

Investigating the Word of God

Second Timothy



Gene Taylor

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An Introduction to Second Timothy

Timothy, the Man

The name Timothy is the English form of the Greek *Timotheus*. The name originally meant “honoring God.”

Timothy was born in the city of Lystra of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He was reared in the Jewish faith and was taught the Scriptures by his mother and grandmother from early childhood. (2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5)



The apostle Paul discovered him at Lystra (Acts 16:1-3). He joined Paul in his labors and shared in them throughout the rest of his life. He was with Paul in prison in Rome during the first imprisonment for his name appears in the heading of Colossians (1:1) and Philemon (v. 1). After Paul’s release, he evidently traveled with him as far as Ephesus and was left there to minister to the needs of the church. At the end of Paul’s life, he joined him again in Rome. (2 Tim. 4:11-21)

“He was evidently a trustworthy, if not forceful character. He gave the impression of immaturity, although he must have been about 30 years of age when Paul left him at Ephesus. The indication is that he was timid (2 Tim. 1:6-7), and that he had some difficulty with his health (1 Tim. 5:23).” (Roy Cogdill, *The New Testament Book-by-Book*, p. 102)

The Author of the Book

“From the most ancient times the two epistles to Timothy have been accepted by the church as written by Paul.” (William S. Deal, *Baker’s Pictorial Introduction to the Bible*, pp. 375-376)

“All three books (The epistles to Timothy and Titus - GT) begin with the claim that the writer was Paul the apostle (I Tim. 1:1; cf. 2:7; II Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:1). The author’s analysis of his spiritual past agrees with the Book of Acts (I Tim. 1:11-15). His identification of Timothy and Titus as his ‘sons’ in the faith is definitely a Pauline designation (I Tim. 1:2, 18; II Tim. 1:2; 2:1; Titus 1:4).” (Robert G. Gromacki, *New Testament Survey*, p. 291)

The Date of the Book

“The Letter is usually dated shortly before Paul’s execution by Nero in Rome, perhaps between 66 and 68 A.D.” (Cogdill, 107)

“Within three years after his release from his Roman imprisonment, Paul was arrested and taken back to Rome. The cause of his arrest is unknown. Some have suggested that Nero blamed the burning of Rome upon the Christians since they believed and taught a destruction of the world by fire (cf. II Peter 3:10-14). Since Paul was known to Nero as one of the leaders of this new religion, he was naturally apprehended...Out of a concern for Timothy and a desire to see him before his death, Paul wrote to his young associate who was probably still at Ephesus to rejoin him at Rome. Thus, this book was Paul’s last, written from a Roman prison shortly before his martyrdom (A.D. 64-67).” (Gromacki, 302-303)

Why This Book Was Written

“Paul found himself under very severe circumstances. His first imprisonment had been entirely restrictive and yet, he had been able to look forward to his release. The second imprisonment, however, had been in the dungeon of the Mamertine prison, where it seems that only Luke, his faithful physician, was allowed to minister unto him (4:11); and he felt sure that this imprisonment would end his earthly ministry (4:6). Paul longed for a last visit with his ‘son in the gospel,’ Timothy, and writes him requesting him to come and bring Mark with him, as well as the cloak that he had left in Troas, and his books, ‘especially the parchments’ (4:11-13). The Letter, therefore, is to a great extent a personal letter of the great Apostle’s farewell. At the same time, he wished to encourage Timothy because of the heavy burden that he bore in the work at Ephesus. He also wished to exhort and encourage him that he might endure faithfully in bearing that burden in fulfilling his obligations.” (Cogdill, p. 107)

“In 2 Timothy, Paul writes as one who knows his days on earth are quickly drawing to a close. 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 at 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.” (*Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts*, p. 432)

