



2 TIMOTHY

REMAIN FAITHFUL

The Last Words of a Faithful Man

2 Timothy 1:1-2

WHY 2 TIMOTHY?

2 Timothy 4:6–8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Three Foundational Elements to Approaching 2 Timothy

- 1. Reflect on Paul's Position**
- 2. Realize Timothy's Pressures**
- 3. Recognize the Letter's Purpose**

1. Reflect on Paul's Position

A. Paul's Early Life

Philippians 3:4b–6 . . . If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Acts 21:39 But Paul said, “I am a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city . . .”

Acts 22:27–28 The commander came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman?” And he said, “Yes.” The commander answered, “I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money.” And Paul said, “But I was actually born a citizen.”

Acts 22:3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today.”

Acts 26:9–11 “So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.”



HOW DO WE SUMMARIZE PAUL'S EARLY LIFE?

A life of privilege: a privileged citizenship, a privileged heritage, and a privileged education.

- ⇒ Paul had it good from the world's perspective.
- ⇒ Paul had it good from a religious perspective.
- ⇒ But Paul was in a very bad way from God's perspective!

B. Paul's Christian Ministry

Acts 26:12–18 “While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me.

“And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’



“And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ‘But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’



Acts 9:15–16 “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

Paul’s suffering was staggering (2 Corinthians 11:23-28):

- Imprisoned multiple times (at least five years total)
- Beaten with rods three times
- Received 39 lashes from the Jews five times
- Stoned
- Shipwrecked three times and spent a night and day adrift at sea
- Lived in constant danger from rivers, robbers, Jews, Gentiles, false brethren, cities, wilderness, and the sea
- Endured hunger, thirst, sleeplessness, and cold
- Carried the “daily pressure” of concern for all the churches

C. Paul's Final Chapter

- The book of Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome.
- Tradition suggests that Paul was released from this imprisonment and proclaimed Christ in Spain. Paul “reached the limits of the west” (1 Clement).
- Nero came to power in A.D. 54 and when Rome burned in A.D. 64, he had to find a scapegoat. He determined to pin the blame on Christians.
- The historian Tacitus writes in AD 116:

Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.

- Nero's persecution of Christians is likely what landed Paul in prison in Rome around A.D. 64.
- The prison that Paul faced now was much different than we read in Acts 28.

| Paul's imprisonment in Acts 28 | Paul's imprisonment in 2 Timothy |
|---|--|
| House arrest in his own rented quarters (Acts 28:30). | Roman dungeon. |
| Considerable freedom to receive visitors. | Severe restrictions. |
| Surrounded by friends who could come and go. | Essentially alone (2 Tim 4:11), with many of his former companions having deserted him (2 Tim 1:15). |
| Confident in his soon release (Phil 1:25-26). | Anticipates execution (2 Tim 4:6-8). |

2. Realize Timothy's Pressures

Acts 16:1–3 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

- Timothy was a believer when Paul met him and a young man of good reputation and a knowledge of the Old Testament.
- Timothy became a spiritual son to Paul (1 Tim. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:1).
- Timothy served alongside Paul, traveling to places such as Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth (Acts 16–18).
- Paul later trusted Timothy enough to send him to Thessalonica as his trusted delegate and later to minister without Paul in Ephesus.

When Paul writes 2 Timothy, Timothy is facing many difficulties:

- False teachers were continuing to seek to influence the church and their teaching was being accepted by some in the church (2 Tim. 2:16-18).
- Timothy had to confront those in the church who were living ungodly lives (2 Tim. 3:1-5).
- Timothy was still younger than many and could be prone to fear and timidity (2 Tim. 1:7-8).
- Timothy had health issues that he had to deal with (1 Tim. 5:23).
- Nero was increasing persecution on believers and as a church leader, Timothy would have been a potential target.
- But in addition to the difficulties Timothy faced in life and ministry, he knew that Paul, his close friend and mentor, was in prison and awaiting execution.

3. Recognize the Letter's Purpose

A. Personal Reasons

Paul loved Timothy and wanted to see him (2 Tim 1:4; 2 Tim 4:9; 2 Tim 4:21).

B. Practical Reasons

2 Timothy 4:13 When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.

C. Profound Reasons

- ⇒ Encourage Timothy to battle false teaching.
- ⇒ Encourage Timothy to face suffering well.
- ⇒ Encourage Timothy to continue on in ministry.

The primary theme of 2 Timothy:

REMAIN FAITHFUL

- Remain faithful in combating false teaching.
- Remain faithful when suffering comes upon you.
- Remain faithful in all the ministry that God has given you.

This letter was written to Timothy, but it was also written for us:

- This letter is a part of Scripture and is therefore profitable for all believers.
- This letter allows us to follow Paul as he followed Christ.
- This letter was intended for more than just Timothy. As Paul closes the letter in 2 Timothy 4:22, he writes, “Grace be with you.” The “you” in the Greek is plural.

This letter is written to remind us to remain faithful.

Outline of 2 Timothy

- I. Introduction (1:1-5)
- II. Remain Faithful to Minister Amidst Suffering (1:6-2:13)
- III. Remain Faithful to Hold Fast God's Word Against False Teaching (2:14-3:9)
- IV. Remain Faithful to Proclaim the Word Even When Others Turn Away (3:10-4:8)
- V. Concluding Remarks (4:9-22)

The Greeting: A Picture of Faith (v.1-2)

2 Timothy 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. A Greeting of Confidence

an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God

⇒ Reminds Timothy that his life and ministry were all determined by God's will.

2. A Greeting of Hope

according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus

⇒ Reminds Timothy that his hope was in a life that extended beyond the grave.

3. A Greeting of Love

To Timothy, my beloved son

⇒ Reminds Timothy that his love for him had not diminished.

4. A Greeting of Trust

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

⇒ Reminds Timothy of God's favor upon Timothy that are not just empty wishes but are based on the character of God and the work of Jesus Christ.

Application

- 1) Do you live with the confidence that all circumstances in your life are orchestrated by God's perfect will?
- 2) Do you live each day remembering the promise of life given to all those who have put their faith in Christ?
- 3) Do you love another believer as Paul loved Timothy?
- 4) Do you know the grace, mercy, and peace that comes through Jesus Christ?