



The Second Epistle To Timothy



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, Outlines, And Review Questions**

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The Second Epistle To Timothy

Table Of Contents

Introduction	3
Chapter One	6
Chapter Two	10
Chapter Three	14
Chapter Four	17

This study guide was developed in preparation for teaching adult Bible classes.

- ♦ The objectives for each section are usually things I plan to emphasize during the class.
- ♦ I have found that summarizing and outlining helps me to better understand the Word of God. It is a practice I highly recommend to others.
- ♦ I generally delete the answers to the review questions before printing the material and giving it to the students. But that you might know what answers were intended by the questions, I have included them in these guides.

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The outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style. To God be the glory!

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The Second Epistle To Timothy

Introduction

AUTHOR

The apostle **Paul**, as stated in the salutation (**1:1**). The references of a personal nature also confirm this, especially when compared to other Pauline epistles (cf. **4:9-12; Co 4:7-14**).

RECIPIENT

Timothy, Paul's "beloved son" (**1:2; cf. 1 Ti 1:2,18**). We are first introduced to Timothy in **Ac 16:1-3**, where we learn that his mother was Jewish and his father Greek. From this epistle we also learn that his mother and grandmother had been believers in Christ, who raised Timothy in the Scriptures (**1:5; 3:14-15**). Well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium, Paul desired that Timothy travel with him and therefore had him circumcised to accommodate Jews they would seek to evangelize.

This began a long relationship of service together in the work of the Lord, in which Timothy served Paul as a son would his father (**Ph 2:19-24**). Such service included not only traveling with Paul, but remaining with new congregations when Paul had to leave suddenly (**Ac 17:13-14**), going back to encourage such congregations (**1 Th 3:1-3**), and serving as Paul's personal emissary (**1 Co 16:10-11; Ph 2:19-24**). He had the honor of joining Paul in the salutation of several epistles written by Paul (**2 Co 1:1; Ph 1:1; Co 1:1; 1 Th 1:1; 2 Th 1:1**), and from such epistles we learn that Timothy had been with Paul during his imprisonment at Rome. Such faithful service also resulted in his being left in Ephesus as Paul's personal representative (**1 Ti 1:3**). He may have still been in the area when this letter was penned.

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

The general consensus is that following his first imprisonment in Rome (cf. **Ac 28:16,30-31**) Paul was released and allowed to travel for several years before being arrested again. It was during this second imprisonment that Paul wrote this epistle from Rome (cf. **1:16-17**). Every indication is that he did not expect to be released (cf. **4:6-7**) and shortly after this letter was put to death by Nero. Since Nero was killed in 68 A.D., Paul would have died a short time earlier. This letter can therefore be dated around 66-67 A.D.

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

This epistle contains Paul's stirring words of encouragement and instructions to Timothy, his "beloved son." Longing to see him (**1:4**), Paul writes this letter to have Timothy come quickly to Rome, and to bring along Mark, a cloak that was left at Troas, and some books and parchments (**4:9-13**). He uses

the occasion, however, to write concerning those things that are most heavy on his heart related to Timothy's work. Therefore, Paul writes to encourage Timothy:

- ♦ To stand strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2:1)
- ♦ To commit to others what Paul had taught him (2:2,14)
- ♦ To preach the Word! (4:1)
- ♦ To endure hardship and afflictions (2:3; 4:5)
- ♦ To fulfill his ministry as an evangelist (4:5)

THEME OF THE EPISTLE

With all the exhortations and instructions related to his work as a minister of the gospel of Christ, an appropriate theme for this epistle might therefore be:

“FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY!”