The Theme of the Book

“There are three main lines of thought that repeatedly occur. They are: 1. The increasing tendency toward heresy and the danger of apostasy that must be guarded against...2. In view of the need of averting apostasy, Paul repeatedly emphasizes the necessity of strict adherence to the faith and encourages Timothy not only to do so, but to provoke such upon the part of the brethren as well. Such exhortations abound in many passages...3. The circumstances and conditions give great emphasis to the necessity both upon the part of Timothy and the church, for spiritual vitality and great evangelistic zeal. Perhaps nowhere in the letter is this more wonderfully and powerfully emphasized than in the final charge which Paul delivered in chapter 4:1-8. This passage of Scripture is the sad farewell and the glorious climax of a wonderful service and of a very deep and abiding relationship that had endured between the great Apostle to the Gentiles and his beloved son in the Gospel, Timothy. It is an expression of complete and final assurance upon the part of Paul of his own salvation by the Lord in ‘His Heavenly Kingdom,’ and it voices the prayerful and loving desire that such assurance might also ever abide in the heart of Timothy.” (Cogdill, 109-110)

“Central to everything in 2 Timothy is the sure foundation of the Word of God. Paul focuses on the need to persevere in present testings (chs. 1 and 2) and to endure in future testings (chs. 3 and 4).” (*Nelson’s*, p. 432)

Second Timothy Chapter One

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 13

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

Key People

Paul

Timothy

Lois

Eunice

Phygellus

Hermogenes

Onesiphorus

Key Places

Asia

Rome

Ephesus

Key Words

Conscience

Forefathers

Testimony

Sufferings

Abolished

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who wrote this book?
2. To whom was this book addressed?
3. According to verse three, with what did Paul serve God?
4. What, according to verse five, dwelt in Timothy?
5. What did Paul remind Timothy to stir up?
6. What kind of spirit has God not given to the Christian? What kind of spirit has he given to him?
7. What has Jesus Christ abolished?
8. Of what did Paul believe and of what was he persuaded?
9. What did Paul want Timothy to hold fast?
10. Why did Paul want the Lord to grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus?

Matching

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Lois | A. Sought Paul zealously in Rome. |
| _____ 2. Eunice | B. Turned away from Paul. |
| _____ 3. Timothy | C. A beloved son. |
| _____ 4. Onesiphorus | D. Mother of Timothy. |
| _____ 5. Phygellus | E. Grandmother of Timothy. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Genuine faith first dwelt in Timothy's mother Lois and his grandmother Eunice. |
| T | F | 2. Timothy received the gift of God through the laying on of John's hands. |
| T | F | 3. God has saved the Christian and called him with a holy calling. |
| T | F | 4. Paul was appointed a preacher, an apostle and a teacher of the Gentiles. |
| T | F | 5. Timothy had heard sound words from Peter. |

Discussion Question

How did Jesus Christ abolish death?

Second Timothy Chapter Two

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 2

“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.”

Key People

Hymenaeus

Philetus

Key Words

Commit

Endure

Reign

Profane

Idle

Babblings

Iniquity

Lusts

Foolish

Ignorant

Snare

Captive

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. In what did Paul want Timothy to be strong?
2. What was Timothy to commit to faithful men? Why?
3. What was Timothy to endure?
4. Though Paul was in chains, what was not chained?
5. What did Paul endure? Why?
6. What are two results of enduring with Christ?
7. What was Timothy to be diligent to do?
8. What was Timothy to shun?
9. What did Hymenaeus and Philetus teach which caused them to stray from the faith?
10. According to verse 19, who does the Lord know?
11. From what are those who name the name of Christ to depart?
12. What was Timothy to flee?
13. What was Timothy to pursue?
14. What was Timothy to avoid? Why?
15. According to verse 25, what is the servant of the Lord not to do? What should he do?

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself in the affairs of this life. |
| T | F | 2. If any one competes in athletics he is crowned even though he is not in accordance with the rules when he competes. |
| T | F | 3. The hardworking farmer is the last to partake of his crops. |
| T | F | 4. The solid foundation of God stands. |
| T | F | 5. In a great house there are only vessels of gold and silver. |

Discussion Question

What do you think were some of the “youthful lusts” Timothy was to flee?

