

2nd Timothy

Review

Salutation

- **Author [1:1]**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

- **Recipient [1:2]**

To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Call to Faithfulness

- **Thanksgiving for Timothy [1:3-7]**

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my petitions night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. 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. For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is confirmed in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but instead a spirit of power and love and sound thinking.

- Principles of 2 Timothy 1:3-7

- We have no shortage of reasons to thank God for His many blessings [1 Thess 5:18].
- One reason many believers fail to consider is the blessing of faith in other people we know [Eph 1:15-16].
- We should endeavor to live our lives such that we maintain a clear conscience [Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Tim 1:5].
- Satan loves to point out every mistake we make because guilt disables otherwise productive believers [Re 12:10].
- Understanding the complete forgiveness we have in Christ Jesus mitigates all such guilt [Ps 32:5; 1 John 1:9].
- Likewise, we should always endeavor to walk in a worthy manner [Eph 4:1-3; Phil 1:27; Col 1:9-12; 1 Th 2:10-12].

- We should desire the company of other believers because they can bring us joy and spiritual refreshment [Rom 15:32; 1 Cor 16:17-18; 2 Cor 7:13; 2 Tim 1:16; Phlm 7].
- Only God can look upon the heart [1 Sam 16:7; 1 Kgs 8:39; Jer 17:10; Acts 1:24; Heb 4:12], but as we observe the behavior of others over time, we can become convinced of their sincere faith.
- Every believer receives at least one spiritual gift from God at the moment of salvation which should be used to serve others for the glory of God [1 Pet 4:10-11].
- We dishonor what God has done if we choose to neglect our gift by not discerning what it is, receiving training for it and putting it into practice [1 Tim 4:14].
- God has granted to us power, love and sound thinking which ought to leave no room for timidity...
 - Power [Micah 3:8; Acts 1:7-8; 1 Cor 2:3-5].
 - Love [Rom 5:5; Gal 5:22-23; 2 Thess 3:5; 1 Pet 1:22].
 - Sound thinking [Pr 2:7; 3:21; 8:14; 1 Pet 4:7].
- **Call to Courage [1:8-12]**

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner, but instead join together with *me* in suffering for the gospel in accordance with the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but instead according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been made known by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. For this reason I also suffer these things, but in spite of this I am not ashamed; for I know the One whom I have believed and I am sure that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

 - Principles of 2 Timothy 1:8-12
 - God has given us everything we need for ministry – giftedness [1 Pet 4:10], equipping [Eph 4:11-12], etc.
 - We must be careful, then, not to allow shame to inhibit our walk of faith and testimony [Ps 119:46; Rom 1:16].

- When faced with the cross, our Lord and Savior did not even concern Himself with the shame [Heb 12:2].
- If we proclaim the truth of the gospel to this lost and dying world, we will suffer hardship [2 Tim 2:3, 8-9].
- As believers, we can endure such suffering in the strength of God [2 Cor 4:7-9; 12:9-10; Eph 1:18-21; 6:10; Phil 4:13; 2Tim 4:17-18].
- This divine strengthening is a function of God's grace toward those who are in Christ Jesus [2 Tim 2:1].
- Our salvation is by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus, not according to our works [Eph 2:8-9; Rom 11:6].
- Likewise, our holy calling as believers is according to His grace [1 Pet 5:10].
- In addition, our calling is according to His eternal plan and purpose [Rom 8:28-30].
- All of the grace blessings we have in Christ were granted to us in eternity past [Eph 1:3-4], but were manifested when Christ appeared at the 1st Advent [1 Pet 1:17-21].
- Through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, death has lost its sting [1 Cor 15:1-4; 51-55].
- Jesus our Savior has brought life [John 11:25-26] and immortality [1 Pet 1:3-5] to light through the gospel.
- Every born-again believer will be appointed to specific work assignments [Eph 2:10].
- All work assignments given within the body of Christ are important in God's plan and purpose [1 Cor 12:11-27].
- We should be encouraged in the work assignments associated with our ministries knowing that all three members of the Trinity are involved [1 Cor 12:4-6].
- We who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ should know with certainty that we have eternal life [1 John 5:13].
- Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ [Rom 8:38-39] or snatch us out of His hand [John 10:27-29].
- No suffering, persecution or tribulation of this life should cause us to doubt our victory in Christ [1 John 5:5].

- **Call to Guard the Truth [1:13-14]**

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faithfulness and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you*.

