

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK 2 TIMOTHY

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## Ever struggle with the desire to throw in the towel?

In ministry, I'm not aware of anyone who has spent a lifetime in ministry without at some time telling the Lord:  
"Even if it's flipping hamburgers at the local fast food place, just let me out of here!"

Remember Jeremiah?  
That was Timothy's attitude when Paul wrote to him also.

## Author and Date

The arguments concerning the authorship of the pastoral epistles in 1 Timothy apply to 2 Timothy also.

There is sufficient external and internal evidence to support the conclusion that Paul wrote the epistle.

It was written about A.D. 67. –Paul's last written words available to us.

## Background

After Paul's release from Rome at the conclusion of Acts 28, he traveled throughout the known world.

Finally he was arrested and sent back to Rome.

This time the opposition and arrest was by the Romans rather than the Jews.

He wrote this as his last letter, expecting that he would soon be condemned to die.

Tradition confirms that he was beheaded soon afterwards.

At the time this was written, Timothy was still ministering to the church in Ephesus.

He was feeling like a "whipped puppy!"

He was tired, frustrated, and discouraged—ready to throw in the towel!

## Purpose and theme

Paul's main purpose was to use his own experience and ministry as the basis for an exhortation to Timothy to "hang in there," to be faithful in the fulfillment of the ministry he had been given.

The letter follows an intensely personal style.

Paul takes advantage of the occasion to warn Timothy of dangers both within the church and outside it.

He also asks him to visit him and to bring some of his personal possessions.

## **Organization**

This letter, because of its intensely personal and final tone, revolves entirely around Paul's farewell exhortations to Timothy (1:6-4:8).

These exhortations are enclosed by the greeting (1:1-2), thanksgiving for Timothy (1:3-5) and his final personal words (4:9-22).

The exhortations concern various specific subjects of interest to Paul:

Loyalty (1:6-18)

Endurance (2:1-13)

Sound doctrine (2:14-26)

Apostasy (3:1-17)

Ministry (4:1-8).

## **Argument**

### **GREETING 1:1-2**

The expansion of the normal three parts of the greeting indicates that Paul wants to remind Timothy of the importance of his perspective.

An appropriate question to ask when you feel like throwing in the towel: "What will this look like from the perspective of eternity?"

Paul reminds him of the promise of life.

It's a matter of perspective!

### **THANKSGIVING FOR TIMOTHY 1:3-5**

Paul knows about the tears!

He wants to come to him.

It will be a source of joy for both of them to be together again.

He is especially thankful for Timothy's faith which he learned from the example of his mother and grandmother.

## EXHORTATIONS TO TIMOTHY 1:6-4:8

Paul immediately begins a series of personal exhortations as a final encouragement to Timothy to serve God faithfully.

### EXHORTATIONS REGARDING LOYALTY 1:6-18

First he exhorts him to remain loyal to God in spite of the sufferings which may come.

(Loyalty and endurance (second exhortation) go together—they're two sides of the same coin.)

#### Call to loyalty 1:6-10

God has called him and given him power to remain loyal.

Therefore Paul urges him to use the power and remain a faithful witness.

- 6 -stir up your gift
- 7 -don't be fearful
- 8 -don't be ashamed (8a, 8b, 12, 16
- 8b, 10 -don't try to avoid the suffering  
It's a "side benefit" of the gospel.  
It goes with the turf!

#### Paul's example of loyalty 1:11-12

He has set an example for Timothy.

Paul is a "herald" of the gospel—that's why he suffers.

Timothy should expect no less!

Paul isn't ashamed because he knows Whom he is trusting.

#### Call to guard sound teaching 1:13-14

Now it's Timothy's turn to take the deposit entrusted to him and guard it.

#### Illustrations and alternatives 1:15-18

In the past some have remained faithful and some have not.

Paul cites examples that Timothy would recognize of some who have taken each path.

Timothy must choose which he will imitate.

Example of disloyalty 1:15

Example of loyalty 1:16-18

## **EXHORTATIONS REGARDING ENDURANCE 2:1-13**

A similar exhortation follows the first.

Paul calls on Timothy to endure suffering for the sake of the gospel.

### **Strength for endurance 2:1-2**

Source of strength 2:1

Strength to endure comes from Christ.

Use of strength 2:2

The strength he receives should be invested in entrusting the deposit he has received to others.

### **Illustrations of endurance 2:3-7**

Three illustrations are given to demonstrate the place of endurance in his life.

Soldier 2:3-4

The soldier suffers hardship to win the battle, without being concerned about the routine necessities of life.

Athlete 2:5

The athlete submits himself to the rules and competes to win.

Farmer 2:6-7

The farmer also works hard and waits patiently for the harvest which he eventually enjoys.

### **Personal examples of endurance 2:8-10**

Two personal examples are given of men who endured suffering to win the prize.

Jesus 2:8

Christ suffered death on the cross before being raised from the dead.

Paul 2:9-10

Paul too is willing to suffer that others might receive salvation.

### **Reward for endurance 2:11-13**

In the end, he will receive the reward promised to those who endure suffering.  
*What's the suffering worth, from the perspective of eternity?!!*

The reward will be granted at the judgment seat of Christ.

For the faithful 2:11-12a

For the unfaithful 2:12b-13

## **EXHORTATIONS REGARDING SOUND DOCTRINE 2:14-26**

Paul then exhorts Timothy concerning the importance of following sound doctrine.

