

The Grip Of His Grace 1

Focused Living



Red Vest?

II Timothy 1:1-12

During the early 1800s an English captain spied a single Spanish warship coming towards his ship at flank speed. He immediately commanded the young 1st officer to get his fighting sword and red vest in preparation for battle. A few minutes later the ships were engaged in ferocious combat with the English captain leading his men to victory. After the battle he explained that his sword had been passed down through 6 generations of captains and he always wore the red vest in combat so that if he was ever wounded, his men would keep their courage by never seeing his blood show through. The young officer had never met a more courageous and brave man. The next morning the captain scanned the horizon and spied 200 heavily armed Spanish warships closing in. Immediately he called his 1st officer, "Prepare for battle! Get my sword, my red vest and don't forget my *brown pants!*" **What specific warship(s) are bearing down on you? Are you wearing brown pants or red vest? Where/how do you need to show more courage in your life? Why?**

BACKGROUND In 67 AD Roman persecution of Christ followers was growing under Nero and the Apostle Paul again finds himself in a dungeon where he expects to be beheaded within days (II Tim 4:6). But instead of focusing on himself, his passion was giving God's people courage to continue the task of boldly and compassionately proclaiming God's truth so that others could also experience His eternal grace, forgiveness, peace, purpose, joy and love. So he writes a final letter to his "*beloved son*", Timothy (45 years old), whom he had led to Christ on his 2nd missionary journey and whom he had left in charge of his favorite church in Ephesus (Acts 16:1-3; 20:17-38).

IN THE GRIP OF HIS GRACE (II Tim 1:1-12; 2:1-2; 4:22) In these verses where do you see Paul challenging Timothy to take off his **brown pants** of fear?

With what phrases does he encourage Timothy to put on Christ's **red vest** of grace in the Gospel?

(II Tim 1:5-7; Matt 14:22-33) What is the relationship between **fear** and **faith**? How does this work in everyday life?

(I John 4:4,18; Mark 4:38-40) Between **fear** and **love/grace**?

(II Tim 1:2; Luke 10:35-42) Paul powerfully greets Timothy with three attributes which all men desperately need and are found only in God the Father and in Christ His Son. How often do you **lean into Christ** asking Him to help you experience the reality of these?

Grace because our eternal life is **HOPELESS** without Christ.

Mercy because our soul is **HELPLESS** apart from His forgiveness.

Peace because our heart is **RESTLESS** with daily pressure.

Practically how does God's grace, mercy and peace develop courage in a man's life?



(2 Tim 1:7) Like us, Timothy was often fearful of the warships approaching his life. He had a courage/confidence problem so Paul reminded him of three essential God-given resources guaranteed to help him experience His peace, perspective and purpose. What are they and are how prominent are they in your life?

(2 Tim 1:8; 2:3, 9-10; 3:1, 12; 4:5) What was Paul's constant refrain to Timothy and why do you need to hear the same challenge as you seek to follow and grow in Christ?

TAG TEAM What truth will did you hear that will rekindle a Christ confidence in the midst of your adversity and fears? What 'warship' do you see coming at you and how would you like the men in your TAG Team to pray for you?