- Principles of 2 Timothy 1:13-14

- Satan has filled this world with false teaching [Jer 23:16-17; Rom 16:17-18; Col 2:8 ; 1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Pet 2:1-3].
- Therefore, it is critical for us to hold fast to the truth of sound doctrine [Pr 4:4-8, 13; 1 Thess 5:21; Rev 3:3].
- We learn sound doctrine by reading/studying the Bible, from teaching [2 Tim 2:2], and by example [Phil 4:9].
- Jesus Christ is faithful [Rev 1:5; 19:11] and is the greatest example of *ἀγάπη* love [Jn 13:1; Rom 8:38-39; Rev 1:5].
- Therefore, we are Christ-like when we are faithful and demonstrate *ἀγάπη* love to others [1 John 4:10-11].
- Thankfully, even if we are faithless, God remains faithful [2 Tim 2:13].
- When believers hear the teachings of the word of God, they are receiving a treasure [Ps 119:11; Pr 2:1-5; Luke 16:11; 2 Cor 4:6-7; 5:18-20; 1 Tim 1:8-11; 6:20-21].
- Believers should then unite those teachings with faith [Heb 4:2], allow it to dwell abundantly in their souls [Col 3:16] and guard it [Luke 11:28; 1 Tim 5:21] which will protect them from doctrinal error [2 Pet 3:15-17].
- All of these things are done in the power of the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:8; Rom 15:13; 1 Thess 1:5] who dwells within all believers [Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:19-22].
- Through rebellion and sin believers can quench [1 Thess 5:19] and grieve [Isa 63:10; Eph 4:30] the Holy Spirit.
- Therefore, it is important to continually maintain fellowship with God [1 John 1:3].
- If we break fellowship with God through sin [1 John 1:6] then we need to be restored to fellowship through recognition and confession of sins [1 John 1:9].
- To remain in fellowship with God, believers should forsake their sins [Pr 28:13], walk by means of the Spirit [Gal 5:16], fix their eyes on Jesus [Heb 12:1-2], and submit to the will of God [1 Thess 4:3-7].

- **Examples: Unfaithful vs. Faithful [1:15-18]**

You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia have abandoned me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me *spiritually* and was not ashamed of my imprisonment; but instead, when he came to Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me — the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day — and you know very well how much service he rendered at Ephesus.

- Principles of 2 Timothy 1:15-18

- After teaching Timothy about the importance of faithfulness (and boldness) in ministry and remaining faithful to the truth of God's word, Paul gives examples of unfaithful and faithful men.
- Paul had seen all of his supporters in the province of Asia abandon him, including two men who were familiar to Timothy – Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- If we put our confidence in people, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment [Ps 118:8-9; Jer 17:5; Micah 7:5-7].
- Paul knew this all too well since he had experienced quite a bit of abandonment during his many years of ministry [2 Tim 4:9-11, 16; Phil 2:19-21].
- In contrast, Onesiphorus (much like Timothy) had remained faithful to Paul.
- Onesiphorus had been faithful in service at Ephesus and, most recently, had sought after Paul in Rome.
- It did not bother Onesiphorus at all that Paul was in prison – he still wanted to be of service to Paul.
- The contrast between the faithful and unfaithful, the trustworthy and unreliable, is striking.
- The men given as examples from the province of Asia portrayed the very things Paul had warned Timothy about – shame, cowardice, fickleness, etc.
- Onesiphorus demonstrated the characteristics emphasized by Paul – courage, dependability, etc.
- In our own lives, we will know people who serve as examples for us, both good and bad.

- We do well to follow those who portray Christ-like characteristics [1 Cor 11:1].
- We also do well to avoid those who are bad examples [Phil 3:17-19].

Challenge to Endurance

• Enduring Hardship for Christ [2:1-7]

You therefore, my son, be continually strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these teachings to faithful men who will be competent to instruct others also. Suffer hardship together with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the business affairs of civilian life, so that he may obtain approval from his commanding officer. Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive a share of the crops. Consider what I am saying here, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

○ Principles of 2 Timothy 2:1-7

- The Lord will provide the strength we need [Eph 6:10] to do the work assignments He gives to us [Eph 2:10].
- The surpassing greatness of His power – the very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead – is available to every believer [Eph 1:18-21].
- This is part of the grace upon grace provisions from God to those who believe [John 1:16].
- God has entrusted a great treasure to us in His word [Prov 2:1-6; 2 Cor 4:6-7; Col 2:1-3; 1 Cor 2:16; 2 Tim 1:14].
- Each of us should endeavor to share that treasure with others [Matt 28:19-20; Acts 5:42; 1 Th 2:3-4; 2 Tim 4:1-2].
- As we allow ourselves to be God's servants in sharing His word, those who hear God's truth from us and become grounded in the faith will share His word with others also.
- In the process of being faithful servants of God, we will face persecution [2 Tim 3:12].
- When we suffer according to the will of God for doing what is right, we are blessed to be able to share in the sufferings of Christ [1 Pet 4:12-19; Phil 3:8-10; Col 1:24].

