

## *Who Hath Abolished Death*

### **Second Timothy 1:6 – 18**

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~ Welcome to the Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. As we continue to cover every chapter and almost every verse of the Bible, this report brings us back to the second epistle that Paul the apostle wrote to his spiritual son, Timothy. If you will pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read this passage in your own Bible – and then read this report – then you will be well on your way to a proper, correct and complete study of Scriptures. If you will take just thirty minutes each day out of your very busy schedule to hear from God by studying His Word in a sincere, educated manner, then I can assure you that you will become an authority in Holy Writ.

I believe that method of study will also make this safari meaningful to your heart; and begin to make a profound difference in your thinking, in your dealings with others, and bring satisfaction and peace in your life, in general. There is no obligation, it's a totally free safari – I never ask for money. One is not required to sign up or join-in or give an email out or anything like that; and the best part is, you don't even have to agree with my teaching or my theology. No, all you have to do is listen to that still, small voice that comes from the Word of God after the fire; the Holy Spirit – Who will lead us into all truth.

In our last report, we learned that Timothy had Godly parents and grandparents. If the Lord has given you the same, then you are truly blessed; however, let's be careful to remember that many Godly men and women have come from atheistic homes. Conversely, many atheists were raised in a wonderful, God-fearing home. See, it is the Lord Himself Who has compassion on whom He will have compassion, mercy upon whom He will have mercy, and chooses whom He will for salvation. Contrariwise, the paradox is that while there is definitely an elect according to the foreknowledge of God – first Peter chapter one verse two, Jesus saith, *“whosoever will may come.”* So, irrespective of the doctrine of election, if you are reading this report, and have accepted Christ as your Savior – then

*YOU* are the elect. Only those who reject the calling of the Lord Jesus Christ, and refuse to believe after hearing, that He died for our sins and was raised again for our justification, are not the elect. Those people are not reading this report, either. They stopped by sentence six or seven. It's not as complicated as some people like to think it is. So, I am thrilled you're still reading....

***6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.***

~ We have learned what the laying on of hands means when we examined the first epistle of Paul to Timothy in chapter four. The laying on of hands is fine as a symbolic gesture; but there is no spiritual value in it, no transferring of some spiritual power or anything like that. It is purely a figurative gesticulation. When Paul placed his hands on Timothy, it merely signified that Timothy was becoming a partner with Paul. I believe the intention was that his mantle would fall upon Timothy. Timothy was, of course, very close to Paul; and when Paul was in prison in Rome he said, "... Timothy, I have no man like-minded as you."

Apparently, Timothy was the only one in the world Paul felt enough confidence in to carry on his ministry. That would have been quite an honor. Well, they were partners in ministry; and, frankly, I wish I could lay hands on many of you dear readers, and stir up the gift of God in you and make you partners with me in getting the entire Word of God out to the entire world in sound doctrine – and some of you have joined me in that effort – but the Lord can always use a few more. Remember, Timothy was in Ephesus, where the Temple of Diana was – along with every other imaginable sinful allurements and enticements this world offers. The city was in full-swing – day and night. Paul knew all about satanic temptations after spending three years in Ephesus. It seems Paul might have had some concerns that Timothy might compromise, and eventually be beaten-down by the opposition....

***7 For God hath not given us the spirit of cowardice; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***

~ Many people mistakenly suppose that the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God results in defeatism or fatalism. Well, it's anything but those. For example, most people erroneously believe that if they sell all they own, and give it to the poor, then they are just rolling over to die. Of course, a born-again Christian is just beginning to live. No, the real problem is that most Christians are a slave to their emotions; they get wildly carried away by them, and that's what dictates and motivates their every move. See, when those pictures of poor, starving baby orphans or dying dogs appear, then people will act immediately. Maybe I should start using that tactic; because an appeal to emotionalism is highly effective. Well, don't worry, I'm not going to use that trick; because true and genuine Christians are never to be compelled by emotion. And we only want genuine Christian's here. We are to master our emotions by learning sound doctrine in the Word of God....