KEY VERSE: 2 Timothy 4:5

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (1:1-5)

I. EXHORTATIONS TO STEADFAST SERVICE (1:6-2:26)

- A. WITH ZEAL AND COURAGE (1:6-12)**
- B. WITH STEADFASTNESS AND LOYALTY (1:13-18)**
- C. TRANSMITTING THE TRUTH TO OTHERS (2:1-2)**
- D. ENDURING HARDSHIP (2:3-13)**
- E. DILIGENT AS A SERVANT OF THE LORD (2:14-26)**

II. EXHORTATIONS TO SOUND DOCTRINE (3:1-4:5)

- A. IN VIEW OF PERILOUS TIMES TO COME (3:1-9)**
- B. REMEMBERING PAUL'S OWN EXAMPLE (3:10-13)**

C. BY ABIDING IN THE SCRIPTURES (3:14-17)

D. BY PREACHING THE WORD (4:1-5)

III. EXHORTATIONS TO COME QUICKLY (4:6-18)

A. PAUL'S END IS NEAR (4:6-8)

B. PAUL'S CIRCUMSTANCES AND REQUESTS (4:9-18)

CONCLUSION (4:19-22)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE INTRODUCTION

- 1) Where do we first read about Timothy?**
 - Acts 16:1-3
- 2) What was the name of his grandmother and mother? (2 Ti 1:5)**
 - Lois (grandmother) and Eunice (mother)
- 3) How did Paul affectionately regard Timothy? (1:2)**
 - As his beloved son
- 4) What is the general consensus for the time and place that Paul wrote this letter?**
 - Sometime around 66-67 A.D., at Rome shortly before his death
- 5) What were Paul's circumstances in Rome? (4:6,10-11)**
 - Near the time of his execution
 - Forsaken by Demas, others have gone, only Luke is with him
- 6) What two purposes does Paul have in writing this epistle?**
 - To ask Timothy to come quickly
 - To exhort Timothy in his service as an evangelist
- 7) What is the theme of this epistle, as suggested in the introductory material?**
 - Fulfill Your Ministry!
- 8) What is the key verse?**
 - 2 Ti 4:5
- 9) According to the outline proposed above, what are the main points of this epistle?**
 - Exhortations to steadfast service
 - Exhortations to sound doctrine
 - Exhortations to come quickly

The Second Epistle To Timothy

Chapter One

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To notice the great love that existed between Paul and Timothy
- 2) To examine the exhortations to faithful service given by Paul to Timothy
- 3) To contrast the people who abandoned Paul, with a faithful friend like Onesiphorus

SUMMARY

The apostle Paul begins this letter to his “beloved son” with a prayer for grace, mercy and peace in his behalf. Thankful to God for the unceasing memories that he has of Timothy in his prayers night and day, Paul greatly desires to see the young man. Seeing him again will bring great joy as Paul is mindful of Timothy’s tears and his unfeigned faith (1-5).

Paul’s purpose in writing begins in earnest with a series of exhortations toward steadfast service. He encourages Timothy to stir up the gift of God which was in him by the laying on of Paul’s hands, to not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord nor of Paul His prisoner, and to hold fast the pattern of sound words which he had heard from Paul, keeping it by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Timothy is then reminded of those who had forsaken Paul, but also how Onesiphorus had proven to be a true friend and brother by virtue of his courage, diligence, and service (6-18).

OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION (1-5)

A. SALUTATION (1-2a)

1. From Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ (1)
 - a. By the will of God
 - b. According to the promise of life in Christ Jesus
2. To Timothy, his beloved son (2a)
3. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord (2b)

B. THANKSGIVING (3-5)

1. Thanks offered to God by Paul (3)
 - a. Whom he serves with pure conscience, as did his forefathers
 - b. For without ceasing he remembers Timothy in his prayers night and day
2. Greatly desiring to see Timothy (4-5)
 - a. For he is mindful of Timothy’s tears
 - b. For Paul himself desires to be filled with joy

- c. For he remembers the genuine faith that is in Timothy
 - 1) Which dwelt first in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice
 - 2) And which Paul is persuaded is in Timothy also

II. EXHORTATION TO ZEAL AND COURAGE (6-12)

A. STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD (6-7)

1. Which was in him through the laying on of Paul's hands (6)
2. For God has given a spirit, not of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (7)

