

2 Timothy Study

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BOOK INTRO:

Paul's first and second letters to Timothy, together with the letter to Titus, are commonly known as the Pastoral Epistles because they were written to individual pastors rather than to churches.

Second Timothy is the second of two inspired letters Paul the apostle wrote to Timothy his son in the faith shortly before Paul's martyrdom. The date of the writing of this letter is about 67 A.D. just months before Paul would be killed by Nero the emperor of Rome.

Paul died with a smile on his face.

In Philippians 1:21 Paul wrote: "For me to die is gain". Paul sees death not as an enemy but as a servant to help us.

Death:

- Physically it is gain. My body will be made like the Lord Jesus.
- Intellectually it is gain. I'll know as I am known.
- Emotionally it is gain. I'll be able to praise him with my whole heart.
- Socially it is gain. I will be with the saints of all of the ages, and with my Lord face to face.
- Spiritually it is gain. Temptation and sin will be behind me, and I will be one with my Lord like never before.

Paul wrote the letter to encourage Timothy in areas of his ministry where he needed strengthening and to express a desire to see Timothy again before his soon coming martyrdom. And also to remind him that, as a pastor, the gospel has been entrusted to his care and that he is to preach it faithfully and ensure that it is transmitted to other faithful men who will teach it to future generations.

Why study 2 Timothy?

There are several good reasons for doing so.

1. From Paul's imprisonment and his attitude in the face of certain execution we can learn as Christians how to face the extremities of life.
2. Like Timothy, we all have our God-given gifts, but Paul's exhortation to him to 'stir up' his gift teaches us that the responsibility is ours for the use we make of our gifts.
3. The warmth of affection that existed between Paul and Timothy, and which is amply demonstrated in this epistle, teaches us the worth of fellowship among believers.
4. We learn how the 'deposit' of the gospel has been entrusted to us as it was to Timothy, and like him we are to pass it on to others.
5. It teaches us that the most effective way to combat false teaching in the church is through the preaching of sound doctrine.
6. It presents us with the solemn truth that as history draws to its close and the coming of Christ grows ever nearer, we can expect the world situation to deteriorate, and living the Christian life to become more challenging.
7. We learn that the Holy Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit, and how we are to use them for the work of ministry and to witness.
8. It outlines the work of the pastorate and emphasizes the preaching of the gospel as the most important element of that work.

Paul's Current Position in Life:

1. He is in prison for the last time before his death which makes this letter to Timothy, Paul's "swan song".
2. He is pushing the age of 70 and his message has become unpopular due to Nero's push for emperor worship.
3. He has been forsaken by most and he tells us in this letter that only Luke is with him. But, we must keep in mind that Paul has sent some of the brothers in his ministry team to other locations to minister. We will see this later in the text.
4. At his first appeal during this imprisonment he stood alone before the Roman court but he adds that "the Lord stood with him ..."
5. In this letter to Timothy we see that Paul is passing to him the baton as in a relay race. This is even clearer when you read the encouragements and charges that Paul gives to Timothy in this letter.

Study Method We Will Use: A Four Step Method

Step 1. Select a passage that deals with a topic or subject by reading a re-reading the text (can be chapter or book). You will see in our study of 2 Timothy that I have already selected the passages and determined the subjects (Starting on Page 3).

As an example let's use Chapter 1 verse 3.

2 Timothy 1:3 ⁽¹⁾ I thank God, whom ⁽²⁾ I serve with a ⁽³⁾ clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I ⁽⁴⁾ constantly ⁽⁵⁾ remember you in my prayers ⁽⁴⁾ night and day,

The topic or subject is stated, "my prayers". This is an easier subject to find since it is called out in the text. Some will not be that easy. How do I know that "Prayer" is the subject? Because Paul calls it out and then proceeds to define it (see Step 3).

Step 2. We Paraphrase or put the selected passage into your own words. This will help us to see what the passage is really saying and help us later in the study process. The goal in this step is to discover content and to understand what is being said.

"Passage Paraphrased"

Paul is thankful to God. He serves God with a clear conscience as his forefathers (Godly Jews) did.