- As we are blessed to share in His suffering, we are also blessed to share in His comfort [2 Cor 1:5-7].
- Just as a soldier is single-minded in his military duties to please his commanding officer, so should believers be single-minded in their spiritual work assignments to please the Lord [1 Cor 7:32; 2 Cor 5:6-9; 1 Thess 4:1].
- Similarly, we should lay aside any encumbrances to our spiritual walk so that we can run with endurance the race which God has set before us [Heb 12:1-3].
- God has given us His rules (commandments) to follow during the race He has set before us so that we might run a successful race [1 Cor 9:24-27].
- Believers who run such a successful race will receive eternal rewards [2 Tim 4:7-8; Jas 1:12; 1 Pet 5:1-4].
- We can look forward to the blessing of casting our rewards before the Lord Jesus Christ [Rev 4:9-11].
- While our focus is on heavenly rewards, there may be temporal benefits of ministry as well [1 Cor 9:7-10].
- We are blessed when we dwell upon God's word [Phil 4:8-9; Heb 13:7].
- Our ability to understand the things of God's word comes from Him [Psalm 119:27, 34, 73, 125, 144, 169; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:12; 1 John 2:27].
- God's word is the spiritual food our soul needs just as our body needs physical food [Job 23:12].
- His word dwelling abundantly within our hearts [Col 3:16] will keep us from falling into sin [Psalm 119:11].
- Therefore, we should delight in God's word and meditate upon it night and day [Psalm 1:2; 112:1; 119:14-16, 35].
- **Remembering Jesus Christ [2:8-10]**
Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned! For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may receive the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.

- Principles of 2 Timothy 2:8-10
 - It is important for us to remember and meditate upon the word of God [Ps 1:2; 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 97, 148].
 - It is even more important for us to remember and meditate upon the Word of God [Ps 17:15; Heb 12:2-3].
 - Jesus Christ, the Word of God [Jn 1:1] who came in the flesh [Jn 1:14] and died for our sins [1 Cor 15:3], was then raised from the dead [Matt 28:5-6; Mark 16:6; 1 Cor 15:4].
 - His resurrection is a fact [Acts 2:24; 5:30; 13:34-37] that was witnessed by many [Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 1 Cor 15:5-8].
 - Jesus later ascended into heaven [Lk 24:50-51; Ac 1:9-11] and was seated at the right hand of God [Eph 1:18-21].
 - In remembering His resurrection, ascension and session, we focus our thoughts on the eternal rather than the temporal [2 Cor 4:17-18; Phil 3:20; 1 Thess 1:10].
 - Jesus is a descendant of David [Matt 1:1; Acts 13:22-23; Rom 1:3] which gives Him the rightful claim as the Anointed One (Messiah/Christ) [Matt 1:16; John 4:25-26] and future King [2 Sam 7:12; Isa 9:7; Luke 1:32-33].
 - Remembering His future reign on the Davidic throne helps to keep our focus dispensational [Psalm 132:10-18; Rom 11:25-27].
 - We should be willing to share these truths about Jesus as well as everything else related to the gospel, even if that means we face persecution and hardship [John 15:18-20; 2 Tim 1:8; 4:5].
 - No matter how hard the adversary tries to inhibit us from speaking about the Lord, he cannot imprison the word of God [Jer 39:15-18; Phil 1:12-14].
 - Paul had a deep, heartfelt concern for the salvation of his brethren, the Jewish people [Rom 10:1].
 - We should share that concern today and include the Jewish people in our evangelism efforts and prayers.
 - No one can make themselves truly righteous before God [Isa 64:6; Rom 10:2-3] apart from the righteousness which comes through faith [Rom 3:21-22; 10:4].
 - We know about the salvation from eternal condemnation we received the moment we placed our faith in Jesus Christ [Rom 8:1] and the salvation

from the power of sin we experience every single day [Jas 1:21], but we should also think of the future eternal glory that is part of our salvation in Christ [1 Thess 2:11-12; 1 Pet 5:10].

