothy faced
3. Knew what he needed - courage (1:7, 8)

C. His message

John Stott's outline of 2 Timothy:
Chapter 1 - Guard the Gospel
Chapter 2 - Be Ready to Suffer for the Gospel
Chapter 3 - Continue in the Gospel
Chapter 4 - Proclaim the Gospel

II. Paul's Apostleship

A. By the will of God

1. Who is an Apostle? (Acts 1:21, 11)
2. Late to the game
 - a. "least" – One "untimely" born (1 Corinthians 15:8, 9)
 - b. An apostle to the gentiles (Romans 11:13)
 - c. By the command of God (1 Timothy 1:12)
3. Not Paul's plan!
 - a. He thought he was honoring his ancestors when he persecuted the church
 - b. He "served" as they did when he believed in the Savior they longed for

B. According to the Promise

NOTE: That "promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus" has more to do with the one Who gives Life (Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life) than with the life He gives.

1. God's work and God's will - Salvation according to Jesus (John 6:44; 10:27; 6:37; 1:12, 13)
2. The gift of the Father
 - a. Titus 2:13, 14; Deuteronomy 7:6
 - b. From before the foundation of the earth (Ephesians 1:4)
3. Made between the Father and the Son
 - a. A Promise that depends on God and not on us (Genesis 15)
 - b. A Promise made before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)

III. Timothy: Called by God

A. Irresistible grace!

1. Called through the same promise
 2. Not by the same means
- B. In covenant faithfulness
1. Through "ordinary" means
 - a. In the sense of the most natural and common path
 - b. God keeps His Covenant
 2. From generation to generation

IV. The Promise before Us

- A. Parenting - an awesome task (4, 5)
1. You can rest (you must trust) in the promises of God
 2. You are not alone in this!
- B. Confident to the end
1. Paul was facing death - with peace, joy, hope, rest, assurance
 2. Do you have the same confident hope and assurance?