He prays night and day and as he prays he prays for Timothy.

Step 3. We define the passage by listing what it tells us about the topic. Also in the "define step" we can define terms and phrases used in the passage. Feel free to ask and answer questions of the text as you define the text. Secondary study sources (commentaries, study bibles, bible dictionaries) are handy in this step. Our goal in this step is to list what is said about the topic and to find meaning.

"Passage Defined"

Paul Prayed ...

1. With thanksgiving – "I thank God"
2. In service – "I serve"
3. With a cleaned up life – "clear conscience"
4. All of the time – "constantly" and "night and day"
5. For others – "remember you"

Step 4. In the final and most important step we look at the passage and determine what God is instructing us to do or change in our walk with Him. In this step we look for application and apply the bible text to our lives. "After all, we study God's Word for life change!"

"Passage Applied"

We should pray as Paul did. We should live our lives in service to God with a clear conscience before Him. And, we should pray always with a thankful heart and remember to pray for our brothers and sisters of the faith.

That is it!

Chapter 1 – A Charge to be Bold (2 Timothy 1:8)

Verses 1-2: Salutation

Paul's greeting and blessings to young Timothy.

Verse 3: "Paul's Prayer Example"

Paul Prayed ...

1. With thanksgiving – "I thank God"
2. In service – "I serve"
3. With a cleaned up life – "clear conscience"
4. All of the time – "constantly" and "night and day"
5. For others – "remember you"

Verse 4: "Paul's Heart" ... (Here we have an insight into the man)

Paul's Heart ...

1. Longed to see Timothy – "longing" (a heartfelt desire)
2. Remembered Timothy's tears – "I recall your tears"
3. Rejoices in seeing Timothy – "filled with joy"

Verse 5: "A Commentary on faith"

Faith ...

1. Should be real and genuine – "sincere faith" - The faith that saves and trusts in God.
2. Indwells people – "within you"; "dwelt in"; "in you as well"
3. Is passed on – "first dwelt" – Paul spent his whole life passing on faith to others.

Verses 6-7: "God's Gift to Timothy"

God's Gift to Timothy ...

1. Is in Timothy – "in you"
2. Given through Paul's laying on of hands – "Through the laying on of my hands". Came from God not from Paul.
3. Has power – power to minister effectively
4. Has love – motivated love for his people
5. Has discipline – self-controlled discipline to keep him in God's will

Verse 8: The Gospel "Through Paul's Eyes"

The Gospel ...

1. Is the testimony of the Lord – What He did for mankind to restore them back to God.
2. Brings suffering to the messenger as it did to Christ Himself.
3. Is the power of God for salvation for all who believe.

Verse 9: "God's Calling (Salvation)"

God's Calling ...

1. Is a Holy Calling – "a call to believers to live a holy life"
2. Is not according to our works – "not because of anything we've done or will do, it's a gift"
3. Is for God's own purpose – "to serve Him in many ways empowered by the Holy Spirit"
4. Is by grace given in Christ – "an undeserved honor brought to us by the blood of Christ"
5. Is eternal – "had no beginning and never ends"

Verse 10: “The Appearing of Christ Jesus”, took up life as a child, gave up life as a Savior.

The Appearing of Christ Jesus ...

1. Abolished death – “Death is not to be feared anymore it is nullified”
2. Brought life to light – “Those in Christ now have life”
3. Brought immortality to light – “Those in Christ now have life forever”
4. Came through the gospel with its power

Verse 11: “Paul’s Appointment”

God Appointed Paul ...

1. To be a preacher – “to proclaim the gospel”
2. To be an apostle – “a sent one to carry the gospel” – 3 Missionary journeys
3. To be a teacher – “to teach and explain the gospel” – wrote 13 books of the New Testament

Verse 12: “Paul’s Suffering”

Even Through Paul Suffers ...

1. He is not ashamed
2. He knows Jesus in whom he has believed
3. He is convinced of his protection in Jesus Christ
4. He knows that one day the suffering will end and he will be with Jesus

Verse 13-14: “Paul’s Exhortations to Timothy”

Paul’s Exhorted Timothy to ...