- Focusing our thoughts on the blessings in glory we have to look forward to when we are absent from the body and at home with the Lord [2 Cor 5:6-9] will give us the strength and resolve to endure the hardships and persecutions we face in this life [2 Cor 4:17-18; 11:24-28; Rom 8:18; 1 Pet 4:12-13].

- **A Trustworthy Statement [2:11-13]**

It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

- Principles of 2 Timothy 2:11-13

- The entirety of the Bible is inspired by God (God-breathed), so we can know that it is true [2 Tim 3:16].
- The authors of Scripture did not make up the words they wrote, but were moved by the Holy Spirit to record the words spoken from God [2 Pet 1:20-21].
- Therefore, we can trust the contents of the Bible which have been preserved for us by God [1 Pet 1:24-25].
- When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we are identified with His death, burial and resurrection [Rom 6:3-5].
- As such, our old self has died together with Christ, and we have been set free from slavery to sin [Rom 6:6-7].
- Being identified with Christ and His death, we also know that we will live with Him in the resurrection [Rom 6:8-9; Col 3:3-4].
- The proper response to the incredible blessings of the position believers have in Christ would be to live accordingly [Rom 6:10-13; Col 3:5].
- Every Church age believer will reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom [Matt 19:28; Rev 3:21] along with the Tribulation saints [Rev 20:4].

- Believers who endure and are faithful until the end in the works assigned by the Lord receive a special position in Millennial Kingdom [Luke 19:16-19; Rev 2:26].
- Believers who abandon their faith and turn away from Jesus will be denied rewards at the Bema Seat [Matt 10:33; Luke 12:9; 1 Tim 1:18-19; Heb 10:38], but they will not lose their salvation [1 Cor 3:11-15].
- As believers, we will all struggle from time to time with a lack of faith [Matt 28:17; Mark 6:11-14; John 20:24-25].
- However, we can rest in the fact that our salvation is not dependent upon our faithfulness, but instead upon the faithfulness of God [Deut 7:9; Isa 49:7].
- God does not lie or change His mind [1 Sam 15:29], so we can trust Him to do what He has promised [Num 23:19].

The Unashamed Workman

• Faithful in Ministry [2:14-19]

Remind *them* of these things, solemnly charging *them* in the presence of God not to split hairs about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Make a diligent effort to present yourself approved to God as an unashamed workman, correctly categorizing and clearly discerning the word of truth. But avoid worldly *and* empty talk, for those who engage in it will stray further into ungodliness, and their message will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, *men* who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. But the truth is, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

○ Principles of 2 Timothy 2:14-19

- All believers, including those who have been students of the word of God for years, need reminders [Phil 3:1; Titus 3:1-2; 2 Pet 1:12-15; 3:1-2; 1 John 2:21].
- In addition, we need to be exhorted to walk as we should [Eph 4:17-24; 1 Th 4:1-2; 2 Th 3:6; 1 Tim 5:21; 6:13-14].
- Splitting hairs about words does not edify the saints [Acts 18:14-15; 1 Tim 1:3-7; 6:3-6; Titus 3:9].

- We function in our Christian walk by grace through faith [Eph 2:8-9; Col 2:6-7] even as we have been called to diligence [Eph 4:1-3; Heb 4:10-11; 2 Pet 1:5-10; 3:14].
- Every born-again believer is accepted in the Beloved [Rom 15:7; Eph 1:5-6].
- Even so, as believers we should desire that our walk would be approved by God [Gal 1:10; Jas 1:12; 2 Co 10:18].
- Individual believers are called to various and distinct ministries [1 Cor 12:5; Eph 2:10], but all believers are called to be students of the word [Ps 111:2; Heb 5:11-14].
- It is important for all believers, and especially for Bible teachers, to clearly discern the word of God [Mark 12:18-27; 2 Cor 2:17; 4:1-2], recognizing the various categories of doctrine [Luke 4:17-20].
- In doing so, believers will have no reason to be ashamed before God [Phil 1:18-21; 1 John 2:28].
- There is no benefit whatsoever in getting caught up in foolish controversies and disputes [1 Tim 1:3-4; Titus 3:9].
- Engaging in such talk may cause the walk of other believers to be knocked off course [Titus 1:10-11].
- Instead, we should keep our focus on the foundational doctrines of the faith [Prv 10:26; Rom 9:33; 1 Cor 3:10-11; 1 Pet 2:4-7].
- One comforting foundational truth is that God knows His children [John 10:14-15; 1 Cor 8:2-3; Gal 4:9].
- Another important foundational truth is that children of God ought to walk in holiness [2 Cor 7:1; 1 Pet 1:14-16].
- **A Clean Vessel [2:20-21]**

