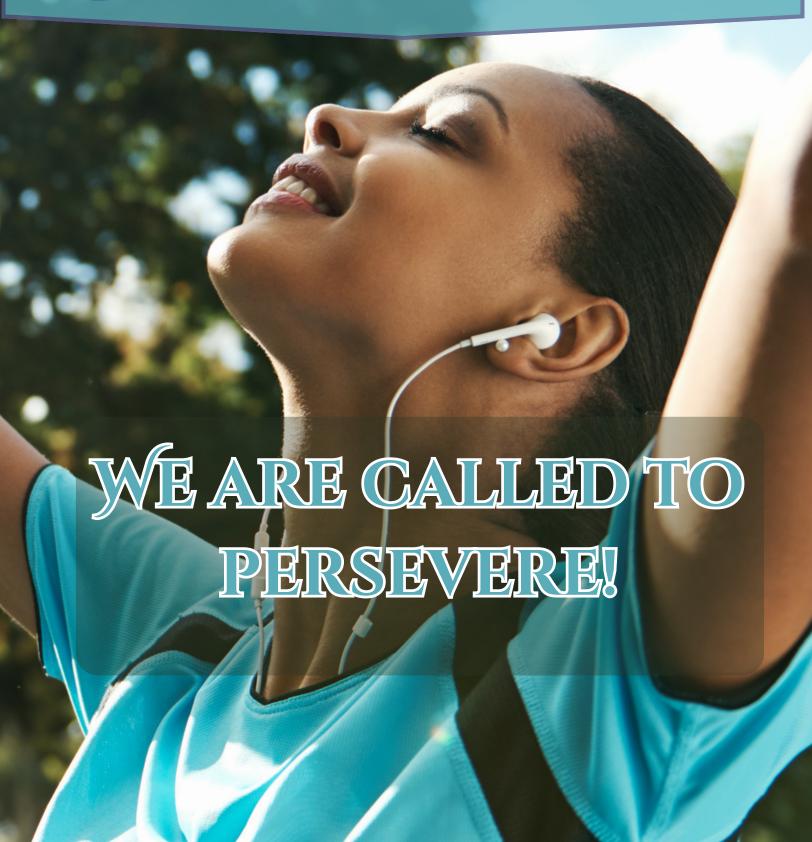


Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart





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January 23, 2024

WE ARE CALLED TO PERSEVERE – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-2:7

Sometimes following Jesus is more than we bargained for. We wonder why God allows bad things to happen to us while others seem to have an easy life. Sometimes we feel like simply quitting.



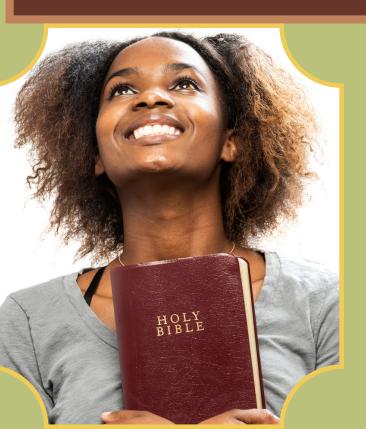


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PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- 1. Have you ever felt like giving up Christianity and taking up an easier way of life?
- 2. What aspects of Christianity feel like weighty demands or burdens to you?



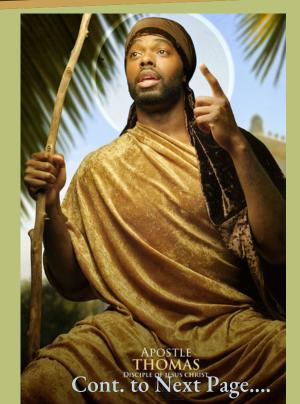


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As a young and timid leader, Timothy faced the dual dilemma of personal inadequacy and a problem-stricken church. If that weren't enough, Paul, his father in the faith, was in prison facing the prospect of death. His arrest evidently resulted in widespread defections from the faith. This is the last letter Paul wrote before he was executed. From his cell he challenges Timothy to endure. Read 2

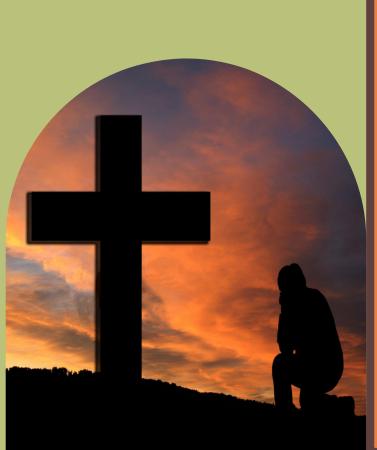
Timothy 1:8–2:7.





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1. What basic facts do we learn from this passage about Paul, Timothy and the relationship between the two?

2. Why might Timothy be ashamed to testify about the Lord or be ashamed of Paul (v. 8)?

3. After calling Timothy to suffer with him for the gospel, what specific truths does Paul focus on

(1:9-10) and why?

4. How does the message of the gospel encourage you to stand firm when you are tempted to be

ashamed of Christ or of another Christian?

5. What do verses 13–14 suggest about the difficulties Timothy will encounter?

6. Imagine yourself in Paul's position—alone, imprisoned, deserted by "everyone in the province of

Asia" (1:15). How do you think you would react?

7. What is distinctive about Onesiphorus (1:16–18)?

8. Against the background of Paul's impending death and the disloyalty of the Asian church, what is the significance of Paul's command in 2:2?



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- 9. Reflect on the three metaphors describing the Christian life (2:3–6). How does each provide insight into the life of a disciple?
- 10. In each illustration, what are the consequences for the person who fails to endure?
- 11. In what specific ways might it cost you to endure for the sake of the gospel, both now and throughout your life?
- 12. Timothy was undoubtedly overwhelmed by his own inadequacy and the massive defections from the church. How would 2:1 encourage him in the face of the great task at hand?

How is it an encouragement to you?





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PRAY FOR THE STRENGTH AND GRACE TO
PERSEVERE IN ANY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
YOU OR OTHERS IN YOUR GROUP ARE FACING.
NOW OR LATER
READ HEBREW 12:1–3. HOW IS THE EXAMPLE OF
FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN MEN AND WOMEN OF THE
PAST AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU TO
PERSEVERE?

