

2 Timothy—

This letter to Timothy, like the first, is occupied with the exercise of the ministry within the local church. It was written soon after the first letter. Paul was in prison at Rome; and he did not expect (as he did in the earlier letter) to be freed again (except by his “departure” to be with Christ). This second letter to Timothy is the last writing of Paul preserved to us. As such it has a peculiar and touching interest. In it we see Paul’s final attitudes. These are a study all in themselves. Never does the apostle shine in nobler light. His passion for the great work to which his whole energy has been devoted is strong as ever upon him. This parting letter should often be read, especially by ministers and other Christian workers. Never was its message more needed than today.

--J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*.

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)
http://preceptaustin.org/2_timothy_commentaries.htm

Sermon Links:

“Fit to be Used” by Ray C. Stedman
<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/5426/3787.html>
“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” by C H Spurgeon
[http://preceptaustin.org/
rightly_dividing_the_word_of_truth.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/rightly_dividing_the_word_of_truth.htm)

Commentary:

The commentary used throughout this booklet is
With the Word Bible Commentary
by Warren W. Wiersbe.
ISBN 0-8407-9108-9



Author: Paul (1:1)



Time: Around 5.d. 67

The following is an approximate calendar of events surrounding 2 Timothy in Paul's life.

[a.d. 58]—Paul was arrested in Jerusalem.

[a.d. 61]—This is the approximate time that Paul arrived in Rome. He had spent these three years in prison, going from one trial to another before different Roman rulers.

[a.d. 61–63]—Paul underwent his first Roman imprisonment. We do not have this recorded in the Book of Acts, which breaks off at the very beginning of Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

[a.d. 64–67]—Paul was released from prison, and during this period he covered a great deal of territory. It was during this time that he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus from Macedonia.

[a.d. 67]—Paul was arrested again.

[a.d. 67] – Paul wrote 2 Timothy

[a.d. 68]—Paul was beheaded in Rome.

As Paul wrote 2 Timothy, his situation had changed drastically. He was now a prisoner in Rome and was facing certain death (2 Tim. 4:6). For one reason or another, almost all of Paul's associates in the ministry were gone and only Luke was at the apostle's side to assist him (2 Tim. 4:11). It was a dark hour indeed.

But Paul's great concern was not for himself; it was for Timothy and the success of the ministry God had for him. As in his first letter to Timothy, Paul encouraged his beloved colleague to be faithful. As we have learned, Timothy was timid, suffered from physical ailments, and was tempted to let other people take advantage of him and not assert his authority as a pastor.

Paul sent Tychicus to replace Timothy at Ephesus so that Timothy might join Paul at Rome (2 Tim. 4:9, 12). God would soon move Paul off the scene, and Timothy would take his place and continue to give spiritual leadership to the churches. It would not be an easy task, but Timothy could succeed with the Lord's help.

Their parting was a sorrowful one, according to 2 Tim. 1:4.



Theme: Be Faithful

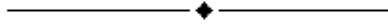
This letter has been called Paul's last will and testament. He knew that the time of his departure was near (4:6), that his earthly ministry and life were soon to end.

About to relinquish his heavy burdens, the godly apostle seeks to challenge and strengthen his faithful but somewhat timid associate, Timothy, in his difficult ministry in Ephesus. Despite his bleak circumstances, this is a letter of encouragement that urges Timothy on to steadfastness in the fulfillment of his divinely appointed task. Central to everything in 2 Timothy is the sure foundation of the Word of God. He wrote this letter to his beloved son in the faith to encourage him to remain strong in the Lord (chaps. 1–2), to explain the perilous times (chap. 3), and to urge him to come to Rome as soon as possible (chap. 4). This very personal letter focuses on faithfulness in the ministry.

Outline

- I. Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1–5)
- II. Faithfulness Exhorted (1:6–14)
 - A. Stir up your gift (1:6-7)
 - B. Don't be ashamed (1:8-12)
 - C. Hold fast (1:13-14)
- III. Patterns of Faithfulness (1:15-2:26)
 - A. Onesiphorus' example (1:15-18)
 - B. Be a Discippler (2:1, 2)
 - C. Be like a Soldier (2:3, 4)
 - D. Be like an Athlete (2:5)
 - E. Be like a Farmer (2:6, 7)
 - F. Remember Jesus (2:8)
 - G. Paul's Example (2:9-10)
 - H. Faithful saying (2:11-12)
 - I. Be a faithful Worker (2:14–19)
 - J. Be a Clean Vessel (2:20–23)
 - K. Be a Servant (2:24–26)
- IV. Perils for Faithfulness (3:1–17)
 - A. Perils of the Apostasy (3:1–9)
 - B. Overcoming the Apostasy (3:10–13)
- V. Guide of Faithfulness – the Word (4:1–5)
 - A. Ability of the Word (3:12-17)
 - B. Preach the Word (4:1-5)
- VI. Paul's Swan Song (4:6–8)
 - A. Paul's Triumph (4:6–7)
 - B. Paul's Expectation (4:8)
- VII. Closing Instructions and Blessing (4:19–22)

