



Com - mit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.

Do not be provoked by ' evildoers;

do not be jealous of those ' who do wrong.

²For they shall soon wither ' like the grass,

and like the green grass ' fade away.

³Put your trust in the LORD ' and do good;

dwell in the land and ' find safe pasture.

⁴Take delight ' in the LORD,

who shall give you your ' heart's desire. **R**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust ' in the LORD,

⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear ' as the light

and the justice of your case like the ' noonday sun.

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait ' patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,

the one who succeeds in ' evil schemes.

⁸Refrain from anger, leave ' rage alone;

do not be provoked; it leads on- ' ly to evil.

⁹For evildoers shall ' be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- ' sess the land. **R**

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

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

³I am grateful to God—whom I

worship with a clear conscience, as my

ancestors did—when I remember you

constantly in my prayers night and day.

⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you

so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am

reminded of your sincere faith, a faith

that lived first in your grandmother

Lois and your mother Eunice and

now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this

reason I remind you to rekindle the

gift of God that is within you through

the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God

did not give us a spirit of cowardice,

but rather a spirit of power and of love

and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the

testimony about our Lord or of me his

Gospel

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you per for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table?' ⁸Would you

not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and

thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"