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Context and Purpose of the Letter

Paul is on death row he is writing to the Timothy a younger church leader because -

1. Paul wants to encourage Timothy for the work that God has called him to do 1:6 (fan into flame the gift of God) 1:8 (do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord) and 2:2 (be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus)
2. he was concerned for the welfare of the churches during a time of persecution and charges Timothy to guard the gospel (1:14), to persevere in it (3:14), to keep on preaching it (4:2) and if necessary to suffer for its sake (2:3).
3. he wants Timothy to pass the letter to the church in Ephesus.(4:22 the you is plural)
4. because Paul is lonely and in need of his close friends (1:15, 4:

Main Point

We live a life of faith. Although we sometimes acutely feel our sinfulness and experience disappointment and even failure we trust Jesus

Key verse

2 Tim 4:17 'the Lord stood by my side and gave me strength'

Questions

How do we reconcile...

our faith and our personality flaws?! (Timothy)

our faith and our sinfulness (Demas)

our faith and our fragility (John Mark)

Your faith is sincere but you are feart!

Timothy's story

- Timothy was from Lystra, modern day Turkey. (Acts 16:1)
- He had Jewish mum who was a believer and Greek dad (Acts 16:1).
- Timothy was instructed in God's word from an early age (2 Tim 3:15) and this was the investment his mum made in him, and possibly his gran and maybe even his great gran who are mentioned in 2 Tim 1 v. 5.
- It is possible that Paul was there when Timothy became a Christian or a follower of the way: he refers to Timothy as 'my true son in the faith'(1 Tim 1:2)
- Those who knew him spoke well of him (Acts 16:2)
- Timothy accompanied Paul on his journeys so they had been through a lot together. (Acts 16:3)
- Interesting he is not mentioned between Acts 16:3 and Acts 17:14. It is not Paul. Silas and Timothy in Jail in Phillipi?
- The relationship between Paul and Timothy seems to have remained strong throughout their lives. It defines what we mean by a strong life-long friendship.
- He became a Christian leader and overseer and spent a period of time in Ephesus (Philipi and Thessalonica) sorting out some of the issues in that church. He was Paul's

special envoy. If Paul was the archbishop of Canterbury then Timothy would be Terry Waite.

- He listed as a co-author of six New Testament letters which shows the esteem that Paul held him in.
- The depth of their friendship is clear in v. Ch1:4 and 4:9 of this letter

Your faith becomes misplaced and you take another path.

Demas's story

- It is widely believed that Demas is from Thessalonica and in v10 he leaves Paul to go back there.
- When Philemon was written around (AD 60) Demas is listed as one of Paul's fellow workers (grouped together with others such as Luke, Epaphras and Mark see Philemon: 24).
- When the letter to the Colossians was written (also around AD 60) Paul includes Demas in those sending greetings to the church (Col 4:14).
- Unlike Crescens and Titus he left Paul, 'because he loved this world' 2 Timothy written (AD 66-67)

Your faith is challenged because of personal failure.

John Mark's Story

- His mother was Mary who held a prayer meeting in her house (Acts 12:12)
- He was the cousin of Barnabas: Paul's companion on the first missionary journey (commentaries)
- He was a close associate of the disciple Peter. (see note below)
- He wrote Mark's gospel (unanimous testimony of the early church: commentaries) the sequence of Mark's gospel is the same as that in Peter's sermon in Acts 10:37-42.
- He went to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25)
- He was with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey but he left them in Pamphylia (Acts 15:37-38) this upset Paul so much he refused to take
- After departing for Cyprus (Acts 15: 39) there is no further mention of Mark or Barnabas in Acts.
- He reappears in Colossians (Col 4:10) where Paul says 'welcome him' and by 2 Timothy 4:11 their relationship is fully restored
- Some commentators think he was the young man mentioned in Mark 14:51,52 (when they seized Jesus in Gethsemane)

Conclusion:

Keep your head (4:5) keep the faith (4:7), Jesus is our good guide he leads us and stands beside us.