

Paul's First Letter to Timothy



2 Timothy — Introduction and Chapter 1

The letter of 2 Timothy is addressed to Timothy from the apostle Paul and the spirit of this letter is considerably different from the first letter. While the first letter to Timothy contains lots of practical advice and encouragement about ministering to a congregation of disciples, the mood of the second letter is more like that of a man who anticipates that his days are numbered and who is desiring to pass on some final words — some of encouragement and some of warning.

Paul is in a Roman prison (c. AD 67) as he writes this letter. He has been in a Roman prison before, but historic indications are that he was released from the one we know of from the book of Acts. This appears to be a second imprisonment and that it is likely that execution for the sake of the Lord and His Gospel awaits him. Not only this, but it would appear that Paul's trouble with the Roman government had caused a number of his helpers to abandon him, fearing that association with him would bring similar imprisonment; only Luke was with him at this point (4:11). This is probably why Paul appeals to Timothy not to be ashamed of the "testimony of the Lord or of me" (1:8) and why he wants Timothy to bring along Mark. In this letter we get the opportunity to see a glimpse of the human vulnerability of this great servant of the Lord and the early church, who nevertheless kept heroic focus and dedication to the Lord's cause to the very end.

Timothy is most likely in the city of Ephesus, carrying on Paul's successful ministry to the churches of Asia. Hints within 2 Timothy include Timothy's awareness of the desertion of all those of Asia (Ephesus is in Asia), that Paul asks Timothy to greet Onesiphorus' family (Onesiphorus was from Ephesus), that Paul warns Timothy to avoid Hymenaeus' errors (Hymenaeus was from Ephesus), and that Timothy was to pick up Paul's cloak in Troas on his way to Rome (Troas was on the common route from Ephesus to Rome).

An outline of the letter goes like this...

- I. (1:1-14) — Paul's concern for and encouragement to Timothy
- II. (1:15-18) — Paul's situation in prison, the desertion of some and loyalty of others
- III. (2:1-26) — Practical encouragements for faithful and effective ministry
- IV. (3:1-17) — Warnings about the difficult last days
- V. (4:1-22) — Charges, requests, and greetings from Paul to Timothy

.....

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

THE ADDRESS (1:1,2)

- Wouldn't Timothy know that Paul was an apostle and how he became an apostle? Then why does Paul mention this in the address of this letter?
- It was not only the will of God that Paul become an apostle, but also that he have a special commission to call men to **the promise of life in Christ Jesus**

the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His

- What was the relationship between Paul and Timothy?
- What was Paul wishing upon Timothy with the common blessing of “Grace, mercy, and peace”?
- What was Paul praying: “I thank God...as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.”
 - Why would his relationship with Timothy be so important? (see v. 15 for a hint)
 - What does this tell us about the importance of Christian fellowship and relationships?
- Why does Paul mention the faithfulness of his forefathers to Timothy? What sort of faithfulness did Timothy’s own family have?
 - What sort of effect can (should) the faithful life of parents have on their children?
- Does the Christian’s faith and gifts need to be rekindled from time to time?
 - How is that done?
 - What does v. 7 tell us about this rekindling of the gifts we have been given?

DO NOT BE ASHAMED (vv. 8-14)

- In this context what does “ashamed” mean?
 - What is the testimony of the Lord?
 - Why would Timothy be ashamed of Paul?
 - What could association with Paul mean for anyone who associated with him?
- How was Paul able to endure suffering for the Gospel?
 - What has the power of God already done for us?
 - **Saved us**

own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰ but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. ¹³ Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

- called us with a **holy** calling
- not according to our **works**
- but according to His **purpose** and **grace** granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity
 - What are these referring to?
 - What was God's purpose and grace specifically? (see v. 10)
 - abolish **death**
 - bring **life** and **immortality** to light
- Paul was appointed as a...
 - preacher (what is this?)
 - apostle (what is this?)
 - teacher (what is this?)
- But Paul was not put to shame over this appointment for the Gospel. Why?
 - I **know** whom I have believed
 - and am convinced that He is able to **guard** what I have **entrusted** to Him against that day
 - What had Paul entrusted to God against that day?
 - What is "that day" to which Paul refers?
- What does the word "retain" mean?
 - "Standard" (v. 13) is the Greek word *hupotuposis* (ὑποτύπωσις) and means a drawing over which you might put a piece of paper to trace, the original from which other accurate copies can be made. **What does this say about the "sound words" (teachings or doctrine) that Paul had taught Timothy (and others)?**
 - What does Paul mean by "in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus"?
- How would Timothy guard "through the Holy Spirit" the treasure of the Gospel that had been passed on to him?
 - Can we guard the treasure of the Gospel through the Holy Spirit?
 - How?

15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; 17 but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me — 18 the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day — and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

EXAMPLES OF BEING ASHAMED AND NOT BEING ASHAMED (VV. 15-18)

- Who were some men who were ashamed of Paul and his Gospel?
 - Why would these men have done this?
 - Are these temptations for us today?
- Who was someone who was not ashamed of the Gospel and Paul's chains?
 - In what ways could Onesiphorus have refreshed Paul?
 - What extra-mile had Onesiphorus gone to help Paul?
 - What connection does this v. 18 have with Matthew 25:31ff?
 - How loyal a brother had Onesiphorus been to Paul and to the Gospel?