

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham
on Saturday evening 21.7.51

2 Timothy 1

The Apostle in this chapter and epistle expresses his great affection for his son Timothy, which evidently he had because he had been instrumental in bringing him to a knowledge of the Gospel and of instructing him in the things that accompany salvation. There was evidently a close spiritual bond subsisting between them in that union that is peculiar to the living family of God, and is only known by them. There must have been a very deep feeling with regard to these things. The apostle affirms, "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy". It would have been to the Apostle and to Timothy evidently a great joy if they could have met together and enjoyed that fellowship and communion together which they had previously enjoyed and known. There is a bond that binds the family of God together which is the bond of love and which is of a spiritual nature and is only really known where the life and grace of God are in exercise. By it those similarly favoured and instructed are bound together in one common bond. Not only does the Apostle affirm his affection to his son Timothy; he gives some very seasonable counsel. He notes the following on as it were of the grace and faith in his grandmother and his mother, so that in this Timothy was very particularly favoured. Not that the grace of God is hereditary, but those who have been favoured with believing and praying parents and grandparents have need to thank God for that particular privilege. Paul exhorts Timothy to stir up the gift of God in him, evidently relating to the discharge of the ministry. In him the Apostle had seen particular gifts and it had been confirmed by the apostolic custom of laying on of hands. He exhorts him also not to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, that is not to be ashamed to preach or own Him, or if need be to suffer, but to be a partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God. This exhortation may apply to everyone of us. "Be not thou therefore ashamed of

the testimony of our Lord", which may refer to what we hope the Lord may have done for us and in us and also to the Gospel which we profess to believe in and have some experience of and of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel", which will have to be more or less with all faithful followers of the Lamb of God. There might not be much outward tribulation or there may be, but there will be sure to be some afflictions to be borne for Christ's sake by those who have grace to take up their cross and follow Him. Writing to the Philippians the Apostle says, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake". He exhorts him to "hold fast the form of sound words", not the form of godliness but the form of sound words by which we may understand the essential doctrines of the Gospel, particularly as they centre in the Person of the Son of God to whom the Apostle refers specially in the preceding verse, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel". It is a wonderful mercy to have any gracious experience in any measure of what is there inferred and grace to hold fast to it, and moreover, not only grace to hold fast to it but also grace not to be ashamed of it, but by the grace of God to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Amen