

Prison Mission Association



SECOND TIMOTHY

Paul's second letter to Timothy is the last record we have from him. The Roman emperor, Nero, had probably ordered Paul's execution. Paul had been left alone by all but one of his companions. They either deserted him or went on to other places for ministry. Paul recognized that he was about to die and he rejoiced in the fact that he had been faithful to God's calling for his life. In this letter Paul expressed concern about false teaching that had entered the church. Paul instructed Timothy to preserve the truth that he received by passing it on to faithful men who would continue to teach and preach the Word of God with power and authority.

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: The apostle Paul

PLACE OF WRITING: Second Timothy was probably written from a prison cell in the city of Rome.

DATE OF WRITING: The letter was probably written around 67 AD during the persecution of Christians by Nero, the emperor of Rome.

PURPOSE, THEME AND SUBJECT

MATTER OF THE LETTER: The evidence in the Pastoral epistles suggests that Paul was released from prison in Rome after two years and that he traveled to several cities and churches. During that time he left Titus in Crete (Titus 1:5) and Timothy in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3) to set things in order and appoint elders. At some point Paul must have been rearrested and sent back to Rome, this time to die at the executioner's hand. Paul clearly understood his fate and he wrote a final letter to his dear friend, coworker and son in the faith, Timothy, encouraging him to come to Rome so Paul could see him one more time.

Paul used this letter to give Timothy some important final instructions about how to conduct himself as a servant of Christ, to remind him of the importance of his calling to the ministry and to warn him that there will be many who will fall away from the pure teaching they had received and follow false teachers.



CHAPTER ONE

Please read the entire book of 2 Timothy. _____ Check.

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15 – NKJV)

Which Bible version are you using to do this lesson? _____
(You should be able to complete this lesson using any good translation of the Bible, however, it is recommended that you use the King James Version, the New King James Version or the New International Version)

GREETING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Read II Timothy Chapter 1 _____ Check

1. (vs. 1) Who wrote this letter? _____
2. (vs. 1) What position of authority did Paul claim to have? _____

3. (vs. 1) How was Paul called into his ministry? _____
4. (vs. 1) Through whom is the promise of life? _____
5. (vs. 2) To whom is this letter written and how does Paul describe him? _____

6. (vs.2) What does Paul wish upon the reader of the letter? _____

7. (vs. 3) How did Paul serve God? _____

8. (vs. 3) What was Paul doing for Timothy? _____

9. (vs. 4) Why did Paul desire to see Timothy? _____

10. (vs. 5) Who were the examples that inspired Timothy’s faith? _____

11. (vs. 6) What does Paul encourage Timothy to do? _____

12. (vs. 6) What did Paul do to acknowledge the gift of God that Timothy received? _____

13. (vs. 7) God did not give us what kind of spirit? _____

14. (vs. 7) What kind of spirit did we receive? _____

15. (vs. 7) Give examples of how the kind of spirit described in this verse is lived out in our daily activity.

16. (vs. 8) What can we learn about Paul's situation when he wrote the letter from this verse? _____

17. (vs. 8) What instruction did Paul give to Timothy? _____

18. (vs. 9) What two things has God done for us according to the first part of this verse? _____

19. (vs. 9) What have we done to deserve this calling? _____
20. (vs. 10) Through whom has this grace now been revealed? _____

21. (vs. 10) What has Jesus Christ done through the gospel? _____

22. (vs. 11) What is Paul's relationship to this gospel? _____

23. (vs. 12) Why is Paul not ashamed and willing to suffer? _____

24. (vs. 12) How does this demonstrate that we have security in our relationship with the Lord? _____

- 25.(vs. 13) What is to be the pattern of sound teaching (form of sound words – KJV) that Paul encourages Timothy to cling to? _____

26. (vs. 14) The truth of the gospel had been entrusted to Timothy as it has been to us. What has God given us to protect it? _____

27. (vs. 15) What has happened to Paul's companions in Asia? _____

28. (vss. 16-18) What are some of the ways in which Onesiphorus demonstrated concern for Paul? _____

CHAPTER TWO

ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE STRONG AND THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13 _____ Check

Note: It has been suggested that Timothy may have had a meek personality and was easily discouraged and intimidated. For this reason there are many passages in which Paul encourages him to be bold and courageous (1 Timothy 1:18; 4:12; 6:12; 2 Timothy 1:7;). Paul wanted Timothy to lead others with confidence and he assured him that he could do so with the help of God. Certainly the same promises given to Timothy apply to us today. God, through His Holy Spirit will give us the power to serve Him with confidence and courage.

