

2 Timothy

AUTHOR: Paul

TIME WRITTEN: The fall of A.D. 67 from Rome

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 55th Book in the Bible
- 16th book in the New Testament
- 11th of 21 epistle books
- 13th and last of Paul's 13 books
- 54 have preceded it. 11 to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 4

VERSES: 83

WORDS: 1,703

KEY WORD: Endurance in the Ministry

TWO KEY PASSAGES:

1. **2 Timothy 2:3-4** - "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
2. **2 Timothy 3:14-17** - "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,
15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

KEY CHAPTER: 2 Timothy 2

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT 2 TIMOTHY:

1. Prison is the last place from which to expect a letter of encouragement, but that is exactly where Paul's second letter to Timothy originates.
 - a. He begins by assuring Timothy of his continuing love and prayers, and he reminds him of his spiritual heritage and responsibilities.
 - b. Only the one who perseveres, whether as a soldier, athlete, farmer, or minister of Jesus Christ, will reap the reward.
 - c. Paul warns Timothy that his teaching will come under attack as men desert the truth for ear "itching" words. 4:3

- d. But Timothy has Paul's example to guide him and God's Word to fortify him as he faces growing opposition and glowing opportunities in the last days.

2. Timothy

- a. Timothy's name is found more often in the salutations of Paul's letters than any other.

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| 1. 2 Corinthians | 5. 2 Thessalonians |
| 2. Philippians | 6. 1 Timothy |
| 3. Colossians | 7. 2 Timothy |
| 4. 1 Thessalonians | 8. Philemon |

- b. His father was a Greek (Acts 16:1)

- c. His mother (Eunice) was a Jew.

- d. His mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) reared him in the knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. 1:5: 3:15

- e. Timothy evidently became a convert of Paul.

- 1. 1 Corinthians 4:17
 - 2. 1 Timothy 1:2
 - 3. 2 Timothy 1:2

- f. Timothy's conversion took place when Paul was in Lystra on his first missionary journey. Acts 14:8-20

- g. When he visited Lystra on his second missionary journey, Paul decided to take Timothy with him and circumcised him because of the Jews. Acts 16:1-3

- h. Timothy was a valuable asset to the ministry and served as a devoted helper to Paul in:

- 1. Troas
 - 2. Berea
 - 3. Thessalonica
 - 4. Corinth

- i. During his third missionary journey, Timothy labored with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment and evidently went to Philippi (2:19-23) after Paul's release.

- j. Paul left him in Ephesus to help the work there.

- k. Years later Paul summoned Timothy to Rome. 4:9. 21

- l. According to Hebrews 13:23, Timothy was imprisoned and released.

- m. 1 Timothy 5:2-3 tells us about Timothy being sick, but it does not tell us where he was at the time.

- n. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us that Timothy was timid.

- o. 1 Timothy 4:12 tells us that he was youthful.

- p. Timothy was apparently a gifted teacher.

3. Events following Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

- a. The cruel and unbalanced Nero, emperor of Rome from A.D. 54 to 68, was responsible for the beginning of the Roman persecution of Christians.
 1. Half of Rome was destroyed in July A.D. 64 by a fire.
 2. Mounting suspicion that Nero was responsible for the fiery destruction caused him to use the unpopular Christians as his scapegoat.
 3. Christianity thus became a “religion illicito,” (illegal religion), and persecution of those who professed Christ became severe.
- b. By the time of Paul’s return from Spain to Asia in A.D. 66, his enemies were able to use the official Roman position against Christianity to their advantage.
 1. Fearing for their own lives, Christians in Asia failed to support Paul when he was appreciated. 1:5
 2. No one supported him during his initial defense before the Imperial Court of Rome. 4:16
 3. Abandoned by almost everyone (4:10-11), the apostle Paul found himself in circumstances very different from those of his first Roman imprisonment. Acts 28:16-31.
 - a. At that time:
 1. He was merely under house arrest.
 2. People could freely visit him.
 3. He had the hope of being released.
 - b. Now he is in a cold Roman prison cell. 4:3
 1. Regarded “as an evildoer.” 2:9
 2. Without hope of acquittal in spite of the success of his initial defense. 4:6-8, 17-18
 4. Under these conditions, Paul wrote this epistle in the fall of A.D. 67, hoping that Timothy would be able to visit him before the approaching winter. 4:21
 5. Timothy evidently was in Ephesus at the time of this letter (1:18; 4:19), and on his way to Rome he would go through:
 - a. Troas. 4:13
 - b. Macedonia.
 6. Priscilla and Aquila (4:19) probably returned from Rome (Romans 16:3) to Ephesus after the burning of Rome and the beginning of the persecution.
 7. Tychicus may have been the bearer of this letter to Timothy. 4:12)
4. In 2 Timothy 2 Paul lists the keys to a productive ministry.
 - a. Keys to a reproductive ministry. 2:1-2
 - b. Keys to an enduring ministry. 2:3-13
 - c. Keys to a studying ministry. 2:14-18
 - d. Keys to a holy ministry. 2:19-26