B. DON'T BE ASHAMED (8-12)

1. Of the testimony of our Lord, nor of Paul His prisoner (8a)
2. Share with Paul in the suffering of the gospel according to the power of God (8b-12)
 - a. Who saved us and called us with a holy calling (9-10)
 - 1) Not according to our works
 - 2) But according to His own purpose and grace
 - a) Given to us in Christ before time began
 - b) But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ
 - 1/ Who abolished death
 - 2/ And brought light and immortality to light through the gospel
 - b. For the gospel Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle and teacher (11-12)
 - 1) For such things he suffers
 - 2) But he not ashamed
 - a) For he knows Whom he has believed
 - b) And is persuaded that He is able to keep what Paul has committed to Him until that Day

III. EXHORTATION TO STEADFASTNESS AND LOYALTY (13-18)

A. BE STEADFAST (13-14)

1. Hold fast the pattern of sound words (13)
 - a. Which he had heard from Paul
 - b. In faith and love which are in Christ Jesus
2. Keep that good thing (14)
 - a. Which was committed to you
 - b. Keep it by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us

B. BE LOYAL (15-18)

1. All in Asia have turned away from Paul, including Phygellus and Hermogenes (15)
2. In contrast, the example of Onesiphorus (16-18)
 - a. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus
 - 1) For he often refreshed Paul
 - 2) He was not ashamed of Paul's chains
 - 3) Arriving in Rome, he sought Paul diligently and found him
 - 4) He also ministered to Paul in many ways at Ephesus
 - b. May the Lord grant mercy to Onesiphorus in that Day

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - Introduction (1-5)
 - Exhortations to zeal and courage (6-12)
 - Exhortations to steadfastness and loyalty (13-18)

- 2) How does Paul describe Timothy in his salutation? (2)**
 - My beloved son

- 3) How did Paul serve God? (3)**
 - With a pure conscience, as did his forefathers

- 4) What two things came to Paul's mind when concerning Timothy? (4-5)**
 - His tears
 - The genuine faith that was in him

- 5) What two women had this genuine faith before Timothy? (5)**
 - His grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice

- 6) What did Paul remind Timothy to stir up? (6)**
 - The gift of God which was in him through the laying on of Paul's hands

- 7) What had God given Paul and Timothy? (7)**
 - Not the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind

- 8) What two things did Paul not want Timothy to be ashamed of? (8)**
 - The testimony of our Lord
 - Paul His prisoner

- 9) How has God saved us and called us with a holy calling? (10)**
 - Not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace

- 10) What has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ? (10-11)**
 - God's purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ before time began

- 11) What two things has Jesus done according to verse 10?**
 - Abolished death
 - Brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

- 12) To what three functions had Paul been appointed relating to the gospel? (11)**
 - Preacher, apostle, teacher

13) Though Paul suffered, why was he not ashamed? (12)

- He knew Whom he had believed
- He was persuaded that He is able to keep what he had committed to Him until that Day

14) What was Timothy to hold fast? (13)

- The pattern of sound words heard from Paul

15) How was he to keep that good thing that was committed to him? (14)

- By the Holy Spirit who dwells in him

16) Who had turned away from Paul? (15)

- All those in Asia
- Including Phygellus and Hermogenes

17) What four good things are said about Onesiphorus? (16-18)

- He often refreshed Paul
- He was not ashamed of Paul's chains
- When he arrived in Rome, he diligently sought until he found Paul
- He ministered to Paul in Ephesus in many ways

18) What two things did Paul desire of the Lord? (16,18)

- Mercy be granted to the household of Onesiphorus
- Mercy be granted to Onesiphorus in that Day

The Second Epistle To Timothy

Chapter Two

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To appreciate the need for endurance and faithfulness to the will of Christ
- 2) To note the warnings against profane and vain babbling, foolish and ignorant disputes
- 3) To consider how the servant of the Lord can be a vessel for honor, useful for the Master and prepared for every good work

SUMMARY

Paul continues with exhortations to Timothy in this chapter, with an emphasis on endurance and diligence. Encouraging him to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, Paul then charges Timothy to commit what he has learned to faithful men who can pass it along (**1-2**).

Using the illustrations of a soldier, athlete, and farmer, Paul exhorts Timothy to endure hardship, to be faithful, and to work hard. Writing of his own endurance in hardship, Paul stresses the need to be true to the Lord (**3-13**).