***8 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 according to the power of God;***

~ This chapter reveals the afflictions of the Gospel. I don't care how you spin it, or how much you disagree with me, if you stand for the cause of Christ and the furtherance of the Gospel, then it is going to cost you something – and that something is going to be *everything*. You can just write that down, my friends. The erroneous misconception of the Christian life today is that it is just so nice and easy – that there will never be a problem in our life – that there is always a breezy blue sky, and God removes every rock from the road in our path – which leads to a bed of roses we can lay on and pretend nothing except pleasurable, comfortable experiences ever happen. And that there is no judgment. Most people see God as an indulgent old man who sits on the front porch of life, like a doting grandfather, winking at our sins. This world can become a very comfortable place to go to hell in. They utterly ignore Jesus, Who said, *“in this world you WILL have trouble.”* Jesus didn't mean “maybe” – no, His is a promise of trouble in *this* life. Attempting to avoid trials and suffering on the basis that you are a Christian is going to lead to serious doubts in your faith. The world hates Jesus; and they are going to hate *you* if you love the true and genuine Christ Jesus of the Bible. The world only loves its own. If

you are popular with the world, then there is something radically wrong with your Christian walk; mainly, it doesn't exist....

***9 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,***

***10 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:***

~ See, death means something altogether different to the child of God than it does to the lost man in the world. Death is of no effect to His children. Naturally, the flesh is going to die; that has never been eliminated. However, remember, the man who wrote this truth was in a Roman Mamertine prison awaiting the execution of his own sentence of death. So, we're talking about spiritual death – which is an eternal separation from God. *THAT* death is what Christ abolished when He was raised from the dead for our justification. Any sinner that ends up in the place where he is eternally separated from God is going to be there by his own choice, my beloved. Today, we have a Savior; a Mediator between God and man – who has satisfied all the demands of a perfect, holy, righteous and just God. The only question remaining is: are *YOU* satisfied with God's gift of salvation? ~

***11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.***

~ Alright, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with Paul, in prison under the sentence of death, telling us about his several gifts. The apostles each had several gifts. Today, I don't think any man has more than one gift. I have never met anyone that I thought had more than one gift; and I have a *WHOLE LOT* of experience in the church, in the ministry, with missionaries, and with other believers, in general. I know for a fact that if "Bible teacher" isn't my gift, then I don't have a gift. That's what's real. Some preachers think they can sing, for example; unfortunately, my experience has been they either couldn't sing

or couldn't preach. I'm sure some people will disagree with this statement – and you have a right to be wrong. Candidly, I don't think God would give any man two gifts today because, in this busy modern-day world, it's difficult enough to perfect *ONE* gift; two gifts would mean that one of them – or both – would suffer in their execution. Either way, no gift can be exercised except in the power of the Holy Spirit....

***12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.***

***13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.***

***14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us.***

***15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.***

~ Side Note: Paul previously said "*SOME*" had turned away from him and from the faith. Here, he tells Timothy that "*ALL*" in that region had turned away from him. Well, if you get yourself locked up in prison, and sentenced to death, you can pretty much count on being forgotten, friends. The apostasy is not the main characterization of the last days; although it can certainly be said that the history of the church is the history of apostasy and heresy. Even so, the main characterization of the last days will be that men and women renounce their faith, probably burn their Bibles, and profess atheism. Of course, those people were never saved in the first place; they didn't lose salvation – and there are a *WHOLE* bunch of them around today. See, when you start teaching the Bible improperly, incorrectly, and incompletely, your faith *IS* going to become shipwrecked on the dreadful island of nowhere, sooner or later. When that happens, you will discover that you never really believed a single word God said. You might want to think about that very carefully today, my dear readers....

***16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:***

***17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.***

***18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well ~***

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