



Second Timothy - 4 chapters

Title:

The Second Epistle to Timothy – because it is the Second of Paul’s two letters written to his protégé Timothy, who was ministering to the church in Ephesus. This letter is a very personal letter for Timothy, and may not have been read by the entire church.

Author:

Written by Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was a strict Pharisee in Jerusalem until he had a revelation of Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul spent the rest of his life as a missionary proclaiming Jesus to Gentiles around the Mediterranean. Paul wrote 13 of the Books of the New Testament.

Occasion and Purpose:

The false teachers in Ephesus (addressed in First Timothy) were a continuing problem. Now, Paul is in prison, about to be executed for his service to Christ. Paul desires Timothy to visit him. Paul give final instructions for Timothy to leave with the church. But the bulk of the book is exhortation for Timothy to remain loyal to Paul and the Gospel, even after Paul is gone, and to fulfill his calling from Christ to preach the Gospel.

Themes:

1. **Scriptures**– Paul commands Timothy to know the Scriptures, trust the Scriptures, and to teach the Scriptures to the church. The Scriptures are breathed out by God Himself, and useful for every need in the church and for the individual Christian. Scripture is to be the ultimate authority in the church, and the effective tool to oppose the false teachers.
2. **Oppose False Teaching** – Paul instructs Timothy how to deal with the false teachers. He is not to engage in unnecessary controversy, but to graciously instruct. He is not to be contentious, but continually proclaim the Scriptures. Timothy is to keep the pattern of sound teaching.
3. **Endure Hardship** – Paul encourages Timothy to endure hardship, which is a normal part of Christian ministry. He is to be realistic about the possibility of difficulties and willing to go through them for the sake of Christ. And He is also to realize that the rewards for faithful ministry are worthy any hardships that are experienced.
4. **Loyal Confidence** – Paul also requests Timothy to remain loyal to him as well as remaining loyal to the Lord. He encourages him to not be ashamed, either of the Lord, or of Paul. Others had abandoned Paul in his hardship, but Paul expresses his confidence that Timothy would stick with Paul in loyal faithfulness, even in the difficult times of apostasy expected in “the last days.” Paul expects that Timothy will be and remain a workman who has no need to be ashamed.

Summary:

Paul encourages Timothy to continue to exercise his faithful ministry, even in the midst of hardship. He reminds him of his past training, gifting, and calling, and encourages him to trust and teach the Scriptures, while refuting and patiently correcting false teaching. Timothy is to train up faithful workers, just as Paul trained Timothy. Paul is giving his final instructions to Timothy as Paul expects that he will soon be martyred for his faith.

Organization:

1:1-2 Introduction	
1:3-2:13 Appeal to Loyalty	
	1:3-6 Thanks for Timothy's Preparation 1:7-14 Faithful to the Gospel 1:15-18 Paul's Helpers 2:1-7 Metaphors to Teach about God's Service 2:8-13 Be Faithful, Because God is Faithful
2:14-3:9 False Teaching	
	2:14-19 How to work Against False Teaching 2:20-26 Don't Quarrel, but Patiently Teach 3:1-9 Evil People in Evil Days
3:10-4:8 True Teaching	
	3:10-17 The Scripture Which Makes Wise for Salvation 4:1-5 Preach the Word 4:6-8 Paul Preparing for His End
4:9-18 Personal Words	
	4:9-13 Instructions for Timothy to Come 4:14-15 Watch out for Alexander 4:16-18 God Supported Paul, When Others Abandoned Him
4:19-22 Final Greetings	

Key Verses:

1:8-12, 1:13-14, 2:1-2, 2:8-10, 2:14-15, 3:1, 3:14-4:5