Second Timothy Chapter Three

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 16-17

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Key People

Jannes

Jambres

Moses

Key Places

Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Key Words

Perilous

Brutal

Headstrong

Gullible

Persecution

Impostors

Inspiration

Doctrine

Reproof

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What will come in the last days?
2. From what kind of people was Timothy to turn away?
3. Even though some people may always be learning, to what do they never come?
4. What had Timothy carefully followed?
5. What will happen to all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus?
6. What will evil men and impostors do?
7. In what was Timothy to continue?
8. What had the Holy Scriptures done for Timothy?
9. How is all Scripture given?
10. For what is Scripture profitable?

Matching

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Gullible women | A. Suffer persecution. |
| _____ 2. Jannes and Jambres | B. Grow worse and worse. |
| _____ 3. Those who live godly | C. Resisted Moses. |
| _____ 4. Evil men and impostors | D. Thoroughly equipped by Scripture. |
| _____ 5. Men of God | E. Loaded down with sins. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. In the last day some will have a form of godliness but will deny its power. |
| T | F | 2. Men of corrupt minds resist the truth. |
| T | F | 3. Paul had endured persecutions at Antioch, Iconium and Miletus. |
| T | F | 4. Timothy had learned the Holy Scriptures as an adult. |
| T | F | 5. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. |

Discussion Question

How are the Scriptures able to make one wise for salvation?

Second Timothy Chapter Four

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 2

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, will all long-suffering and teaching.”

Key People

Demas	Aquila
Crescens	Onesiphorus
Titus	Erastus
Luke	Trophimus
Mark	Eusebius
Tychicus	Pudens
Carpus	Linus
Alexander	Linus
Prisca	Claudia

Key Places

Thessalonica
Galatia
Dalmatia
Ephesus
Troas
Corinth
Miletus

Key Words

Fables

Evangelist

Drink offering

Cloak

Parchments

Coppersmith

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did Paul charge Timothy to do?
2. What did Paul warn would happen when people will not endure sound doctrine?
3. In what was Timothy to be watchful?
4. According to verse seven, what had Paul done?
5. What was “laid up” for Paul? Who else would receive it?
6. What had happened to Demas? Why?
7. Who was present with Paul when he wrote this book?
8. What did Paul want Timothy to bring to him?
9. Who stood with Paul at his first defense?
10. According to verse 18, what was Paul confident the Lord would do for him?

Matching

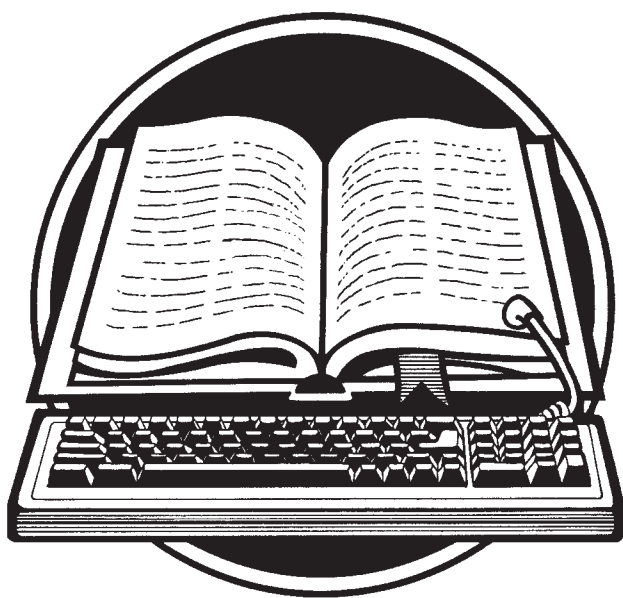
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|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Demas | A. Did Paul much harm. |
| _____ 2. Luke | B. Had forsaken Paul. |
| _____ 3. Mark | C. Paul left him sick at Miletus. |
| _____ 4. Alexander | D. Was with Paul. |
| _____ 5. Trophimus | E. Useful to Paul. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The Lord Jesus Christ will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. |
| T | F | 2. Timothy was to do the work of a pastor. |
| T | F | 3. Paul had fought the good fight and finished the race but had not kept the faith. |
| T | F | 4. Paul was delivered out of the mouth of the tiger. |
| T | F | 5. Paul wanted Timothy to come to him before winter came. |

Discussion Question

Why is it so important to preach the word of God and nothing else?”



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