SECOND TIMOTHY



Paul's freedom did not last long. He was arrested again, taken to Rome for trial, and eventually executed. He wrote this letter to his beloved son in the faith to encourage him to remain strong in the Lord (chaps. 1–2), to explain the perilous times (chap. 3), and to urge him to come to Rome as soon as possible (chap. 4). This very personal letter focuses on faithfulness in the ministry.

It was a difficult time for Paul. Not only was he facing trial and almost certain death, but he was abandoned by the believers who should have stood with him (1:15; 4:16). His statement in 4:6–8 is one of the greatest confessions of faith in the Bible.

We are now in those perilous times that Paul wrote about centuries ago. This letter teaches us how to live and serve successfully in them.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible
commentary
(2 Ti 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson

Daily Bible Study

Thursday, December 13th, 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 1-2

Questions to Ponder

1. As you read through the first two chapters of this letter, what insights into Timothy's character are we given?
2. Look at chapter 1 verse 6. What does it mean to "stir up the gift of God"? Why would this become necessary?
3. Notice the call in chapter 2 verse 15. Are you a diligent student of God's word?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 1

Perhaps some of the "enemies" that attacked Timothy are attacking you and making you want to give up.

Self-pity (4). Timothy was having a hard time in Ephesus and wanted to leave (1 Tim. 1:3). Perhaps that caused his tears. When you start feeling sorry for yourself, remember that others are praying for you and that God still honors your faith.

Neglect (6). Timothy had neglected his spiritual life (1 Tim. 4:14), and the flame was low on the altar of his heart. No wonder he needed to exercise himself (1 Tim. 4:7-8)!

Timidity (7). Fear in this verse means "cowardice" or "timidity." Timothy was not enthusiastic in his witness or ministry. The Holy Spirit can give us the resources we need to get the job done.

Shame (8, 12, 16). Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16) or of the Lord. His friend Onesiphorus was not ashamed of being identified with Paul (v. 16). Timothy should not be ashamed of either the Lord or Paul (v. 8).

Carelessness (13-14). Paul committed the message to Timothy, and Timothy's responsibility was to guard it (1 Tim. 6:20) and share it with others (2 Tim. 2:2). Again, the Spirit of God enables us to be faithful.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (2 Ti 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 2

God's grace strengthens us and enables us to be faithful teachers (v. 2), soldiers (vv. 3–4), athletes (v. 5), farmers (v. 6), workers (v. 15), vessels (vv. 20–23), and servants (vv. 24–26). The world looks on us as evildoers; but we are God's elect, willing to live and die for Jesus Christ (vv. 8–13).

God's grace enables us to overcome our three great enemies: the world (v. 4), the flesh (v. 22), and the devil (v. 26).

God's grace enables us to endure hardship (vv. 3, 10) as we fight the Lord's battles, so that we do not deny the Lord (vv. 11–13). It helps us do work of which we are not ashamed (v. 15) and deal with problem people of whom we are not afraid (vv. 23–26).

“Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected.”

Jonathan Edwards

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Daily Bible Study

Friday, December 14th, 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 3

Questions to Ponder

1. Chapter 3 begins with a warning that perilous times will come. Read over the things listed there. What makes these things perilous?
2. Do you see these things growing in prevalence within the church?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 3

Perilous in verse 1 means “difficult,” “hard to deal with,” or “dangerous.” It is the same Greek word used to describe the demoniac in Matthew 8:28 and translated “exceedingly fierce.” How do we live for Christ in such terrible times?

Expect them (1–9). The person who is looking for a soon-coming paradise on earth is destined for disappointment. To expect these perilous times is to become not a pessimist but a realist. Note the emphasis on the wrong kind of love (vv. 2, 4).

Follow the right examples (10–12). We tend to emulate the people we admire, so be careful about the heroes you select. Modern-day Christian celebrities may not exemplify the life-style God wants us to have.