The message of the false teachers relates to their use of the word and to their practice.

Timothy is to exercise care in both areas.

### **Concerning his use of the word 2:14-19**

He must learn to use the word properly.

### **Concerning his practice 2:20-26**

He must learn to walk in a way that will please and be useful to God.

## **HOW DO YOU WIN AN ARGUMENT?**

More arguments are won by a godly lifestyle  
than by quarreling.

More arguments are won by what you are  
than by what you say.

2 Tim. talks about how to win an argument.

Paul's last letter

Final instructions to his son in the faith

Series of exhortations-Three word summary:

Entrust

Endure

Instruct

2:14-26 Exhortations regarding sound doctrine

How to correct false teachers

## **THE ISSUE**

The issue is doctrine. (He is talking about a specific issue related to the resurrection).  
There is no question about who is right.

## THE OPPOSITION

Their teaching is godless "chatter".

It leads to ungodliness 2:16

Their teaching spreads like gangrene 2:17

They have wandered away from the truth 2:18

They look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear 4:3b

They don't want to hear the truth 4:3a, 4

## THE INSTRUCTION

Remember: This is what to do when you ARE right--no doubt about it!

**What not to do-** Three things:

- 1) *DON'T argue* about it 2:14  
That only hurts the listener
- 2) *DON'T argue* about it 2:23  
All they do is produce more quarreling
- 3) *DON'T argue* about it 2:24  
That drags you down to their level  
It is not appropriate for a man of God

**What to do:** Five things -there are more!

- 1) Be sure YOU are approved by God 2:15a  
If your own life is a mess, no one will want to listen to you.  
Your lifestyle must not be the source of embarrassment or your opinion will be rejected before you start talking.
- 2) Be sure you use the Word of God correctly 2:15b
- 3) Pursue a godly lifestyle 2:22  
Avoid youthful attitudes  
Self-Ambition Impatience  
Go for the fruit of the Spirit
- 4) Demonstrate a godly attitude toward the opposition 2:24
  - a) Be kind to everyone (that means those who disagree with you!)
  - b) Be teachable ("able to teach") -willing to listen!  
Be willing to learn truth from the other person.  
Don't be a "know-it-all"!
  - c) Don't be resentful  
No bitterness -No grudges!
- 5) Instruct gently with the goal of restoration 2:25-26  
The goal is not to win an argument.  
The goal is not to be right.  
The only worthy goal is the restoration of a brother.  
If you are fighting for any other cause, you are probably wrong.

## **EXHORTATIONS REGARDING APOSTASY 3:1-17**

In view of the godless conditions which exist in the last days, Timothy was to be careful to pursue godliness.

### **Godlessness in the last days 3:1-9**

The godlessness of the times is described in detail.

Men will pursue pleasure rather than God.

### **Example of godliness 3:10-11**

Paul has refused to follow that lifestyle.

He has remained an example of one who pursues godliness.

Because of his chosen lifestyle he has been persecuted.

### **Exhortation to godliness 3:12-17**

Paul urges Timothy to imitate him.

Promise of persecution 3:12-13

If Timothy follows his example, he can be assured of persecution.

Way to “thrive” (success) = deceit and evil!

Perseverance in godliness 3:14-15

Nevertheless, Paul counsels him to make that choice.

Importance of Scripture 3:16-17

The Scripture will be his guide to a godly lifestyle.

It has been formed by God to equip the man of God for every good work.

## **EXHORTATIONS REGARDING MINISTRY 4:1-8**

Aware that his ministry is about to conclude, Paul urges Timothy to follow his example of faithful ministry.

### **Charge to faithful ministry 4:1-2**

He charges him to preach the word faithfully.

He is to apply it in all kinds of teaching and ministry.

### **Cause for faithful ministry 4:3-5**

This choice is especially important in the light of the alternative most have taken.

Men who turn from the truth 4:3-4

They have rejected the truth and turned to teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.

Need for a contrast 4:5

In contrast to them, Timothy should be faithful and fulfill the ministry God has entrusted to him.

### **Example of faithful ministry 4:6-8**

Paul again presents his own example as a model for Timothy to imitate.

His ministry is concluding.

He has fought well.

Thus he has the confidence of receiving the reward of the faithful.

He desires the same for his son in the faith.

### **PERSONAL NOTES 4:9-22**

Having completed the personal exhortations to Timothy, Paul turns to some personal matters.

#### **REQUEST FOR COMPANIONSHIP 4:9-12**

He desires fellowship because his companions have left him.

Therefore he wants Timothy to come and bring Mark with him.

#### **REQUEST FOR PERSONAL ITEMS 4:13**

When he comes, Paul wants Timothy to bring him his cloak and scrolls.

#### **WARNING ABOUT ALEXANDER 4:14-15**

He warns them about the opposition from Alexander.

**REPORT ABOUT TRIAL 4:16-18**

A report of the trial is also given.

Everyone abandoned him, but the Lord has remainde faithful.

**Unfaithfulness of men 4:16****Faithfulness of God 4:17-18**

In the end, the Lord will deliver him and take him safely into His presence.

**CLOSING GREETINGS 4:19-21**

The letter concludes with some personal greetings.

**BENEDICTION 4:22**

Paul then expresses his desire for the Lord's presence with Timothy as a closing benediction.