The last half of the chapter is devoted to telling Timothy how to be “useful to the Master”, a worker who does not need to be ashamed. With warnings to shun profane and vain babbling, and avoiding foolish and ignorant disputes, Paul reminds Timothy of things he should flee (youthful lusts) and what he should pursue (righteousness, faith, love, peace). Properly handling the word of truth, and correcting others with gentleness and humility, Timothy can truly be a servant of the Lord who is prepared for every good work, especially when dealing with those who have been ensnared by the devil (**14-26**).

OUTLINE

I. EXHORTATION TO TRANSMIT THE TRUTH TO OTHERS (1-2)

A. A PLEA TO BE STRONG (1)

1. Directed to Timothy as his son (**1a**)
2. To be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (**1b**)

B. COMMIT WHAT HE HAS HEARD TO FAITHFUL MEN (2)

1. Those things he heard from Paul among many witnesses (**2a**)
2. Commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others (**2b**)

II. EXHORTATION TO ENDURE HARDSHIP (3-13)

A. AS A SOLDIER, ATHLETE, AND FARMER (3-7)

1. Endure hardship as good soldier of Jesus Christ (3)
 - a. Not entangled with the affairs of this life (4a)
 - b. That he might please the One who enlisted him (4b)
2. As an athlete, follow the rules of competition in order to win (5)
3. It is the hardworking farmer who will be the first to partake of his crops (6)
4. May the Lord give him understanding as he considers what Paul is saying (7)

B. THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL HIMSELF (8-13)

1. Remember that Jesus was raised from the dead, according to the gospel (8)
 - a. For which Paul suffered trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains (9a)
 - b. Yet the word of God was not chained (9b)
2. Paul endured all things for the sake of the elect (10a)
 - a. That they might obtain the salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (10b)
 - b. A faithful saying to encourage us to endure hardship (11-13)
 - 1) If we died with Christ, we shall live with Him
 - 2) If we endure, we shall also reign with Him
 - 3) If we deny Him, He will also deny us
 - 4) If we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself

III. EXHORTATION TO DILIGENCE AS A SERVANT OF THE LORD (14-26)

A. INSTRUCTIONS RELATED TO HIS WORK (14-19)

1. Remind others, charging them not to strive about words (14)
 - a. Words that do not profit
 - b. Words that only produce ruin of the hearers
2. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God (15)
 - a. As a worker who does not need to be ashamed
 - b. As a worker who rightly divides the word of truth
3. Shun profane and vain babbling (16-18)
 - a. For they only increase to more ungodliness (16)
 - b. For their message will spread like cancer (17a)
 - 1) Hymenaeus and Philetus are example (17b)
 - 2) Who have overthrown the faith of some by saying the resurrection is already past (18)
4. God's solid foundation stands, having this seal:
 - a. The Lord knows those who are His (19a)
 - b. Let those who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity (19b)

B. INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEING USEFUL TO THE MASTER (20-26)

1. A great house has all kinds of vessels, some for honor and some for dishonor (20)
2. If anyone cleanses himself from things of dishonor, he will be a vessel of honor (21)
 - a. Sanctified and useful for the Master
 - b. Prepared for every good work
3. Instructions that will make one a servant useful to the Master:
 - a. Flee youthful lusts (22a)

- b. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (22b)
- c. Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes that generate strife (23)
- d. Do not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient (24)
- e. In humility correct those in opposition (25-26)
 - 1) Perhaps God will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth (25)
 - 2) Perhaps they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will (26)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - Exhortation to transmit the truth to others (1-2)
 - Exhortation to endure hardship (3-13)
 - Exhortation to diligence as a servant of the Lord (14-26)
- 2) **In what did Paul want Timothy to be strong? (1)**
 - The grace that is in Christ Jesus
- 3) **What did Paul want Timothy to do with the things Paul had taught him? (2)**
 - Commit them to faithful men who would teach others
- 4) **What three illustrations does Paul use to encourage Timothy to endure hardship and to work hard? (3-6)**
 - Those of a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer
- 5) **What did Paul want Timothy to remember? (8)**
 - That Jesus Christ was raised from the dead
- 6) **What did Paul suffer in behalf of the gospel? Did it hinder the gospel? (9)**
 - Trouble as an evil doer, even to the point of chains; no
- 7) **Why was Paul willing to endure all things? (10)**
 - For the sake of the elect, that they also might obtain salvation with eternal glory
- 8) **What encouragement is given by “a faithful saying”? (11,12a)**
 - If we died with Christ, we shall also live with Him
 - If we endure, we shall also reign with Him
- 9) **What warning is given by “a faithful saying”? (12b)**
 - If we deny Him, He also will deny us
- 10) **What was Timothy to charge others? (14)**
 - Not to strive about words to no profit

