**Metadata**

* According to our chronology (Conybeare and Howson), Paul wrote 2 Timothy in 68 AD, shortly before being executed. We have no way of knowing whether Timothy made it to him before his death.
* There is no way to establish with certainty Paul’s life and travels following the close of the book of Acts. It is probable that he suffered from two different imprisonments, having been initially released as he predicted in Philippians 1.
* There are indications from the epistles of a visit to Asia Minor via Crete (Titus 1:5); After time spent in Ephesus and Colosse, Paul departed to Macedonia, where he probably wrote 1 Timothy and Titus.
* It is believed that Paul traveled to Spain (cf. Romans 15:23, 24, 28). There is no scripture to corroborate this, but there is a great deal of tradition that indicates it probably happened.
* The text of 2 Timothy indicates a visit to Asia Minor (4:20); Ephesus (1:4); Troas (4:13); and Rome (1:17) – either because he had been arrested, or perhaps he was arrested while in Rome.
* We have already noted in our material on 1 Timothy the nature of Paul’s relationship with the young preacher, and the faithfulness of the man.
* The book contains four chapters, and 83 verses.

**Concise Outline of Book**

*Taken from Marshall Patton’s Commentary on 2 Timothy*

1. **Salutation (1:1-2)**
2. **Thanksgiving (1:3-5)**- For Timothy and his faith and heritage
3. **Exhortations (1:6-12)**
4. **Solemn Charge (1:13-14)**
5. **Paul’s Associates (1:15-18)**
6. **Different Aspects of Strength Illustrated (2:1-6)**-The Soldier, Athlete and Farmer
7. **The Cross Before the Crown (2:7-13)**-Christ suffered, Paul did, and we also must suffer
8. **A Workman Approved of God (2:14-19)**
9. **A Vessel unto Honor (2:20-26)**
10. **Warning of Perilous Times (3:1-9)**
11. **Paul – an Example of Endurance (3:10-13)**
12. **The Scriptures – Our Safeguard (3:14-17)**
13. **Paul’s Final Charge (4:1-5)**
14. **Paul’s Triumph (4:6-8)**
15. **Personal Matters (4:19-22)**

**Paul’s Purpose in Writing**

* Paul knew that he would not be alive much longer. He desired to see Timothy, and instructed him to come to him before the winter set in. It is believed that 2 Timothy was written while Paul was in prison in Rome. In the letter Paul reminisced about his life and gave some final instructions to his beloved son in the faith. The letter is a beautiful expression of love and concern for Timothy, as well as the church to which Timothy would preach as the years continued. It is important to note that Paul’s instructions primarily emphasize a defense of truth and refutation of false doctrine.

**Chapter Synopses**

1. Paul greets Timothy and expresses thanks for his family and faith. He calls Timothy to be thankful and courageous in his ministry in the gospel.
2. Paul encourages Timothy to be *“strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”* using 3 metaphors to describe that strength - the soldier, athlete and hardworking farmer. He calls upon Timothy to remind Christians of the need to endure, to avoid error. He mentions Hymenaeus and Philetus as examples of false teachers. He instructs Timothy in the need for a faithful, righteous life, avoiding youthful lusts and strife. He describes the *“servant of the Lord”* as gentle, patient and humble, striving to bring men to salvation.
3. Paul warns about false teachers & false brethren who would present themselves in *“the last days”*, describing them, and calling upon Timothy to turn away from them. He calls upon Timothy to study and remain faithful to the scripture, which perfects and equips men to do every good work.
4. In response to the error of the last days, Paul encourages Timothy to be constant in preaching the word of God. This to keep Christians faithful, able to resist false teachers, and curb selfish appetites. This was Timothy’s work as an evangelist. Paul then notes the imminent end of his life, expressing his hope in Christ. He asks Timothy to visit him quickly, as most of his associates had left him, and only Luke was there to assist him. He notes Demas and Alexander the coppersmith by name as unfaithful. He asks him to visit before winter and closes the letter.

**Suggested Memory Work**

**(1:7),** *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

**(1:12),** *“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”*

**(1:13),** *“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”*

**(2:2-3),** *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”*

**(2:15-16),** *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.”*

**(2:22),** *“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*

**(2:24-25),** *“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.”*

**(3:12),** *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

**(3:14-15),** *“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.”*

**(3:16-17),** *“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.”*

**(4:2-4),** *“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”*

**(4:6-8),** *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

**(4:18),** *“And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”*

**Difficult Passages**

* What is meant by the term *“spirit”* of fear, or of power, love & a sound mind? (1:7)
* How does Paul’s efforts (enduring persecution) impact the salvation of *“the elect”*? (2:10)
* Please explain the meaning of (2:11-13)
* What is the solid foundation mentioned in (2:19)?
* Explain the two vessels, and the meaning of Paul’s words in (2:20-21)
* Does Demas forsaking Paul teach the possibility of apostasy? (4:10)

**Doctrinal Considerations**

* **The Power of the gospel (1:8-11; 2:8-9; 3:15; cf. Rom. 1:16)**
* Jesus, as our Savior, has abolished death (1:10)
* **Sound Doctrine is necessary for Standing with God (1:13-14;** **2:14-19; cf. 3:8; 3:14-17; 4:1-5)**
* Strength illustrated by Paul (2:3-7)
* The life and character of the faithful Christian (2:22-26)
* The danger of false teachers (3:1-9)
* **Scripture is inspired and sufficient (3:15-17)**
* **Paul’s Valedictory & what it teaches us (4:6-8)**

**Practical Considerations**

* It is important to serve God with a *“pure conscience”* (1:3)
* It helps to constantly pray for others! (1:3; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
* The faith of parents and grandparents can wonderfully impact children (1:5)
* We are not to be ashamed of the gospel! (1:8)
* Faithful brethren are an encouragement, but we should not be surprised when not all remain true (1:15-18)
* Teaching others has a “chain” effect! (2:2)
* It can be destructive to entertain some religious discussions (2:14,16)
* It is important to Study! (2:15)
* Humility is important when correcting others (2:25-26)
* Persecution is a given if we serve Christ (3:10-12)
* Preaching the whole counsel requires positive and negative applications (4:2)
* Consider the destructive nature of men like Alexander the coppersmith (4:14-15)
* Consider the lack of faithfulness of Paul’s companions, and the spirit of mercy he shows toward them (4:16)
* The Lord stands with His people! (4:17-18)

**Questions to Consider**

* What does it mean when Paul says he is an apostle *“by the will of God?”* (1:1,11)
* What is the gift of God, enjoyed by Timothy? (1:6; cf. 1 Timothy 4:14)
* What is the *“holy calling”* of (1:9)
* What was Paul’s motivation to serve God? (1:12)
* How can we be strong in grace? (2:1)
* What is the practical application of not entangling ourselves in “the affairs of this life” (2:4)
* How is it that we follow *“the rules”* as Christians? (2:5)
* What was the doctrine of Hymenaeus, and Philetus, and its consequence? (2:17-18)
* What does it mean to have *a “form of godliness, but denying its power”* (3:5)
* What does it mean to preach *“in season and out of season”* (4:2)
* Who is at fault for the existence of false teachers? (4:3)
* What is the work of an evangelist? (4:5)
* Did Timothy get to Paul before he died? (4:21)

**Student Questions**

*(Use the rest of this page to prepare questions and comments for class discussion. Since this is not a “verse by verse” study, make sure that all your questions concerning the text are answered).*

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