

Chapter 2

1. “*You, therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*”

The Greek particle translated “therefore” (*οὖν*) conveys the idea of *consequence* in this verse, and might also be translated *then, as a result of, and consequently*. In view of the fact that all those in Asia had turned away from Paul, particularly Phygelus, Hermogenes, and Onesiphorus, he puts the pressure on Timothy to continue strong in the Lord. In other words, as a result and consequence of this falling away from the Gospel of the Grace of God, the Mystery, Paul tells Timothy to take a good dose of the counteracting antidote, namely, *strength in the Lord*.

Paul addresses Timothy as “my child” (*τεκνον μου*). In view of the fact that there is another Greek word which specifically means “son” (*υιος*), we definitely prefer to translate “*τεκνον*” as *child*. On the one hand, Timothy was indeed Paul’s *spiritual child* and descendant (Phil. 2:22; 1 Tim. 1:2, 18; cf. Philemon 10). On the other hand, on the basis of affection, love, and oneness Paul spoke of Timothy as being his child (1 Cor. 4:17; 2 Tim. 1:2). Paul also uses this same word with reference to those under his ministry and care (1 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 5:1; cf. 1 Thess. 2:7).

The dynamic thrust of this verse resides in the Greek word translated “be strong” (*ενδυναμου*). This word is derived from the preposition “*εν*” and the noun “*δυναμις*” and basically means to have *power in*, to have *inner power*, or *to be empowered*. It has the intrinsic meaning of