1. Retain
 - A. Object – Doctrine he received from Paul (sound words)
 - B. Means – Through faith and love in Christ Jesus
2. Guard
 - A. Object – The Word of God (the treasure)
 - B. Means – The Holy Spirit Who indwells us

Verses 15-18: “Paul’s Army”

In Paul’s Army We Find ...

1. The soldiers who deserted Paul, v.15
2. The soldier who refreshed Paul, v.16
3. The soldier who was not ashamed of Paul’s chains, 16
4. The soldier who visited Paul, v.17
5. The soldier who served under Paul, v.18

Chapter 2 – A Charge to be Strong (2 Timothy 2:1)

Verse 1: “Paul’s Charge to Timothy”

In the charge, Paul gives Timothy ...

1. A reminder of who he is, “my son (spiritual son)”, v.1
2. A command to be strong, v.1
3. The source of all things from God, “Grace”, v.1
4. The reason and person of God’s Grace, is “Jesus Christ”, v.1

Verses 2-3: “Paul’s Teachings or doctrine (the things)”

Paul’s teachings are to be ...

1. Proclaimed to many, v.2
2. Passed on to the faithful teachers, v.2
3. Passed on to all people in time, v.2
4. Passed on in spite of the sufferings that will come, v.3

Verses 4-7: “Paul’s Illustrations on Living the Christian Life”

Paul uses three illustrations ...

1. Serve like a soldier who keeps his mind on the spiritual battle at all times, v.4
2. Compete like the athlete who follows the rules laid out in God’s Word, v.5
3. Work hard and trust in God as the farmer does and God will reward you, v.6

Verses 8-10: “The Gospel Defined”

Let’s define the Gospel per this passage ...

1. It is all about the victory Jesus achieved, v.8
2. It was proclaimed by Paul, v.8
3. It brings suffering to the one who stands for it, v.9
4. It cannot be stopped, v.9
5. It is for the chosen of God, v.10
6. It brings salvation through Christ Jesus, v.10
7. It brings to the chosen eternal glory, v.10

Verses 11-13: “A Trustworthy Statement”

The conditions and the conclusions of Paul’s Trustworthy Statement ...

1. If we die to self we live with Christ Jesus forever, v.11
2. If we endure we will reign with Christ Jesus forever, v.12
3. If we deny Him He will deny us, v.12
4. When we are without faith He is still faithful to His word, His Person and His nature, v.13

Verses 14-18: “The Proclamation of The Preacher”

In God’s presence the preacher is to proclaim ...

1. Accept the teaching of the Bible without arguments, v.14
 - A. Arguments are useless
 - B. Arguments lead to ruin
2. Be a diligent workman for God in a way that does not bring shame, v.15
3. Study the Word so you can proclaim it accurately, v.15
4. Use God’s Word to:
 - A. Avoid worldly and empty chatter that leads to ungodliness, v.16
 - B. Silence or amputate the talk of evil doers, v.17
 - C. To maintain true doctrine, v.18
 - D. To build up the faith of others, v.18

Verses 19: “The Foundation of God (the Church)”

God's foundation (the Church) is ...

1. Firm (holding to the truths of God), v.19
2. Standing (against the attacks of the world and Satan), v.19
3. Sealed by two facts, v.19
 - A. The Lord knows His children
 - B. His children are to abstain from wickedness

Verses 20-21: “Two Types of Servants”

The Servants ...

1. Servant of honor—Made of gold and silver, v.20
2. Servant of dishonor—Made of wood and earthenware, v.20
3. The servant of honor described, v.21
 - A. He is clean
 - B. His position is that of honor
 - C. He is sanctified or set apart for God's purpose
 - D. He is useful to God (the Master)
 - E. He is prepared and ready to do good works

Verses 22-26: “The Lord's Bond-Servant”

The Lord's Bond-Servant ...

