

# Tuesday Evening Prayer

## 2 Timothy 1

### Reflection # 1

- Ministry is hard work
- It's **challenging, exhausting**... sometimes **confusing**
- Maybe you've come away for these days on the one hand **glad** to get away but on the **other**, stressed about what you've left **behind** and what there is to do on your **return**
- My hope and prayer is that by working through 2 Timothy you will find **refreshment** and **encouragement** for your return
- It's an honour to have been asked.... You know the saying 'the one who gets the vision gets the job'... On a teleconference to begin planning this conference with Bishop Jonathan and Julie and Iain I suggested that it may be good to have someone reflect on the Scriptures at the Daily Office... for our encouragement... and Jonathan asked whether I would do it... ///
- I want to urge you to see that though ministry – especially in today's **post-Christian** society – is among the most **challenging** of roles... that is also one of the most **privileged** you could **imagine**.
- We live in a **messed up world**...
- Every day we hear news of **multiple deaths** in this incident or that...

- In our ministries we **prepare** people for death... we deal with death...
- Just last Thursday night – at 8pm... travelled down to Greenslopes hospital to be with the family of the Reverend Linda Kologaras a retired priest as the family turned off the life support...
- And yet... in this context of death and dying... v10 a Saviour has appeared, *Christ Jesus, who has **destroyed death** and has brought **life** and **immortality** to light through the **gospel**.*
- **DESTROYED DEATH**... because he **conquered** it at the **resurrection**... and opened the way for us to follow him!
- **Life** and **immortality** – **abundant** life, **eternal** life... **that's** what the gospel **brings**...
- And furthermore says Paul, he has been appointed a **herald** and an **apostle** and a **teacher** of that gospel!
- Now - **we** are not apostles... but through the laying on of hands as deacons and priests and bishops – we too have been appointed **heralds** and **teachers** of that **gospel**!
- Isn't that **brilliant**!
- That's our **role**... it's the **first** of the marks of mission but often is **overlooked** or simply **assumed**: to **proclaim** the **good news** of the **Kingdom**!
- In the midst of **death**, we proclaim **life**
- When everything seems **hopeless**, we have **hope**
- When all appears **lost**, we declare there is a **future**... ///

- “Will my mum go to heaven?”, Linda’s son asked as we prepared to say goodbye.
- “Absolutely” I said
- “How do you know?”
- I said, “because God **promised** it...”
- Do you see v9? – God *saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own **purpose** and **grace***
- We’re **unworthy** – **undeserving**
- He’s **saved** us from **death**... set us **apart**... not because we’ve tried to **improve** ourselves or because we’ve shown **promise** or **potential**...
- Simply his **purpose** – for his **honour** and **glory**...
- Sisters and brothers... sometimes I simply need to go **back** to the **basics**... to **remind** myself if what this is all about....
- When I’m **overwhelmed** by how **much** there is to do
- When I’m feeling that church is going **backwards** instead of **forwards**...
- When I’m weighed down with **admin** that seems only to be holding me back...
- ..then I have to come back here and see...
- ....**I HAVE THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD**...
- To tell people that there is **life** and **hope** and **strength** in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ... ///
- Don’t lose **heart**...

- See this **big picture**
- **Revel** in God's **grace** to you
- **Revel** that God has destroyed **death** and brought **life** and **immortality** to **light**
- And **revel** that God has **set you aside** and that people generously **support** you... to be **herald** and **teacher** of this **astonishing news!**