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some for honorable purposes and some for dishonorable purposes. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these vessels, he will be a vessel for honorable purposes, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

 - Principles of 2 Timothy 2:20-21
 - Within the body of Christ (the Church) there are believers who walk in a worthy manner, bringing honor to the Lord Jesus Christ [Eph 4:1-3; Phil 1:27; Col 1:9-12; 1 Th 2:10-13; 1 John 2:6].

- There are also believers who do not walk in this manner, bringing dishonor to the Lord Jesus Christ [Rom 6:12-13; 1 Cor 3:1-3; 5:1-2; Titus 1:16].
- We should disassociate ourselves from these believers who are dishonoring the Lord [2 Thess 3:6; 2 Tim 3:1-5].
- By doing so, we will increase the likelihood that we will continue walking as we should [1 Thess 4:1-2].
- Our lives should be set apart for the Lord [1 Thess 5:23], useful to Him [2 Pet 1:5-10], prepared for every good work [2 Cor 9:8; Eph 4:11-12; 2 Tim 3:16-17].
- **Faithful in Conduct [2:22-26]**

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But have nothing to do with foolish and ignorant arguments, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, in the hope that God may produce in them repentance leading to the full knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses once again *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

 - Principles of 2 Timothy 2:22-26
 - While running from the problems we encounter in this life is never a solution, fleeing from spiritual hazards is encouraged [Prov 4:14-15; 1 Cor 6:18; 10:14].
 - The best way to avoid such spiritual pitfalls is to actively pursue the things which are of godliness [Psalm 34:14; Prov 15:9; 21:21; Rom 14:19; 1 Tim 6:10-11; Heb 12:14].
 - God imputes His righteousness to the account of every person who places his faith in Jesus Christ [Rom 3:21-22], but as believers we should strive to walk in righteousness [Rom 6:11-16; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Pet 2:24].
 - Similarly, having been saved by grace through faith [Eph 2:8-9], believers ought to walk by grace through faith [Col 2:6; 2 Cor 5:7; Gal 2:20].
 - God's love was on display when Jesus died for our sins [Rom 5:8] and the Holy Spirit pours out God's love in the hearts of believers [Rom 5:5],

- so believers should respond to God's love by loving one another [1 John 4:9-12].
- We have been made at peace (reconciled) with God through faith in Jesus Christ [Col 1:19-22], but as believers we should lead a life of peace [Phil 4:6-7; Col 3:15].
 - We receive support for all of these pursuits when we spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are walking in the Light [Phil 2:1-2; 1 Thess 5:11].
 - Our life on this earth is short [Jas 4:14], so we ought not waste our time with senseless arguments [1 Tim 6:20-21].
 - Likewise, believers who truly seek to serve the Lord should not engage in lust-induced fighting [Jas 4:1-2].
 - Instead, such believers should be...
 - kind to everyone [Prov 19:22; Acts 9:36; Col 3:12].
 - able to teach [Ezra 7:10; Col 3:16; Heb 5:12].
 - patient when wronged [1 Cor 13:5; Eph 4:2-3; Col 3:13].
 - correcting (with gentleness) those who oppose sound teaching [Gal 6:1; 2 Thess 3:14-15; see also 1 Pet 3:15].
 - The goal of correction (through instruction) is that those who oppose the truth may have a change of heart and come to know the truth [Col 2:1-3; 1 Tim 2:3-4].
 - Many believers who stray from the truth end up ensnared by Satan [Luke 22:31-32; Acts 5:3; 1 Tim 6:9-10].
 - These believers unwittingly carry out the will of Satan rather than the will of God [1 John 5:19 cf. John 17:15].

Future Faithlessness

• Future Faithlessness [3:1-9]

But be aware of this, that in the last days stressful times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, hardhearted, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, lacking in moral restraint, savages, opposed to what is good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, maintaining an outward appearance of godliness, although they have denied its

power; Avoid such people as these. For among them are those who sneak into households and deceive gullible women heavily burdened by sins, led astray by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of corrupted mind, disqualified in regard to the faith. But they will not make further progress; for their foolishness will be very obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's foolishness became very obvious also.