1. Flees from youthful lust, v.22
2. Pursues:
 - A. Righteousness, v.22
 - B. Faith, v.22
 - C. Love, v.22
 - D. Peace, v.22
3. Calls on the Lord in all things, v.22
4. Has a pure heart before God, v.22
5. Refuses foolish and ignorant speculation (arguments), v.23
6. Is not quarrelsome, v.24
7. Is kind to all, v.24
8. Able and willing to teach, v.24
9. Patient when wronged by someone, v.24
10. Gentle with those who oppose him, v.25
11. Keeps God's ultimate will and purpose, for sinners, in mind, v.25

Verses 22-26: “Satan's Servants”

Satan's Servants ...

1. Are lustful, v.22
2. Start speculations which produce trouble, v.23
3. Are quarrelsome, v.23 & 24
4. Are in opposition to God, v.25
5. They can come to their senses through the teaching of God's word, v.26
6. Are snared by Satan, v.26
7. Are captives of Satan, v.26
8. Do Satan's will, v.26

Chapter 3 – A Charge to Stand (2 Timothy 3:14)

Verses 1-8 “Men of the Last Days”

*We can spot these men of the last days by the **condition of their hearts**:*

1. Lovers of self (*they love themselves more than others*) v.2
2. Lovers of money (*they will do anything to get ahead*) v.2
3. Boastful (*a Bragger, I am the best*) v.2
4. Arrogant (*conceited, haughty*) v.2
5. Revilers (*attacks verbally*) v.2
6. Disobedient to parents (*God takes disobedience in children serious, it could shorten life*) v.2
7. Ungrateful (*thankless*) v.2
8. Unholy (*Blasphemous*) v.2
9. Unloving (*finds it hard to love others*) v.3
10. Irreconcilable (*Opposing to any resolve*) v.3
11. Malicious gossips (*seeks to harm others through gossiping to others*) v.3
12. Without self-control (*has not self-discipline*) v.3
13. Brutal (*Ruthless, Cruel*) v.3
14. Haters of good (*always looks for the bad in people and events*) v.3
15. Treacherous (*Double-crossing*) v.4
16. Reckless (*Irresponsible, Uncontrolled*) v.4
17. Conceited (*Self-important, Proud*) v.4
18. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (*Their pleasure is their god*) v.4
19. Holding a form of godliness but they deny its power (*Has the appearance but no Spirit*)
20. Captures (*the world today has an abundance of these people who capture and kill*) v.6
21. Weak (*unyielding to God's power*) v.6
22. Weighted down with sins (*cannot find the willingness to repent to God*) v.6
23. Lead by their various impulses (*if it feels good do it*) v.6
24. Can learn many things but not the truth (*resists the truths of God while taking in sin*) v.7
25. They oppose the truth and God's man (*blind to God's truths and deaf to his preacher*) v.8
26. They have a depraved mind (*has an immoral, corrupt and wicked mind*) v.8

Verse 9 “The Final Outcome of the Men of the Last Days”

In the outcome of evil men:

1. Their progress in evil deeds will stop
2. God exposes their sin to all
3. God judges them as He did Jannes & Jambres with destruction

Verses 10-11 “Paul’s Example”

To strengthen Timothy, Paul used himself as an example of God’s faithfulness.

1. Paul’s service, v.10
 - A. Teaching the things of God, v.10
 - B. Conducting himself in a godly manner, v.10
 - C. Staying true and faithful to God’s purpose for his life, v.10
 - D. Maintaining his faith in the Lord through all events, v.10
 - E. Showing patience in times of trials, v.10
 - F. Loving all people even those who sought to kill him, v.10
 - G. Persevered with God’s grace and protected the gospel at all times, v.10
2. Paul’s persecutions, v.11
 - A. Brought sufferings, v.11
 - B. Came from those to whom he sought to help, v.11
3. Paul’s outcome—The Lord rescued him out of them all, v.11

Verses 12-13 “When a Nation Turns From God”

Signs of a nation’s decline:

1. Followers of Christ will receive persecutions, v.12
2. Men in power will turn evil, v.13
3. Men in power will become impostors, v.13
4. The leadership of the nation will go from bad to worse, v.13
5. Even the leaders will be deceived as they are deceiving others, v.13

Verses 14-15 “God’s Word in Timothy’s Life”

Timothy had four lines of defense in God’s Word working for him:

1. Timothy knew doctrine and had settled convictions concerning it, v.14
2. Timothy had a heritage of good teachers in his mother and grandmother, v.14
3. The training he had received in the word of God was started at a very early age, v.15
4. Timothy had been raised under the influence of the right literature, God’s Word, v.15

Verses 16-17 “The Nature of God’s Word”

Paul defines the nature of ALL SCRIPTURE.