11) What was Timothy to be diligent in doing? (15)

- Presenting himself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

12) What was he to shun? Why? (16)

- Profane and vain babbling; because they lead to more ungodliness

13) What two individuals had been guilty of spreading such things? (17)

- Hymenaeus and Philetus

14) What had they taught? What was the effect of their teaching? (18)

- That the resurrection was already past
- It overthrew the faith of some

15) What is the “seal” of God’s solid foundation? (19)

- “The Lord knows those who are His”
- “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity”

16) What will a “vessel of honor” be? (21)

- Sanctified and useful for the Master
- Prepared for every good work

17) What was Timothy to flee? What was he to pursue? (22)

- Flee youthful lusts
- Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace

18) What was he to avoid? Why? (23)

- Foolish and ignorant disputes
- They generate strife

19) List what must be true of a servant of the Lord (24-25a)

- Must not quarrel
- Be gentle to all
- Able to teach
- Patient
- In humility correcting those who are in opposition

20) Why must a servant of the Lord be this way to those in opposition? (25b-26)

- Perhaps God will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth
- Perhaps they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, for they have been taken captive by him to do his will

The Second Epistle To Timothy

Chapter Three

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To learn about the moral decline that will occur in the last days
- 2) To appreciate the value of all Scripture, including the Old Testament

SUMMARY

From exhortations to steadfast service in the first two chapters, Paul now proceeds to offer exhortations to sound doctrine in this chapter and into the next. He warns of perilous times to come in the last days, describing the condition of the people during these times. Such people Timothy was to turn away from, for they would be just like Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses in the Old Testament (1-9).

Reminding Timothy of how he had carefully followed Paul's doctrine and manner of life up to that point, Paul warns of the persecution to befall those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus. While evil men and impostors will grow worse and deceive many (being deceived themselves), Timothy is exhorted to continue in those things he has learned. Paul has special reference to the Scriptures Timothy had known since childhood, which like all Scripture is inspired of God and has the value of making one wise for the salvation which is by faith in Christ, instructing one in such a way as to make him complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work (10-17).

OUTLINE

I. PERILOUS TIMES TO COME (1-9)

A. A DESCRIPTION OF THESE PERILOUS TIMES (1-5a)

1. They will come in the last days (1)
2. There will be perilous times because of the condition of men (2-5a)
 - a. Lovers of themselves, lovers of money
 - b. Boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents
 - c. Unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving
 - d. Slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good
 - e. Traitors, headstrong, haughty
 - f. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
 - g. Having a form of godliness but denying its power

B. REASONS TO TURN AWAY FROM SUCH PERILOUS PEOPLE (5b-9)

1. A warning to turn away from such people (5b)
2. Reasons to do so (6-9)
 - a. For such lead gullible people astray

- b. For such are always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth
- c. Just like Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses...
 - 1) These resist the truth
 - 2) They are men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith
 - 3) They will not progress, and their folly will become manifest to all

II. A REMINDER OF PAUL'S EXAMPLE (10-13)

A. TIMOTHY HAD CAREFULLY FOLLOWED PAUL'S DOCTRINE AND LIFE (10-11)

- 1. His doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, love, perseverance (**11**)
- 2. Even his persecutions and afflictions at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra (**11a**)
- 3. Yet the Lord delivered him out of them all (**11b**)

B. EXPECT PERSECUTION (12-13)

- 1. For those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (**12**)
- 2. Evil men and impostors will grow worse, deceiving and being deceived (**13**)