○ Principles of 2 Timothy 3:1-9

- The final period of the Church will be a time of great difficulty and stress upon believers [1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Pet 3:3; Jude 17-18].
- The spirit of the antichrist will be very active during that time even as it is active today [1 John 2:18].
- There will be many who are enemies of the cross, led on by their own selfish desires [Phil 3:18-19].
- These people will be characterized by...
 - selfishness [Jas 3:14-16 cp. 1 Cor 10:24; 13:5; Phil 2:3-4]
 - greed [1 Tim 6:10 cp. Pr 11:6; Luke 12:15; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5]
 - boastfulness [Ps 10:3; Jas 4:16 cp. 1 Sa 2:3; Ps 20:7; 44:8]
 - arrogance [Pr 21:4 cp. 1 Cor 8:1; 13:4; Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5]
 - blasphemy [Luke 22:65 cp. Acts 18:6; 1 Tim 1:20; Jas 2:7]
 - disobedience to parents [Mic 7:6 cp. Eph 6:1; Col 3:20]
 - ungraciousness [Luke 17:17-18 cp. Ecc 10:12; 1 Thess 5:18]
 - unholiness [Eph 4:17-19 cp. 2 Co 7:1; Co 3:5-8; 1 Pt 1:14-16]
 - hardheartedness [Zech 7:11-12 cp. Pr 28:14; Heb 3:13-15]
 - contentiousness [Pr 26:21 cp. Ph 2:14; 1 Pt 4:9; Ti 3:9-11]
 - gossiping [1 Tim 5:13 cp. Pr 20:19; 1 Tim 3:11; Titus 2:3]
 - immorality [Jude 7 cp. 1 Cor 6:13, 18; 10:8; 1 Thess 4:3-5]
 - brutality [Pr 21:7 cp. Ps 11:5; Prov 3:31-32; 11:17]
 - opposition to what is good [Ps 38:20 cp. Dt 6:18; Ro 12:2]
 - treachery [2 Pet 2:10-11; Jude 8-9 cp. Ex 22:28; Acts 23:5]
 - recklessness [Jdgs 9:4; Zeph 3:4 cp. Acts 19:36]
 - conceit [1 Tim 6:3-4a cp. Rom 11:20; 12:3, 16; 1 Tim 6:17]
 - hedonism [Rom 16:18; Phil 3:18-19 cp. Titus 2:11-14]
 - denial of God [2 Pet 2:1; Jude 4 cp. Luke 4:8; 1 John 5:2-3]
 - feigned godliness [Isa 29:13 cp. 2 Pet 1:2-7; Titus 1:1]

- People who portray these characteristics are to be avoided [Matt 7:15; 2 Thess 3:6, 14].
- These people will creep into churches [Jude 4] and prey upon carnal women who are vulnerable to their cons.
- Such people are always acquiring information, but they never come to know the truth [1 Tim 2:3-4].
- In addition to lacking knowledge of the truth, these people outright oppose the truth [Acts 13:8-10].
- We can defend ourselves against such people by growing in the faith [Eph 4:14; Heb 5:12-14].
- These people have corrupted minds [1 Tim 6:5] and have been disqualified for faith-based ministry [1 Tim 1:19].
- The foolishness of these people is allowed to continue only in the permissive will of God [Job 1:9-12; 2:4-6].
- However, the foolish nature of their deeds will eventually become evident to everyone [Jer 37:19; Acts 19:13-17].
- Opposition to God can go on for only so long before God's power will become evident [Ex 8:18-19].

Challenge to Faithful Preaching

• Faithfulness in the Face of Opposition [3:10-13]

Now you faithfully followed my teaching, manner of living, purpose, faith, joyful patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and swindlers will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves.

○ Principles of 2 Timothy 3:10-13

- As believers, it is important to find other believers who are faithful and follow their example [Ph 3:17; 2 Th 3:7-9].
- If we desire to be true disciples of Christ, we will follow in His steps [Matt 16:24; 1 Pet 2:21].
- In every case, we must follow sound teaching [1 Tim 4:6] and avoid following our own lusts [Jude 16-18], the way of Balaam [2 Pet 2:15] or even Satan himself [1 Tim 5:15].