1. The Origin of Scripture (Inspired by God), v.16
2. The Use of Scripture, v.16
 - A. For teaching - as teaching material, v.16
 - B. For reproof - the pointing out of sin and producing convictions, v.16
 - C. For correction - to restore to an upright state, v.16
 - D. For training in righteousness – that is for teaching, rebuke and admonition, v.16
3. The Sufficiency of Scripture (Prepares us to serve our God and Savior), v.17

Chapter 4 – A Charge to Preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2)

Verses 1-2 “Paul’s Charge to Timothy”

Paul commands Timothy to Preach the Word!

1. The Nature of the Command, v.1
 - A. Paul’s delivery - “solemnly charge” (earnestly, awe-inspiring), v.1
 - B. The Setting - in the presence of God and of Jesus Christ, v.1
 - C. The Future Savior - Jesus will judge, will appear and build His kingdom through Paul’s command working in Timothy’s ministry. , v.1
2. What Timothy is to preach, “The Word”, v.2
3. When Timothy is to preach, “At all times”, v.2
4. How Timothy is to preach, v. 2
 - A. With reprove, “Corrective thinking”
 - B. With rebuke, “Motive adjustments”
 - C. With exhortation, “Encouragement”
 - D. With great patience and instruction, “Consideration and guidance”

Verses 3-4 “The Faithlessness of the Masses”

This time will be:

1. Characterized by an Intolerance of Doctrine of Truth, v.3
2. Characterized by Desire for Personal Gratification, v.3
3. Characterized by Many Teachers Who will not Teach Truth, v.3
4. Characterized by an Embracing of Error and Heresy, v.4

Verse 5 “The Faithfulness of the Few”

Timothy must:

1. Be sober in all things - *that is to be serious, alert, and calm*
2. Endure hardships – *Rely on the presence of the Lord in tuff times as Paul did.*
3. Do the work of the evangelist - *keep the Gospel and its power in the center of your ministry*
4. Fulfill your ministry - *full concentration on the will of God in Timothy’s service to God*

Verses 6-8 “Paul’s Departure Is At Hand”

Paul looks at his current, past and future events:

1. Paul Anticipates His Death, v. 6
 - A. His Life Is an Offering for God
 - B. His Death Is a Departure to God
2. Paul Reflects Upon His Life, v. 7
 - A. He fought the good fight
 - B. He finished the course
 - C. He has kept the faith
3. Paul Foresees His Future Hope, v. 8
 - A. It Will Be a Coronation Day for Paul the Apostle
 - B. It Will Be a Coronation Day for All Who Love Christ’s Appearing

Verses 9-15 “Paul's Urgent Request”

The people on Paul's mind in his last days.

1. Concerning Timothy, v.9
2. Concerning Demas, v.10
3. Concerning Crescens, v.10
4. Concerning Titus, v.10
5. Concerning Luke, v.11
6. Concerning Mark, v.11
7. Concerning Tychicus, v.12
8. Concerning Alexander, vv.14-15

Verses 16-18 “Paul's Present Condition and the Lord's Deliverance”

When all friends are gone, the Lord will:

1. Stand with you, v.17
2. Strengthen you, v.17
3. Accomplish His will in you, v.17
4. Rescue you, v.17
5. Take you home with Him, v.18

Verses 19-21 “Paul's Final Greetings”

In closing:

1. Timothy is to greet:
 - A. Prisca and Aquila, v.19
 - B. the house of Onesiphorus, v.19
2. Update information on:
 - A. Erastus, v.20
 - B. Trophimus, v.20
3. Timothy come soon, v.21
4. Greetings to Timothy from Rome, v.21
5. Paul's final blessing for his beloved son, Timothy, v.22