Stay with the Bible (13–17). Believe God’s Word will save you (v. 15), mature you from childhood to adulthood (vv. 15, 17), and equip you to serve the Lord (v. 17). Satanic deception is rampant today and has infected the church (v. 13), and the only weapon that defeats the deceivers is God’s inspired Word.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (2 Ti 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, December 15th, 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 4

Questions to Ponder

1. What does Paul exhort Timothy to do at the beginning of chapter 4? According to the chapter, why is it necessary to emphasize this?
2. What does it mean to be ready in season and out of season?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 4

Christ is coming (1)! In view of this, we must know our task and be faithful to do it. Review 2 Corinthians 5:9–11, and read 1 John 2:28–3:2.

Apostasy is coming (2–5)! Indeed, it is now here. Many professed Christians have no “ear” for the Word of God. They prefer religious entertainment and sermons that will tickle their ears instead of cut their hearts.

Departure is coming (6–8)! Paul saw his approaching death as the offering of a sacrifice to God (v. 6; Phil. 2:17), the ending of a difficult race (v. 7), and the gaining of a glorious crown (v. 8; Rev. 2:10). This is the victor’s crown given to winners at the Greek Olympic Games.

Help is coming (9–22)! Paul was greatly disappointed when the people he had ministered to turned away from him and were ashamed of his bonds. He asked Timothy to come as soon as possible and to bring Mark with him. But best of all, the Lord came to Paul and encouraged him! No matter what His people may do, Jesus will never leave you or forsake you (Acts 18:9–11; Heb. 13:5–6).

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Daily Bible Study

Sunday, December 16th, 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 1

Questions to Ponder

1. What things do we learn about Paul's calling and ministry in this chapter? According to verse 9 when was this calling given?
2. What does Paul urge Timothy to do in verse 13? Why is this sometimes difficult to do? What gives us the strength to do this?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 1

Perhaps some of the "enemies" that attacked Timothy are attacking you and making you want to give up.

Self-pity (4). Timothy was having a hard time in Ephesus and wanted to leave (1 Tim. 1:3). Perhaps that caused his tears. When you start feeling sorry for yourself, remember that others are praying for you and that God still honors your faith.

Neglect (6). Timothy had neglected his spiritual life (1 Tim. 4:14), and the flame was low on the altar of his heart. No wonder he needed to exercise himself (1 Tim. 4:7-8)!

Timidity (7). Fear in this verse means "cowardice" or "timidity." Timothy was not enthusiastic in his witness or ministry. The Holy Spirit can give us the resources we need to get the job done.

Shame (8, 12, 16). Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16) or of the Lord. His friend Onesiphorus was not ashamed of being identified with Paul (v. 16). Timothy should not be ashamed of either the Lord or Paul (v. 8).

Carelessness (13-14). Paul committed the message to Timothy, and Timothy's responsibility was to guard it (1 Tim. 6:20) and share it with others (2 Tim. 2:2). Again, the Spirit of God enables us to be faithful.

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Daily Bible Study

Monday, December 17th, 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 2

Questions to Ponder

1. What does it mean to be strong in grace? What are the three examples given in verses 3-7? Think about these examples. How do they relate to your life as a believer?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 2

God's grace strengthens us and enables us to be faithful teachers (v. 2), soldiers (vv. 3-4), athletes (v. 5), farmers (v. 6), workers (v. 15), vessels (vv. 20-23), and servants (vv. 24-26). The world looks on us as evildoers; but we are God's elect, willing to live and die for Jesus Christ (vv. 8-13).

God's grace enables us to overcome our three great enemies: the world (v. 4), the flesh (v. 22), and the devil (v. 26).

God's grace enables us to endure hardship (vv. 3, 10) as we fight the Lord's battles, so that we do not deny the Lord (vv. 11-13). It helps us do work of which we are not ashamed (v. 15) and deal with problem people of whom we are not afraid (vv. 23-26).

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Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, December 18th, 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 3

Questions to Ponder

1. In what ways has Timothy followed Paul's example? Are you also determined to follow this example? What do we learn about persecution from this chapter?
2. According to verse 16, what is the origin of Scripture? How should we respond to its instruction? What is it especially profitable for?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 3

Perilous in verse 1 means "difficult," "hard to deal with," or "dangerous." It is the same Greek word used to describe the demoniac in Matthew 8:28 and translated "exceedingly fierce." How do we live for Christ in such terrible times?

