

# 2 Timothy 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

## Analysis

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**I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.**

Paul's thanksgiving reveals integrated spirituality of conscience, continuity, and intercession. The phrase "pure conscience" (katharas syneidēseōs, καθαρὰς συνειδήσεως) doesn't claim sinless perfection but integrity before God—a conscience cleansed by Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:14) and maintained through obedience. Paul serves God free from secret sin, hypocrisy, or compromised convictions.

"From my forefathers" (apo progenōn, ἀπὸ προγόνων) connects Paul's Christian faith with his Jewish heritage, refuting accusations that Christianity abandons Old Testament faith. Paul sees perfect continuity: he worships the same God as Abraham, Moses, and David, now recognizing Jesus as the promised Messiah who fulfills the Law and Prophets. This continuity had both theological significance and legal importance (ancient religions received Roman protection; novel religions faced persecution).

"Without ceasing" (adialeiptos, ἀδιάλειπτος) describes Paul's constant, habitual prayer for Timothy. Despite imprisonment, impending execution, and responsibility for numerous churches, Paul maintains disciplined prayer. This models pastoral ministry as fundamentally prayer-centered, not merely administrative.

## Historical Context

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Paul's claim to serve God "from my forefathers" had crucial apologetic significance. Roman authorities distinguished between legitimate ancient religions and suspicious novel innovations. Judaism received protected status due to antiquity; Christianity risked persecution as recent. Paul's impeccable Jewish credentials—"Hebrew of Hebrews," Pharisee trained under Gamaliel (Philippians 3:5, Acts 22:3)—validated his claim that Christianity represented Judaism's fulfillment, not rejection. His defense speeches consistently argued that faith in Jesus meant recognizing God's promises fulfilled.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. In what areas are you tempted toward a double life, and how can you cultivate a "pure conscience" through confession and obedience?
2. How does understanding Christianity's continuity with Old Testament faith affect your Bible reading and worship?
3. For whom do you pray "without ceasing," and how can you make intercessory prayer more central to your relationships?

## Interlinear Text

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Χάριν G5485	ἔχω <b>I have</b> G2192	τῷ G3588	θεῷ <b>God</b> G2316	ὃν <b>whom</b> G3739	λατρεύω <b>I serve</b> G3000	ἀπὸ <b>from</b> G575	προγόνων <b>my forefathers</b> G4269	ἐν <b>in</b> G1722
καθαρᾶ G2513	συνειδήσει <b>conscience</b> G4893	ὥς <b>that</b> G5613	ἀδιάλειπτον <b>without ceasing</b> G88	ἔχω <b>I have</b> G2192	τὴν G3588	περὶ <b>of</b> G4012	σοῦ <b>thee</b> G4675	
μνείαν <b>remembrance</b> G3417	ἐν <b>in</b> G1722	ταῖς G3588	δεήσεσίν <b>prayers</b> G1162	μου <b>my</b> G3450	νυκτὸς <b>night</b> G3571	καὶ <b>and</b> G2532	ἡμέρας <b>day</b> G2250	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:8** (Parallel theme): Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

**Acts 23:1** (References God): And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

**Acts 24:14** (References God): But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

**Acts 24:16** (References God): And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

**1 Timothy 1:5** (Parallel theme): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

**Acts 22:3** (References God): I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

**1 Timothy 1:19** (Parallel theme): Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

**2 Timothy 3:15** (Parallel theme): And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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