- Since Christ Himself was persecuted, as believers we should also expect to be persecuted [John 15:20].
- No matter what type or intensity of persecution we may face, the Lord can rescue us [2 Sam 22:49; Job 5:19-20; Psa 34:19; 37:40; Dan 3:17-18; 2 Cor 1:8-10; 2 Tim 4:17-18].
- Knowing this, we should patiently endure whatever affliction we might suffer [2 Cor 1:6-7; 2 Thess 1:3-4].
- As time goes on, the evil people of this world will continually become even more evil [1 Kgs 14:7-10; 16:30; Prov 29:16; Jer 7:26; 16:12; Luke 11:24-26].
- These people are easily deceived [Job 15:31; Isa 44:20; Obad 3; Rom 1:21-23; Gal 6:3; Titus 3:3; Rev 19:20; 20:10].
- Even so, they continually deceive others [1 Sam 28:6-12; Jer 29:8; Rom 16:18; Titus 1:10-11; 2 John 7].
- **Faithfulness to God's Word [3:14-4:5]**

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from very early childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be mature, fully equipped for every good work. I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready to preach in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound teaching; but instead, *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves many teachers in accordance with their own desires, and will stop listening to the truth and will turn their attention to myths. But you, be reasonable in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, carry out the duties of your ministry to the fullest.

 - Principles of 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 - Learning the word of God comes through steps...
 - Hearing/reading His word [2 Ki 23:2; Ac 13:44; Rev 1:3].
 - Understanding His word [Psa 119:130, 169; Prov 4:5].

- Believing His word [Rom 10:17; Heb 4:2; 1 Th 2:13].
- Becoming convinced of His word [Col 2:1-3; He 10:22].
- Applying His word [Dt 26:16; Lk 6:46-49; Jas 1:22-25].
- Parents should introduce their children to the word of God early in childhood [Dt 6:7; Ps 78:4; Pr 22:6; Eph 6:4].
- Through His word they will come to know the message of the gospel [Acts 10:43; 13:16-39; Rom 1:16-17; 1 Cor 1:21].
- All Scripture – from Genesis to Revelation – should be studied because we can learn from every chapter and verse [Rom 4:22-25; 15:4; 1 Cor 10:1-11].
- God is the author of all Scripture and He delivered it to us through human agents [2 Sa 23:2; Mt 22:31-32; Acts 28:25-28; 2 Pt 1:20-21; He 3:7-11].
- The word of God benefits us spiritually through teaching [Jer 35:13], reproof [Prov 6:23], correction [Jer 7:28], and training in righteousness [Psa 15:1-5; 119:7-11].
- The word of God judges our every thought, leaving us utterly exposed to God [Phil 3:15; Heb 4:12-13].
- The goal of all these things is that believers might become mature in their faith [1 Cor 14:20; Eph 4:11-16; Col 1:28; Heb 5:12-6:2].
- As we mature in the faith, God fully equips us [2 Cor 9:8; Heb 13:20-21] for our work assignments [Eph 2:10].
- With the same confidence that we have regarding the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom and His judgment of all mankind [John 5:22], we should proclaim God's word to others [Ps 40:9; 1 Cor 1:21-23; Col 1:25-29].
- We must be willing to proclaim God's word when others are willing to listen [Acts 16:31-34; 20:18-21] as well as when they are not [Ezek 2:7; 3:27].
- When the word of God is taught correctly, it will reprove and exhort those who hear [1 Thess 4:1-2; Heb 12:4-5].
- But some people do not want reproof or exhortation and instead seek after so-called teachers who say things that appeal to their own lustful desires [Jer 5:31; Mic 2:11].
- These people will ignore the truth when they hear it and will embrace myths (pseudo-science, conspiracy, etc.).

- We, however, should be alert, composed and exercise sound judgment in all things [1 Thess 5:6-8; 1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8].
- Believers who walk in such a manner worthy of the Lord [Col 1:9-11] will inevitably endure hardship [2 Tim 2:3].
- Regardless of spiritual giftedness, we are all called to be evangelists [2 Cor 5:18-20].
- Every believer will also be called to other ministries by Jesus Christ Himself [1 Cor 12:5].
- Whatever ministries God blesses us with, we should carry out the duties of that ministry to the fullest [Col 4:17].
- **Paul's Example of Faithfulness [4:6-8]**

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is imminent. I have fought the good fight, I have completed my mission, I have maintained the faith; in the future there is reserved 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 longed for His appearing.