Expect them (1–9). The person who is looking for a soon-coming paradise on earth is destined for disappointment. To expect these perilous times is to become not a pessimist but a realist. Note the emphasis on the wrong kind of love (vv. 2, 4).

Follow the right examples (10–12). We tend to emulate the people we admire, so be careful about the heroes you select. Modern-day Christian celebrities may not exemplify the life-style God wants us to have.

Stay with the Bible (13–17). Believe God's Word will save you (v. 15), mature you from childhood to adulthood (vv. 15, 17), and equip you to serve the Lord (v. 17). Satanic deception is rampant today and has infected the church (v. 13), and the only weapon that defeats the deceivers is God's inspired Word.

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Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, December 19th , 2007

Passage for today: 2 Timothy 4

Questions to Ponder

1. Paul uses the metaphor of being “poured out”. Why is this a good description of our lives? What is the significance of being poured out as an offering?
2. Do you approach your life with the same desire? What examples of a life well lived do we find in verses 6-7?

With the word Bible Commentary

2 Timothy 4

Christ is coming (1)! In view of this, we must know our task and be faithful to do it. Review 2 Corinthians 5:9–11, and read 1 John 2:28–3:2.

Apostasy is coming (2–5)! Indeed, it is now here. Many professed Christians have no “ear” for the Word of God. They prefer religious entertainment and sermons that will tickle their ears instead of cut their hearts.

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"The foundation of God standeth sure."

2 Timothy 2:19

Devotional from Morning and Evening

By Charles Spurgeon

The foundation upon which our faith rests is this, that "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." The great fact on which genuine faith relies is, that "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," and that "Christ also hath suffered for sin, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God"; "Who himself bare our sins in his own body on the tree"; "For the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed." In one word, the great pillar of the Christian's hope is substitution. The vicarious sacrifice of Christ for the guilty, Christ being made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him, Christ offering up a true and proper expiatory and substitutionary sacrifice in the room, place, and stead of as many as the Father gave him, who are known to God by name, and are recognized in their own hearts by their trusting in Jesus-this is the cardinal fact of the gospel. If this foundation were removed, what could we do? But it standeth firm as the throne of God. We know it; we rest on it; we rejoice in it; and our delight is to hold it, to meditate upon it, and to proclaim it, while we desire to be actuated and moved by gratitude for it in every part of our life and conversation. In these days a direct attack is made upon the doctrine of the atonement. Men cannot bear substitution. They gnash their teeth at the thought of the Lamb of God bearing the sin of man. But we, who know by experience the preciousness of this truth, will proclaim it in defiance of them confidently and unceasingly. We will neither dilute it nor change it, nor fritter it away in any shape or fashion. It shall still be Christ, a positive substitute, bearing human guilt and suffering in the stead of men. We cannot, dare not, give it up, for it is our life, and despite every controversy we feel that "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure."

***"The Lord's servant must not strive, but be gentle
towards all... forbearing."***

2 Timothy 2:24

Devotional from Our Daily Walk

By FB Meyer

It is not easy to cultivate this fruit of the Spirit because it has many counterfeits. Some people are naturally easy-going, devoid of energy and ambition, at heart cowardly, or in spirit mean. Many of us are characterized by a moral weakness and decrepitude that make it easy for us to yield rather than contest in the physical or intellectual arena. But in gentleness there must be the consciousness of a considerable reserve of force. The gentleness of God is combined with omnipotence. The movements of creation, in which there is neither voice nor language, prove the infinite forces which are at work. When a boy is trying to lift or carry a heavy beam, as likely as not there will be a great crash when he reaches the end of his task, and puts it on the ground. His strength is so nearly exhausted that he is only too glad to get rid of his burden, anyhow, and at any cost. But if a strong man shoulders the same burden, and carries it for the same distance, he puts it down gently, because he has not taxed his strength and has plenty left. It is the prerogative of great strength to be gentle. Always remember that you are linked with the Infinite God, and that all things are possible to you. There must also be infinite pity. We must be tolerant and pitiful to those who abuse us, or have been embittered by disappointment, or have been ill-used. It must be our aim to make allowances for such, and always to be sweetly reasonable towards any brusqueness, rudeness and bad manners of their behaviour. Let us be willing to admit that much is due to congenital moroseness. Therefore, we bear gently with the erring, and with those who are out of the way, because we also are encompassed with infirmity.