III. EXHORTATION TO ABIDE IN THE SCRIPTURES (14-17)

A. CONTINUE IN THE THINGS HE HAD LEARNED (14-15)

- 1. Things he had been assured of, knowing from whom he had learned them (**14**)
- 2. In particular that which he learned from childhood, the Holy Scriptures (**15a**)
- 3. For they are able to make him wise for salvation through faith in Christ (**15b**)

B. THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES (16-17)

- 1. All scripture is given by inspiration of God (**16a**)
- 2. It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness (**16b**)
- 3. So the man of God can be complete, thoroughly complete for every good work (**17**)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Perilous times to come (1-9)
- A reminder of Paul's example (10-13)
- Exhortation to abide in the Scriptures (14-17)

2) When will perilous times come? (1)

- In the last days

3) During these perilous times, what three things will men love? (2-4)

- Themselves, money, and pleasure

4) What sort of godliness will they have? (5)

- Just a form of godliness, denying its power

- 5) How will such men gain followers? (6)**
 - Leading gullible women away by various lusts
- 6) What is said about their learning? (7)**
 - Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth
- 7) What two men will these individuals in perilous times be like? (8)**
 - Jannes and Jambres, who resisted Moses
- 8) What had Timothy carefully followed in regards to Paul? (10-11)**
 - His doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions
- 9) What did Paul say about those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus? (12)**
 - They will suffer persecution
- 10) What will happen in regards to evil men and impostors? (13)**
 - They will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived
- 11) In what was Timothy to continue? (14)**
 - The things he had learned and been assured of
- 12) What had he known from his childhood? (15)**
 - The Holy Scriptures (i.e., the Old Testament)
- 13) What was the value of those things he had known since childhood? (15)**
 - They were able to make him wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus
- 14) What two things are stated about all scripture? (16)**
 - Given by inspiration
 - Profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness
- 15) What are the scriptures designed to produce? (17)**
 - The man of God who is complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work

The Second Epistle To Timothy

Chapter Four

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To see the need for diligence in preaching the word of God
- 2) To note the satisfaction Paul had in looking back over his service to Christ, and the confidence he possessed as he looked forward to the Judgment Day and the heavenly kingdom

SUMMARY

The final chapter begins with a charge for Timothy to preach the word at all times. The time was coming when people would not listen to sound doctrine, but instead follow teachers who would tell what they wanted to hear. Timothy was therefore to be watchful, to endure what afflictions might come his way, and to do the work as an evangelist as he fulfilled his ministry (1-5).

Knowing that his own end was near, Paul expresses personal satisfaction that he has fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. He is confident that there is laid up for him that crown of righteousness which the Lord will give to all who have loved His appearing (6-8).

Timothy is then told to be diligent to come quickly. Only Luke is with Paul as he writes, for Demas has forsaken him and others have left to go to other places. Requests are made, one related to getting Mark and bringing him along, followed by a warning about Alexander the coppersmith. A reference is made concerning those who forsook Paul at his first defense, for whom Paul prays it might not be charged against them. During that time the Lord stood by Paul, and he is confident that the Lord would deliver him from every evil work and preserve him for the heavenly kingdom (9-18).

Timothy is then asked to relay greetings to Paul's dear friends. Brief references are made to Erastus and Trophimus, followed by a plea for Timothy to come before winter. Finally, Paul sends greetings from various brethren and closes the letter with a prayer that the Lord will be with Timothy (19-22).

OUTLINE

I. EXHORTATION TO PREACH THE WORD (1-5)

A. A SOLEMN CHARGE (1-2)

1. Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ (1)
 - a. Who will judge the living and the dead
 - b. At His appearing and His kingdom
2. To preach the word! (2)
 - a. Be ready in season and out of season
 - b. Convince, rebuke, exhort

- c. With all longsuffering and teaching

B. THE REASON FOR THIS CHARGE (3-4)

1. The time is coming when people will not endure sound doctrine (3)
 - a. According to their own desires they will heap up for themselves teachers
 - b. For they will have itching ears
2. They will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (4)