1. (vs. 1) What instructions does Paul give to Timothy? _____

2. (vs. 2) Describe the pattern for training that Paul gives in this verse. _____

3. (vs. 3) Does this verse teach that the Christian life should be easy? _____

Note: There are many passages in which Paul teaches that living a life that honors God will be a challenge and that we will face opposition and persecution. We should reject any preacher or Bible teacher that tries to say that when someone becomes a Christian they will be blessed with health, prosperity and a worry free life. We know from the book of Acts and Paul's own writings that his life was full of struggles and hardship. If someone as committed and full of faith as Paul could endure such difficulties, we should not expect anything different.

4. (vss. 4-6) Paul uses three metaphors in these verses to illustrate the need for a servant of God to be committed in their service to the Lord. List each of the three metaphors and describe in your own words how they teach about our service to Christ. (It is best to read these verses in a modern translation such as the New King James or New International Version to better understand the intent of the passage.)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. (vs. 7) Who gives us understanding of the truth? _____

6. (vs. 8) What two things does Paul ask us to remember about Jesus Christ? _____

7. (vss.8-9) What is it that Paul is suffering for? _____

Note: Paul uses the term “my gospel” in verse 8 to describe the message that he has been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach to the world. He refers to “my gospel” in two other passages in his writings (Romans 2:16 and Romans 16:25) and he is the only author in the Bible to use the term. In Romans 16:25 he states that his gospel was a message that had been a secret that God did not reveal to anyone in the past, he also refers to this as “the mystery.” Paul’s gospel was a unique message that he had received directly from Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:12). What makes Paul’s gospel message unique (from that which was preached by the other Apostles) is that through his gospel alone we learn that Jews and Gentiles are joined together on equal terms as members of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 3:1-7).

8. (vs. 9) What does this verse tell us about Paul’s circumstances when he wrote this letter? _____

9. (vs. 9) What comments can you make about the phrase in this verse “God’s word is not chained?” _____

10. (vs. 10) For whose sake is Paul suffering and for what purpose? _____

11. (vs. 13) What does this verse say about God? _____

INSTRUCTION FOR THE SERVANT OF GOD

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26 _____ Check

12. (vs. 14) Why should we avoid quarrelling (striving – KJV) over words? _____

13. (vs. 15) An approved workman of God will not be _____.

Note: In the King James and New King James versions the last part of verse 15 is translated as “rightly dividing the word of truth.” In the New International Version the verse reads “correctly handles the word of truth.” The phrase in the original Greek literally means “cutting straight the word of truth.” It is teaching us of the importance of properly understanding and interpreting the Scriptures. Paul probably was not specifically referring to the dispensational divisions of the Bible when he wrote this phrase. Those divisions are implied since we cannot accurately understand God’s Word without recognizing the various dispensational programs throughout the history of God’s dealing with mankind.

14. (vs. 16) What is the result of participating in godless chatter (profane and idle babblings – KJV)? _____

15. (vs. 17) What happens to the teachings of those who participate in godless chatter? _____

16. (vss. 17-18) Who are two examples of false teachers and what did they teach? _____

17. (vs. 19) What two truths are stated here that are foundational truths? _____

Note: These two statements, “God knows those that are His” and “Everyone that confesses the name of Christ will turn away from iniquity” make an important point. Oftentimes we are confused when we see someone who claims to be a Christian but his life does not demonstrate it. Ultimately we cannot know the state of any person’s soul, only the Lord knows. We often have to accept what a person says about his relationship with the Lord. On the other hand, Paul makes it clear in this passage that if a person claims to know Jesus Christ as Savior, there should be a definite change in behavior. A Christian’s lifestyle should reflect that he is a child of God.