(Continued)

It is necessary also that there should be a deep humility. Thomas a Kempis says: "If thou wilt be borne with, bear also with another. Endeavour to be patient in bearing with the defects and infirmities of others, what sort soever they be: for that thyself also hast many failings which must be borne by others." Our resentment against others should be always tempered by our remembrance of our own sins. So shall we be God's own gentlefolk.

PRAYER - O God, our behaviour has not manifested all the fruits of the Spirit, or been full of the graciousness and gentleness of Christ. Forgive us, and enable us so to live that His beauty may be on our faces, the tone of His voice in our speech, the gentleness of His tread in our steps, the unselfishness of His deeds in our hands. AMEN

***"There is laid up for me
a crown of righteousness."***

2 Timothy 4:8

Devotional from Morning and Evening

By Charles Spurgeon

Doubting one! thou hast often said, "I fear I shall never enter heaven." Fear not! all the people of God shall enter there. I love the quaint saying of a dying man, who exclaimed, "I have no fear of going home; I have sent all before me; God's finger is on the latch of my door, and I am ready for him to enter." "But," said one, "are you not afraid lest you should miss your inheritance?" "Nay," said he, "nay; there is one crown in heaven which the angel Gabriel could not wear, it will fit no head but mine. There is one throne in heaven which Paul the apostle could not fill; it was made for me, and I shall have it." O Christian, what a joyous thought! thy portion is secure; "there remaineth a rest." "But cannot I forfeit it?" No, it is entailed. If I be a child of God I shall not lose it. It is mine as securely as if I were there. Come with me, believer, and let us sit upon the top of Nebo, and view the goodly land, even Canaan.

Seest thou that little river of death glistening in the sunlight, and across it dost thou see the pinnacles of the eternal city? Dost thou mark the pleasant country, and all its joyous inhabitants? Know, then, that if thou couldst fly across thou wouldst see written upon one of its many mansions, "This remaineth for such a one; preserved for him only. He shall be caught up to dwell for ever with God." Poor doubting one, see the fair inheritance; it is thine. If thou believest in the Lord Jesus, if thou hast repented of sin, if thou hast been renewed in heart, thou art one of the Lord's people, and there is a place reserved for thee, a crown laid up for thee, a harp specially provided for thee. No one else shall have thy portion, it is reserved in heaven for thee, and thou shalt have it ere long, for there shall be no vacant thrones in glory when all the chosen are gathered in.

I have finished...

If the Lord were to make it clear to you that your time to die were coming very soon, and you had the opportunity to write someone a letter, who would you write and what would you write to them? Many would write their spouses. Many perhaps would write their dear friends. And still more would write to their children. In these letters to loved ones, one would not likely waste time with writing words concerning news, sports and weather. One would choose his words carefully, seeking to express the deeper and most important things of life. He would labor to express the depth of his heart to the one whom he writes so that the one written to will be left with words that will encourage, help and even warn of perilous times ahead. Here in 2 Timothy, we find the apostle Paul having done this very thing.

Saint, as you dive into this second letter to Timothy, it will do you well to consider that Paul was writing it knowing that his days on earth were close to being over (4:6-7). Timothy was

his beloved son in the faith. And as he wrote these last recorded words that we have of his, we can be assured that he weighed them carefully. For, he saw them as necessary for the young pastor to have as he was left without his experienced and strong mentor in this cold and dark world. As you read, note how Paul encourages young Timothy with deep and personal love. Note as well how Paul exhorts his beloved son to stand fast in the faith. See also how he warns Timothy of perilous times ahead and advises him concerning how to stand against such times of compromise and peril. Watch as Paul sums up his life before the young pastor almost as if to say, “You do the same.”

Christian, Paul is our example. He lays out for us in this letter that he had fought the good fight, he had finished the race, and he had kept the faith. These words are by no means small. He did it. And he leaves these words for Timothy and us as an encouragement to keep going even when it gets tough to endure.

Today, as you see Paul’s example, seek to measure your life against his words. Are you fighting to remain faithful as you live each day under the pressure of this world? Are you fighting to hear the voice of our Lord that you might act promptly and obediently to His call? Are you seeking to finish the race that is laid before you with joy (Acts 20:24)? Are you forgetting what is behind and pressing toward the finish line of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13-14)? Are you running with the kind of daily diligence and passion that is required of those who long to win (1 Cor. 9:24-25)? Are you longing and desiring to *keep* the faith and not walk according to the flesh (Gal 5:1)? Are you looking to keep the faith and not fall to the temptation to see things from the world’s perspective (2 Cor. 5:7)?