C. RELATED EXHORTATIONS (5)

1. Be watchful in all things
2. Endure afflictions
3. Do the work of an evangelist
4. Fulfill your ministry

II. EXHORTATION TO COME QUICKLY (6-18)

A. HIS TIME IS COMING TO AN END (6-8)

1. Already being poured out like a drink offering, his departure is at hand (6)
2. Expressions of his faithfulness (7)
 - a. He has fought the good fight
 - b. He has finished the race
 - c. He has kept the faith
3. His confidence concerning the future (8)
 - a. A crown of righteousness is laid up for him
 - b. Which will be given by the Lord, the righteous Judge
 - 1) Given to him on that Day (of judgment)
 - 2) Given to all who have loved His appearing

B. A PLEA TO COME QUICKLY (9-16)

1. For Demas has forsaken him, having loved this present world (9-10a)
2. Crescens and Titus have left, having gone to various places (10b)
3. Only Luke is with him (11a)
4. Bring Mark, for he is useful to Paul for ministry (11b)
5. Tychicus has been sent to Ephesus (12)
6. Bring the cloak and the books, especially the parchments (13)
7. A warning against Alexander the coppersmith (14-15)
8. He was forsaken at his first defense, but prays it will not be charged against them (16)

C. THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE LORD (17-18)

1. The Lord stood with him and strengthened him (17)
 - a. So that the message was preached fully by him to the Gentiles
 - b. And he was delivered out of the mouth of the lion
 2. The Lord will deliver and preserve him (18)
 - a. Deliver him from every evil work
 - b. Preserve him for His heavenly kingdom
- For which glory belongs to the Lord!

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS (19-22)

A. MISCELLANEOUS GREETINGS AND FINAL INSTRUCTIONS (19-21)

1. Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus (19)
2. Erastus stayed in Corinth, Trophimus was left sick in Miletus (20)
3. Timothy is to do his best to come before winter (21a)
4. Greetings from Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren (21b)

B. BENEDICTION (22)

1. The Lord Jesus Christ be with his spirit
2. Grace be with him. Amen.

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Exhortation to preach the word (1-5)
- Exhortation to come quickly (6-18)
- Concluding remarks (19-22)

2) When will Jesus judge the living and the dead? (1)

- At His appearing and His kingdom

3) How was Timothy to carry out the charge to preach the word? (2)

- Be ready at all times
- Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching

4) What would some people not endure? What will they do instead? (3)

- Sound doctrine
- According to their own desires they will heap up for themselves teachers

5) What will they turn away from? What will they be turned aside to? (4)

- The truth; fables

6) What fourfold exhortation is given to Timothy in view of such things to come? (5)

- Be watchful in all things
- Do the work of an evangelist
- Endure afflictions
- Fulfill his ministry

7) What did Paul know was drawing near? (6)

- The time of his departure

8) What three phrases does Paul use to describe his life as a Christian? (7)

- I have fought the good fight
- I have finished the race
- I have kept the faith

9) What did Paul expect to receive from the Lord? Who else would receive it? (8)

- The crown of righteousness
- All who have loved His appearing

10) What does Paul ask of Timothy? (9)

- Come to him quickly

11) Who had forsaken Paul, and why? (10)

- Demas, because he loved this present world

12) Who alone was with Paul when he wrote this epistle? (11)

- Luke

13) Why did Paul want Timothy to get Mark and bring him with him? (11)

- He was useful to Paul for service

14) What else did Paul want Timothy to bring? (13)

- A cloak left at Troas, some books and parchments

15) Of whom did Paul warn Timothy to beware? (14-15)

- Alexander the coppersmith

16) What did Paul desire for those who had forsook him at his first defense? (16)

- That it not be charged against them

17) Who stood with Paul during his first defense and strengthened him? (17)

- The Lord

18) What two things was Paul confident the Lord would do for him? (18)

- Deliver him from every evil work
- Preserve him for His heavenly kingdom

19) Who did Paul want Timothy to greet for him? (19)

- Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus

20) When did Paul want Timothy to come? (21)

- Before winter

21) Who sent greetings to Timothy by way of Paul? (21)

- Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren

22) What did Paul pray for in behalf of Timothy as he closed this letter? (22)

- The Lord Jesus Christ be with his spirit
- Grace be with him