18. (vss. 20-21) Explain the point of the illustration Paul is using in this passage. _____

19. (vs. 22) What is Timothy to flee from and what is he to pursue? _____

20. (vs. 22) When someone follows the instructions in this verse what does it indicate about their motives for following Christ? _____

21. (vs. 23-24) What is the Lord's servant to avoid and why? _____

22. (vs. 24) What should be the characteristics of the Lord's servant? _____

23. (vs. 25) What should the servant of the Lord do when he is opposed? _____

24. (vs. 25) What is the goal of the instruction given to those who oppose the servant of the Lord? _____

25. (vs. 26) Describe in your own words how the person who opposes the servant of God can be used by the devil.

CHAPTER THREE

GODLESSNESS IN THE LAST DAYS

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 _____ Check

1. (vs. 1) How does Paul describe the last days? _____

Note: The book of Revelation describes a period of great tribulation and distress during the time just before Jesus Christ returns to Earth to establish His Kingdom. However, we know that refers to a time after the Body of Christ has been removed from the Earth in the catching away of believers to be taken to heaven in what is commonly called the Rapture. However, the revelation that Paul received from God had to do with the current Dispensation of

Grace and the Body of Christ. Therefore, it is unlikely that the reference to the “last days” in this passage is to the Tribulation. The phrase “last days” could also be translated as “latter days” and could be talking about the entire period of the Dispensation of Grace in which we currently live. Therefore, the description of perilous times may be of an increase in wickedness that will take place throughout the entire Dispensation of Grace.

2. (vss. 2-4) Choose one of the characteristics of the last days listed and describe how you see it as a reality in our society today. _____

3. (vss. 1-5) How are we to respond to people such as the ones described in these verses? _____

4. (vs. 7) How are the godless people described in this verse? _____

Note: The two men mentioned in 2 Timothy 3:8, Jannes and Jambres, were the traditional names of the Egyptian magicians mentioned in Exodus 7:11. When Moses tried to convince the Egyptian Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery. The magicians of Egypt challenged the miracles that Moses and Aaron performed by trying to do the same thing.

5. (vs. 8) In what way are the godless men talked about in this verse the same as Jannes and Jambres? _____

6. (vs. 9) What does Paul say about the impact such people will ultimately have? _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO TIMOTHY

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 _____ Check

7. (vss. 10-11) To what does Paul refer to show the sincerity of his service to the Lord? _____

Note: Read Acts 13:13-14:20 to learn of the things that Paul endured in Pisidian Antioch, Iconium and Lystra.

8. (vs. 12) What can those who live godly in Christ expect from life? _____

Note: This is an important warning for us not to listen to preachers and Bible teachers who say that a Christian should never face difficulties in life. Furthermore, we should not be deceived if we are told that trials and tribulations are the result of sin and disobedience in our lives. In fact, we are told here that hardships await those whose lives are godly.

9. (vs. 13) What will happen as the latter days progress? _____

10. (vs. 15) From when has Timothy known the Scriptures? _____

11. (vs. 15) In what way will the scriptures help Timothy? _____

12. (vs. 16) How does this verse describe the source of Scripture? _____

13. (vs. 16) What four ways does this verse list that a knowledge of the Scriptures benefits the readers?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

Note: It is important to understand the four things in verse 16 for which the Scriptures are to be used.

14. (vs. 17) What will the Scriptures produce in the person who applies their teaching? _____

CHAPTER FOUR

PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 _____ Check

1. (vs. 1) In whose presence (before whom) does Paul make this commandment. _____

2. (vs. 1) Whom will Christ Jesus judge? _____

Note: Paul says that Jesus Christ will be the judge of the “living and the dead.” This phrase can have two meanings. On the one hand, it can be speaking of those who are physically alive and those that have died at the time of the judgment, whether the Judgment Seat of Christ after the Rapture or the Great White Throne Judgment after the one thousand year reign of Christ on the Earth. This may also refer to those who are spiritually alive or spiritually dead. According to Ephesians 2:4-5 we were all dead in our sins, but God made us alive in Christ Jesus.