SUMMARY OF 2 TIMOTHY

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul knows as he writes this final epistle that his days on earth are quickly drawing to a close.
1. About to relinquish his heavy burdens, the godly apostle seeks to challenge and strengthen his somewhat timid but faithful associate, Timothy, in his difficult ministry in Ephesus.
 2. In spite of Paul's bleak circumstances, this is a letter of encouragement that urges Timothy on to steadfastness in the fulfillment of his divinely appointed task.
 3. Paul calls Timothy a "good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2:3
 4. It is clear from the sharp imperatives that this letter is really a combat manual for use in the spiritual warfare:
 - a. "Stir up." 1:6
 - b. "Do not be ashamed." 1:8, 12-13
 - c. "Share with me in the sufferings." 1:8
 - d. "Hold fast . . . sound words." 1:13
 - e. "That good thing . . . Keep." 1:14
 - f. "Be strong." 2:1
 - g. "Endure hardship." 2:3
 - h. "Be diligent to present yourself approved." 2:15
 - i. "Flee . . . pursue." 2:22
 - j. "Avoid." 2:23
 - k. "You . . . must beware." 4:15
 5. Central to everything in 2 Timothy is the sure foundation of the Word of God.
- B. There are two major sections in the book wherein Paul focuses on the need to:
1. Persevere in Present Testing. (1-2)
 2. Endure in Future Testing. (3-4)

PERSEVERE IN PRESENT TESTING. (1-2)

- A. After his salutation to his "beloved son" (1:2), Paul expresses his thanksgiving for Timothy's "genuine faith." 1:15
1. He then encourages Timothy to stand firm in the power of the gospel and to overcome any fear in the face of opposition.
 2. At personal risk, Onesiphorus boldly sought out Paul in Rome, but most of the Asian Christians failed to stand behind Paul at the time of his arrest.
 3. Timothy must remain faithful and not fear possible persecution.

4. Paul then exhorts his spiritual son to reproduce in the lives of others what he has received in Christ. Four generations are mentioned in **2:2** - “And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
 - a. Paul
 - b. Paul to Timothy
 - c. Timothy to “faithful men.”
 - d. “Faithful men” to “others.”

NOTE: “Others” on down to us. And we, too, are the “others.”
5. Timothy is responsible to work hard and discipline himself like a:
 - a. Teacher
 - b. Soldier
 - c. A farmer
 - d. A workman
 - e. A vessel
 - f. A servant
6. He is to follow the example of Paul in perseverance. 2:1-13
7. In his dealings with others, Timothy must not become entangled in false speculation, foolish quarrels, or youthful lusts, which would hamper his effectiveness.
8. As he pursues “Righteousness, faith, love, peace,” (2:22), he must know how to overcome error graciously.

ENDURE IN FUTURE TESTING. (3-4)

- A. Paul anticipates a time of growing apostasy and wickedness when men and women will be increasingly susceptible to empty religiosity and false teaching. 3:1-9
 1. Arrogance and godlessness will breed further deception and persecution, but Timothy must not waver in using the Scripture to combat doctrinal error and moral evil. 3:10-17
 2. The Scriptures are inspired (“God-breathed”) and with them Timothy is equipped to carry out the ministry to which he was called.
 3. Paul’s final exhortation to Timothy (4:1-5) is a classic summary of the task of the man of God to proclaim the gospel in spite of opposing circumstances.
 4. This very personal letter closes with certain requests. 4:6-22
 5. Paul longs to see Timothy before the end, and he also needs certain articles, especially “the parchments” (probably portions of the Old Testament Scriptures).