

## Teachings for Sunday 2 October – Something for Everyone: Erin Winder

The reading for today is:

### 2 Timothy 1:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### Thanksgiving

<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I 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.

#### Appeal for Loyalty to Paul and the Gospel

<sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. <sup>8</sup> So 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. <sup>9</sup> He 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, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> That 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.

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

This letter to Timothy opens with thanksgiving for the faith that Timothy already has and acknowledges those who have helped form the faith of this young leader – his mother and grandmother. Both of these I have tried to show you in the drama of Paul and the Jailer and Lois to Eunice to Timothy.

There are two teachings here:

1: That faith is important and

2: the passing on of the word of God to others.

These were the two things I asked you earlier to write down around your treasure boxes and we will have an opportunity at the end to share these. God's word is the good treasure entrusted to us.

So let's look at the start: Faith

Faith has different importance to different people. To me faith is important so that we can have a belief that God will help us through hard times, just as Paul is encouraging Timothy to get through the tough times. Timothy is struggling to endure suffering because of his loyalty to Jesus but Paul wants to encourage him that God's spirit will fill him with power, love and self-discipline. Timothy does not have to face troubles on his own and neither do we with the Faith in God that we have. The Holy Spirit will give us what we need at the right time. For some of us that can be courage to perform on stage, or to play the sports final. For others it can be finding the right words to say to a person in need and I find when I prepare a devotion for youth group the words just come to me.

We also show our faith in the outward display of Baptism. For me this is the ultimate way of saying "I believe in God and want to follow Him always". We are showing our Faith in God to everyone else and we want to grow in understanding of His ways. We can't do this on our own, we need other people who also believe in God around us to nurture us. This is what we promise as a church to do when someone is baptised.

Just like the daffodil that decided to grow on its own, that I talked about in the front page of the newsletter. It was beautiful in its own right but the others knew that it was too early to come out. Bad things can happen when you don't listen to other people and in this case the daffodil got snowed on. I think it will join the others next year to help form the beautiful display that formed. When we work together in unity a beautiful contribution can be made.

This brings us to the second part and why passing on the message is so important.

In preparing for this message I thought about my own influences. As I gazed around my study with books open everywhere I instantly thought of my friend Catherine Hay's Dad (and Mike Hay's) whose home I would visit often in childhood. Colin would usually be in his study with books open all over the place preparing for the Sunday sermon. You could see him deep in thought and knew not to disturb. This is my picture of how all ministers must prepare.

We all have examples of how someone shared or influenced us with particular things and I am sure you can think of how you came to know about Jesus. Someone else would have to have told you.

We have been given the great example of Lois sharing her faith with Eunice and then Eunice sharing it with Timothy. If he had not had this past he would not have been the young leader he was. But even though he had this history he still needed Paul's encouragement to keep going in this time of the early church. And why not? All of us need to keep on being encouraged to continue in our faith and of sharing with others. I know had it not been for the example of my Grandmother and Great Aunt Mabel who were both strong Methodist

woman, strong in their faith I would not be standing up here today talking. And I also know that had I not kept hearing the message to accept Jesus into my life that I wouldn't have had the courage to turn to Darren one night at young adults group and say I hadn't done it and would he pray with me.

This word is so important to pass on as it is God's grace. It is about being forgiven, being loved and having eternal life. In this passage Paul and Timothy are just beginning to understand that faith in God leads to eternal life where as prior to Christ it was different. But today we still need to understand that having a life with Christ in it is better than not having Christ in it. Please excuse my lack of theology around this, it is just what I know! Simply put at a 10 year old level. All I can say is that we need to share with one another, encourage one another and pass the message on. God's word is a good treasure.