



# TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

## ENDURE AND PRESS ON

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Paul's second letter to Timothy holds a special place in our hearts. We are urged on by his conviction that the gospel would continue to be shared after his passing (2:1-5). We relish his esteem for Scripture, the teaching and practice of which are vital for the church to be strong (3:14-4:5). Our spirits soar when we read Paul's bold confidence that he had fought the good fight and was sure the crown of righteousness awaited him (4:6-8).

What kept him going? We know he sometimes had his valleys (2 Cor. 1:8-10; 11:22-29; Phil. 2:28). How could he fight on with such firm resolve? How could he attack life with "a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-discipline" (2 Tim. 1:7, nrsv)?

For Paul, everything began and ended with his focus on Jesus (1:8-10), the one who brought to life the plan God formed "before the ages began." Christ Jesus has abolished death, a conviction Paul held because of the reality of his resurrection. All people can have salvation and a new start because, in Jesus, God fulfilled his purpose and poured out his grace.

When we read Paul's summary of events in 1:8-10, we are not surprised to hear his confidence in verse 12. He knew Jesus ("the one in whom"). Everything else followed from that: He would trust (1:12). He would refuse to be ashamed. If necessary, he would suffer. He would not be shaken by uncertainties or things he did not know. When would the suffering end? When would the Day he awaited come? He didn't need to know those details because he knew Jesus, who he is, and what he has done.

Knowing Jesus, Paul knew he had been saved and called to a holy calling (1:9). So, he kept serving as he had been called, as a herald, apostle, and teacher. (1:11). He remained true to the healthy teaching he had received and taught (1:13). And he recommended the life he had pursued for Timothy and everyone else (1:8, 14).

Let us likewise endure and press on.

*December 2014*  
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