

From the Garden to Glory

Second Timothy

Author: Paul the Apostle

Written to: Timothy

Timeline: c. 67 A.D. from the Mamertine prison in Rome

Theme: Remain Faithful in the Face of Opposition and Suffering

Purpose of writing: Paul wrote to encourage Timothy to be strong and remain faithful when those around him were not.

Introduction:

It is believed that Paul wrote this last letter during his second imprisonment awaiting death. It was a difficult time for Paul; he was abandoned by the believers who should have stood with him (1:15, 4:16). Christians were being persecuted, false doctrine and false teachers were creeping into the Church, and many had departed from the faith.

Paul urged Timothy to be true to his calling, to fulfill his ministry and *be strong in the grace* of Christ Jesus.

We too are taught through this letter how to live and stand firm in the faith even if those around us may depart.

As we begin our study of the book of 2 Timothy consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. Paul's first letter to Timothy was written to give instructions for those who held positions of leadership in the church. His second letter was much more personal and dealt with the character of those who follow Christ. What do you think is the most important character quality for a Christian? Why?

2. During Paul's first imprisonment he was treated with significant indulgence; the conditions during this second imprisonment were very different. Fill in the following chart listing what you learn about each imprisonment.

Paul's First Imprisonment	Paul's Second Imprisonment
Acts 28:17-31 Philippians 1:13-14, 1:25-26, 2:24 Colossians 4:10-14 Philemon 22	2 Timothy 1:8, 1:15-17, 2:9, 4:6-18

3. Paul's second letter to Timothy contains the last recorded words that we have from this great apostle. It has been said that a man or woman's life can often be encapsulated in one sentence. What one sentence encapsulates the life of Paul? What one sentence would you like to have encapsulate your life?

Stir Up Your Gift

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7

1. What did Paul reveal about himself and his character in verses 1-5? What is one quality or characteristic from Paul's life that you would like to emulate? Why?

2. Paul's second letter to Timothy contained a series of passionate appeals to his beloved son in the faith. The first appeal is found in verse 6. What is it? The words *stir up* literally mean *to keep a fire lit*. Why is it necessary that a fire remain hot? What problems occur if it dies out? How do you remain *hot* or zealous as you minister with the spiritual gift that you have received from the Lord?

3. The Greek word for *a spirit of fear* found in verse 7 can also be translated *timidity*; it means a cowardly fear which results from weakness or selfishness. Paul told Timothy that God had *not* given him a spirit of fear. Instead, what had He given? What do each of these mean and how are they manifested in your own life?

Hold Fast to the Truth

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18

1. Being aware of Timothy's natural timidity, Paul made an appeal to him in verse 8; he made this appeal in both a negative and positive way. Record both parts of the appeal. What natural tendency do you have that could interfere with following the Lord's call on your life? How do you guard against this?

2. Read verses 9-12. List what you learn about the Lord from these verses. Which of these is the most important to you today? Why?

3. Look at verses 13-14 and answer the following questions.
 - What did Paul tell Timothy to do in verse 13? What does this mean?

 - How is Biblical truth described in verse 14?

- How does verse 14 say that you are to *keep* (also translated *guard*) this truth?

Endure Hardship as a Soldier

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

1. As you read verses 1-2 consider this commentary on verse 1 from D. Edmond Hiebert:

This grace is embodied in Christ Jesus to all who are in living union with Him, just as the vine imparts its life and fruitfulness to the branches that are in abiding union with it.

- How do these words minister to you today?
 - What appeal did Paul make to Timothy in verse 1?
 - What instruction did Paul give Timothy in verse 2?
 - To what faithful witness are *you* committing the things that you have heard? How are you doing this?
2. In verses 3-6 Paul listed three *pictures* that described the requirements and blessings of a godly Christian life. Explain what he said about each of these. How can you apply these illustrations to your own life?
 - a soldier
 - an athlete
 - a farmer

3. Take time today to meditate on verses 11-13 concentrating on 13b. What do you learn about the Lord from this verse? How does this impact your relationship with Him?

Follow Righteousness

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26

1. Write out verse 15. What does this mean and how do you do it? Be specific.
2. Look at verses 20-21 and explain them in your own words. How is this relevant in your life today?
3. Verses 22-26 list several behaviors which are to be avoided and several which are to be pursued. Fill in the following chart. Select one item from each column and share how you obey this instruction.

Behaviors to avoid	Behaviors to pursue

Know the Scriptures

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17

1. In verses 1-5 Paul delineated the moral depravity that would come *in the last days*. What did he say men would be like at this time? Look at verse 6. What was his instruction for Christians? How does this differ from his instruction in 2:25? Why do you think he gave these differing instructions?

2. Paul listed four descriptions of women in verses 6-7. Explain what each of these means and share how they can be avoided.
 - gullible (also translated *weak-willed* or *silly*)

 - loaded down with sin

 - led away with various lusts

 - always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

3. Write out verses 16-17. Explain how Scripture has been profitable for *you* in each of the following areas.
 - for doctrine

 - for reproof

 - for correction

 - for instruction in righteousness

 - to be thoroughly equipped for every good work

Be Faithful to the End

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-22

1. Paul instructed Timothy concerning his calling in verse 2; Timothy was to *be ready in season and out of season*. There was urgency, an insistence that Timothy be ready at a moment's notice. What is the Lord's calling on your life? How do you remain *ready in season and out of season*?
2. Take some time today to meditate on verses 6-8. Paul realized that he was very near the end of his life. How do his words encourage you? How do they exhort you?
3. Read verses 9-22. These are the last recorded words that we have from Paul. What do you learn about him from these verses? What do you learn about the Lord?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of 2 Timothy consider the following questions and write your answer:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.
2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?