

*Blessings on World Communion Sunday,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*



Sunday, October 2, 2022

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

***To have so little, and it of so little value, was to be quaintly free.
—Wallace Stegner, All the Little Live Things***



What is your most prized possession?

Perhaps it is a diamond ring, maybe an album of family photos, or possibly a fat roll of Ben Franklins hidden in a cigar box somewhere. Nancy Grace says that her most prized possession is a copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird* signed by the author, Harper Lee.

Think about it. Let's say a fire broke out where you live, and you had only moments to evacuate. What would you grab before you left your room or your house?

Whatever your answer — that's your favorite possession.

This is pertinent, because in today's reading, the apostle Paul tells Timothy, his son in the faith, to *protect what you have*. "Guard the good treasure God has given you," he writes (v. 14).

What you have is a treasure, he says. Regard it as such. Paul said something similar in his first letter to his young disciple: "Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you" (1 Timothy 6:20). What he has is his faith and his pastoral calling, and this is who he is and who we are: *people with faith and a calling*. Don't lose this, because this is who we are. It defines us.

The Bible says, in effect, "Don't do anything that might compromise your faith, or set you on a course that veers away from your current bearings. Be aware of your heading and flight plan. Follow your True North, who is Jesus Christ your Lord."

These are Paul's parting words to the young man who was a trainee, intern and then a co-worker with the apostle. His words are a challenge to Timothy to pick up the mantle, to be Elisha to Paul's Elijah, to live a life of daring discipleship.

Church tradition indicates that this is precisely what Timothy did. He was the bishop of Ephesus for many years. In A.D. 97, at the advanced age of 80, a formerly timid Timothy, often in poor health, tried to halt a pagan festival in honor of the Greek goddess Diana, which included a procession of idols, ceremonies and songs. In response to his preaching of the gospel, the angry crowds beat him, dragged him through the streets, and stoned him to death.

In his dying moments, perhaps he recalled the words of his father in the faith, who wrote: "Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2:3). Like his mentor before him, he too had fought the fight, finished the course, kept the faith (4:7).

May there be more of his kind.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, you have given us a spirit of love, power and self-discipline. Help me to cultivate these gifts so that I might keep the faith and be true to my calling. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 1-4

Monday: Ezekiel 22-24

Tuesday: Ezekiel 25-27

Wednesday: Ezekiel 28-30

Thursday: Ezekiel 31-33

Friday: Ezekiel 34-36

Saturday: Psalms 109-111

Verse to Remember

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.*

—Psalm 111:10

What happened and when it happened in U.S. history

Directions: At the bottom, fill in the letters that complete the sentences about these events in U.S. history begun in Group I. Take a letter from each group (II through IV) to complete the sentences.

Group I

A. Alaska joins

B. The National League

C. The government approves AZT

D. The Whig Party

E. JFK,

F. George Washington is chosen

Group II

G. the 35th President of the United States,

H. in the treatment

I. the union

J. is established

K. becomes

L. Commander in Chief

Group III

M. the first professional baseball league

N. by opponents of Andrew Jackson

O. of AIDS patients

P. is born in Brookline, MA

Q. as the 49th state

R. of the Continental Army

Group IV

S. on June 15, 1775

T. on April 14, 1834

U. on Feb. 2, 1876

V. on May 29, 1917

W. on Jan. 3, 1959

X. on March 20, 1987

A. ___ ___ ___ B. ___ ___ ___ C. ___ ___ ___ D. ___ ___ ___ E. ___ ___ ___ F. ___ ___ ___

Answers to "What happened and when it happened in U.S. History": A. IQW, B. KMU, C. HOX, D. JNT, E. GPV, F. LRS.



*"Jesus Christ,
who unites us
and keeps us as
one."*

October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					