3. (vs. 1) What two other things does Paul consider when making this charge to Timothy? _____

4. (vs. 2) When should Timothy (or any minister) be prepared to preach the Word? _____

5. (vs. 2) What things does Paul instruct Timothy to do through the preaching of the Word? _____

Note: Like verse 3:16, this verse emphasizes how God’s Word is the primary source of instruction for living our lives. All of the words used above are for ones that provide guidance for living the Christian life. At times, such instruction might seem harsh but that is often what is needed to correct wrong behavior.

6. (vs. 3) What will be the response of the majority of people to instruction they receive from the Word of God?

7. (vss. 3-4) Describe how people will reject the teaching of God in the latter days. _____

8. (vs. 5) Paul gives four instructions to Timothy in this verse. List them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

9. (vss. 6-8) In these verses Paul is telling Timothy that he believes the end of his life is near. He was probably going to be executed by the Roman authorities. Based on these verses describe how you believe Paul felt as he was facing death.

10. (vs. 8) What does Paul say is awaiting him and all who love Christ's appearing? _____

FINAL COMMENTS

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 _____ Check

11. (vs. 9) What does Paul urge Timothy to do? _____

12. (vs. 10) Describe what has happened to the three companions of Paul mentioned in this verse. _____

13. (vs. 11) Who is the only companion still with Paul? _____

14. (vs. 11) What does Paul say about Mark in this verse? _____

Note: The story of Mark is a remarkable account of restoration and reconciliation after failure in the ministry. Mark first appears in the Scripture in Acts 12:12 when Peter went to the home of Mark's mother, Mary, after his miraculous release from prison. We then learn in Acts 12:25 that Mark joined Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys. Barnabas was a relative of Mark, either a cousin or uncle (Colossians 4:10). Later we find that Mark had deserted Paul and Barnabas and that when he tried to join them on their second journey Paul did not want him to be part of the team, probably because of his earlier decision to return home early (Acts 15:36-41). The disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over Mark was so great that the two missionaries had to go separate ways. However, now at the end of his life Paul is asking that Mark come to him. We see that even when there are serious disagreements, people can be reconciled and used for God's ministry.

15. (vs.13) What further instructions does Paul give to Timothy in this verse? _____

16. (vs. 14-15) What warning does Paul give to Timothy in these verses? _____

17. (vs. 16) What did Paul's companions do when he had to defend himself in court? _____

18. (vs. 16) What does Paul ask of the Lord for those people that abandoned him? _____

19. (vs. 17) How was Paul reassured when he stood to make his defense? _____

20. (vs. 18) What is Paul confident that the Lord will do for him? _____

21. (vs. 19) To whom does Paul send final greetings? _____

22. (vs. 20) Where was Trophimus when Paul left him and what condition was he in? _____

Note: The fact that Paul had to leave Trophimus sick in Miletus is very significant. It is evidence that even within Paul's lifetime the sign gift of healing was already fading away from the normal life of the Body of Christ. Healing was part of the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom that was preached by Jesus and the 12 Apostles (Luke 4:18; 7:22). It was a sign that the age of the Messiah had arrived and that God was now fulfilling his prophecies for the end times. However, Israel denied Jesus as their Messiah. God then revealed the Body of Christ and the truth that Jews and Gentile can approach God on an equal basis. He gave the same sign gifts to Paul and others to prove that the message of God's grace was legitimate. However, based on 1 Corinthians 13:8 we learn that the sign gifts,

meant for the Church in its infancy, would pass away at some point. Although there was a time when Paul could heal the sick at will (Acts 19:11-12; 28:7-9) this verse shows that at the end of his ministry that power had been taken from him.

23. (vs. 21) What does Paul encourage Timothy to do? _____

24. (vs. 22) How does Paul end the letter? _____

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