 - Principles of 2 Timothy 4:6-8
 - As we draw closer to the end of our earthly lives, we should realize that God is fully aware of our abilities and physical limitations [2 Sam 21:15-17; Psalm 71:18; 73:26].
 - The Lord will provide the strength and vigor we need for whatever tasks He has assigned [Isa 40:29-31; Eph 2:10].
 - Whether we live another day or the Lord takes us home, either way, we are blessed [Phil 1:21-24; Rev 14:13].
 - Therefore, it is important for us to focus on continuing to advance with endurance down the course that has been set before us [Phil 3:12-14; Heb 12:1-3].
 - In doing so, we will be able to complete our earthly work assignments before we die [Acts 13:25, 36; 20:24].
 - All along the way, we should walk in accordance with our faith [Luke 8:15; John 17:6; 1 Tim 1:18-19; 2 Tim 1:13-14].
 - Church-age believers receive rewards for their deeds at the Judgment Seat of Christ [1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10].

- This includes the crown rewards...
 - Crown of Righteousness [2 Tim 4:8]
 - Crown of Life [James 1:12; Rev 2:10]
 - Crown of Glory [1 Pet 5:1-4]
- Jesus Himself will be our judge as all judgment has been given to Him by the Father [Jn 5:22; Acts 10:42; 17:30-31].
- He is the righteous Judge and will, therefore, judge in righteousness [Psalm 9:8; 96:13; Isa 11:4; Rev 19:11].
- Therefore, we should not dread our day of judgment, but instead look forward to the revealing of all that God has accomplished in our lives [1 Co 12:6; Col 1:29; Ph 2:12-13].

God's Faithfulness in Paul's Adversity

• Paul's Enemies and Friends [4:9-16]

Make a diligent effort to come to me as soon as possible; for Demas, because he loved this present world, has abandoned me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus *has gone* to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. Alexander the metalworker exhibited a lot of evil to me; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vehemently opposed our teaching. At my first defense no one stood by me, but instead all abandoned me; may it not be counted against them.

○ Summary of 2 Timothy 4:9-16

- No matter how mature we may be in the faith, we all need to be around other believers [Heb 10:23-25].
- The spiritual support we get from other like-minded believers is something we should desire [2 Tim 1:3-4].
- In times of difficulty and testing, being with other believers provides much needed spiritual refreshment [Rom 15:30-32; 1 Cor 16:18; 2 Cor 7:13; 2 Tim 1:16].
- Unfortunately, when we need them the most, people may abandon us [Matt 26:47-56].

- In such times, we can count on the fact that God will never forsake us [John 16:32; Heb 13:5-6].
 - We should always be thankful for those who stand by us and give us the spiritual support we need [Rom 16:3-4].
 - Likewise, we should show grace in love toward those who abandon us [1 Cor 13:5; Col 3:12-17; 2 Tim 2:24].
 - This Christ-like display of grace and love toward others does not preclude caution regarding those who oppose the faith [Matt 10:17-18; Luke 20:46-47; Phil 3:2].
 - As in every other circumstance, we must rely upon God to protect us from false doctrine [Eph 6:10-17].
- **God's Faithfulness to Deliver Paul [4:17-18]**

But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Summary of 2 Timothy 4:17-18

- No matter what circumstances we might face in life, the Lord will stand with us [Jer 1:8; 20:11] and strengthen us spiritually [2 Cor 12:9-10; Eph 3:16; Phil 4:13; Col 1:11].
- However, this requires us to choose to rely upon God's strength [1 Cor 16:13; Eph 6:10; 2 Tim 2:1].
- God will supply all that we need [Phil 4:19] in order for us to complete the ministries He call us to [Acts 20:24].
- All believers have been called to the ministry of sharing the gospel with others [2 Cor 5:18-20].
- If we encounter danger of any kind, God will help us, deliver us, and sustain us [Ps 37:39-40; 54:4; 2 Cor 1:8-10].
- Even if God does not save us from the imminent temporal danger, He will rescue us by taking us into His heavenly kingdom [Dan 3:17-18].
- In all things and at all times, all glory belongs to God and to Him only [2 Pet 3:18; Rev 1:6].
- We will have all eternity to be in the presence of God's glory and sing His praises [Ps 61:8; 75:9; 115:18; 145:2].

Final Greetings

- **Final Greetings [4:19-22]**

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. Make a diligent effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.