

## 2 Timothy

<b>It's Getting Near the End</b>	Though we still have Titus and Philemon to go in our study of Paul's Epistles, 2 Timothy is the last letter Paul wrote. As such, much like 2 Corinthians, the letter is deeply personal and directed towards Timothy.
<b>Similarities and Differences Between 1 and 2 Timothy</b>	There are many similarities between 1 and 2 Timothy. Here are two important ones: 1) Timothy is in Ephesus having to deal with the false teachers who infiltrated the church. Paul addresses those issues and the best way for him to do that. 2) Paul gives Timothy practical advice on how to pastor appropriately (i.e., how to treat different people in 1 Timothy and how to see and approach the Word of God in 2 Timothy) But there are also many differences. Here are two important ones: 1) In 1 Timothy, Paul has ecclesiastical concerns. The Greek word "ecclesia" is where we get the word "church." That's why Paul deals with things like pastor/elder, deacon, etc. In 2 Timothy, that's not the goal because it's a personal appeal to Timothy to come see him in prison. 2) In 1 Timothy, Paul appeals to Timothy as a young man taking on a new responsibility: leading a church. As such, he writes to encourage him to be faithful, though young, in order to set the example. In 2 Timothy, Paul appeals to Timothy to come and be an encouragement to him in some of his darkest days.
<b>Paul's Circumstances While Writing</b>	We don't know how much time has passed since Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy. But we can see from the internal context of the book itself that his situation in prison has changed <u>for the worse</u> . 1) He's imprisoned in Rome and his court trial is <u>not going well</u> . In fact, it's going so bad that Paul doesn't anticipate surviving. 2) Paul's frequent trips to prison caused many who were with him at one time to <u>doubt</u> Paul's calling as an apostle. Among these were Phygelus and Hermogenes. They deserted Paul because they did not want the negative stigma that came with joining him in his Gospel endeavors. 3) As a result, Paul writes to Timothy because he needs encouragement in the faith just as much as Timothy did.
<b>Theme and Purpose of 2 Timothy</b>	2 Timothy serves as a reminder that Paul's influential life and mission were marked by consistent challenges, sufferings, and struggles. Following Jesus involves risk and sacrifice. It means inviting difficulty into your life. These issues <u>are not a sign of Jesus' absence</u> . Instead, it is in those <u>dark and difficult moments</u> that Jesus' love is all the <u>more real</u> .
<b>2 Timothy in a Phrase</b>	Challenges and difficulties don't indicate the absence of Jesus. They indicate His loving presence.
<b>Key Verses</b>	<i><sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17)</i>
<b>Structure</b>	The structure of 2 Timothy is fairly basic. It contains <u>two</u> different types of challenges to Timothy (1:1-2:13 and 2:14-4:5) and a conclusion (4:6-22).

<b>Challenge #1 to Timothy: Accept Your Calling (1:1-2:13)</b>	
<b>Where It Began</b>	<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (1:3-6)
<b>How It Works</b>	<sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. <sup>8</sup> So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. <sup>9</sup> He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace... <sup>13</sup> What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (1:7-9, 13-14).
<b>Why It's Difficult and Rewarding</b>	<sup>15</sup> You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me (1:15-17).
<b>How It's Applied</b>	<sup>3</sup> Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. <sup>5</sup> Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. (2:3-6)

<b>Challenge #2 to Timothy: Deal with False Teachers (2:14-4:5)</b>	
<b>What Timothy Must Do and Why</b>	<sup>14</sup> Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. <sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. <sup>17</sup> Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup> who have departed from the truth. (2:14-18a)
<b>What They Were Teaching</b>	They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. (2:18b)
<b>How Timothy Must Behave</b>	<sup>22</sup> Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. <sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. (2:22-26)
<b>Why False Teachers Exist in the Church</b>	But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people (3:1-5)
<b>How to Combat the False Teachers</b>	<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God <sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (3:14-17)
<b>How to Function as a Minister</b>	In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry (4:1-5)

<b>The Personal Conclusion that Ties the Whole Book Together (4:9-22)</b>	
<b>I Need You, Timothy</b>	<sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (4:9-11)
<b>Why I'm in Prison Corresponds to Everything I Just Wrote About</b>	<sup>14</sup> Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. <sup>15</sup> You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. (4:14-15)
<b>My Troubles Don't Indicate the Lord's Absence. They Indicate His Presence.</b>	<sup>16</sup> At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (4:16-18)