

The Book of 2 Timothy

A Blueprint for Living

Introduction

We have no details of Paul's travels after his release from his first Roman imprisonment. Titus 3:12 indicates that he visited Nicopolis. He must have departed from there and gone to Troas, where, in a "quick exit," he had left his cloak, books, and parchments with his host, Carpus. How or where he was arrested again, we do not know. We do know that Nero had unleashed a terrible persecution against the Christians, and that Paul's second imprisonment was far different from his first. He was now a hated prisoner in a Roman prison. As we read this final letter from Paul's heart, we can sense his loneliness and heartache as he faced his trial and certain persecution. "*Only Luke is with me,*" he writes, as he begs his son in the faith, Timothy, to come to him as quickly as possible.

Timothy was no longer the leader at Ephesus; Tychicus had been sent to take his place. Apparently Timothy was doing work as a traveling minister and evangelist in the area around Ephesus. Paul expected Timothy to come to Rome because he knew that Timothy would be in Troas and Ephesus. These cities were on the road to Rome.

This letter is very personal. Paul is alone at Rome, awaiting trial and certain death. He longs to see his son Timothy and to encourage him to take his place in the ministry of the Gospel. The churches were turning from the faith, and Paul urged young Timothy to be true to his calling and fulfill his ministry.

If we follow the chapter divisions in the Bible, we see four appeals from Paul to Timothy to encourage him to be a faithful minister in spite of discouraging conditions. Chapter 1 is the pastoral appeal, in which Paul reminds Timothy of his calling to the ministry and of the responsibilities and privileges that go with it. Chapter 2 is the practical appeal, in which Paul seeks to solve some of the young minister's problems: his persecution for the sake of the Gospel, false teachers, and church difficulties. In chapter 3, Paul uses the prophetic appeal, explaining the course of events and the importance of holding fast to the Word. Finally, chapter 4 gives the personal appeal from the heart of the aged apostle, urging Timothy to remain true because he (Paul) would soon be executed. He did not want Timothy to become another Demas who loved the world, and deserted Paul. (2 Tim. 4:10)

Key Verses in 2 Timothy

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

*“You therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
2 Timothy 2:1*

“And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“Flee also youthful lusts, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:22

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

“Preach the word! Be ready in and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 2 Timothy 4:2

People Mentioned in 2 Timothy

LOIS, (1:5). Grandmother of Timothy and a Jewish Christian.

EUNICE, (1:5). Timothy’s mother and also a Jewish Christian.

PHYGELUS AND HERMOGENES, (1:15). Two friends who accompanied Paul but deserted him in his hour of need. Nothing further is known about them.

ONESIPHORUS, (1:16). A friend who remained steadfast and visited Paul in prison.

HYMENAËUS AND PHILETUS, (2:17). Two leaders of the heretical movement in the church at Ephesus.

JANNES AND JAMBRES, (3:8). Neither is mentioned in the Old Testament but according to Jewish tradition they were the magicians who opposed Moses (Exodus 7:11).

DEMAS, (4:9). Once a fellow-worker with Paul and mentioned in Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24. But he was seduced by a spirit of worldliness and deserted Paul.

CRESCENS, (4:10). A fellow-worker but mentioned only here in the New Testament.

TITUS, (4:10). One of Paul's young converts and a very capable leader who worked with the apostle in Ephesus, Corinth and Crete. Mentioned frequently in the epistles, one of which was written to him by Paul.

LUKE, (4:11). Author of the gospel named after him and also of Acts. He was a doctor (Col. 4:14) and a faithful friend and fellow-worker with Paul.

MARK, (4:11). Full name John Mark and author of the Gospel named after him. He had let Paul down on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:13), but later proved himself to Paul as a faithful worker.

TYCHICUS, (4:12). Described by Paul as a 'dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord' (Eph. 6:21). Almost certain that he carried Paul's letters to both Ephesus and Colosse.

CARPUS, (4:13). Not mentioned elsewhere but must have been a close friend of Paul and had given him hospitality since the apostle had left both his cloak and parchments at his house in Troas.

ALEXANDER THE METALWORKER, (4:14–15). Possibly the same Alexander mentioned in 1 Timothy as a heretic alongside Hymenaeus. He strongly opposed Paul's message and did him a great deal of harm.

PRISCILLA AND AQUILA, (4:19). A godly husband and wife who were tent-makers like Paul, and gave him hospitality at Corinth (Acts 18:1–3). They also helped the preacher, Apollos, to a clearer understanding of the gospel (Acts 18:24–26).

ERASTUS AND TROPHIMUS (4:20) were both co-workers with Paul and are mentioned respectively in Acts 19:22 and Acts 20:4.

EUBULUS, PUDENS, LINUS, AND CLAUDIA, (4:21). Nothing is known of these individuals and we must simply regard them as Christian believers in the church at Rome.

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 1 - 2 Timothy 1:1-14
A Blueprint for Living
“Unashamed”

As you read Paul’s two letters to Timothy, you begin to understand the problems of this young minister. For one thing, he hesitated to face matters squarely and settle them according to the Word of God. There was “fear” in his life, perhaps the fear of man that “brings a snare” (Prov. 29:25). He faced the usual temptations of a young man and certainly did not feel adequate for the task.

Paul was facing persecution, yet he took time to pray for Timothy. He assures Timothy of his love and prayers and of his good remembrance of him night and day. He reminds Timothy that there is much to be thankful for, in spite of the problems he was facing. He reminds him of his godly heritage and of the faith that God has given him, not only for salvation, but also for daily living and Christian service. What a blessing it is to have praying friends! What an encouragement it is to pray for others and to help them along in their spiritual lives.

One of Timothy’s problems was cowardice. His youthfulness probably contributed to this. Paul reminds Timothy that he was neglecting the gift God had given him and that he needed to stir it up, as a man would fan into flame of a dying fire. Paul was not suggesting that Timothy was losing his salvation, but that he was losing his zeal for the Lord and enthusiasm in the Lord’s work. Paul is writing about the Holy Spirit in vs. 7. The Spirit does not generate fear in us, but rather power, love, and a sound mind. Every Christian needs all three! When the Spirit is in control, we will experience peace that surpasses all understanding.

The people at Ephesus knew that Timothy was Paul’s friend and co-laborer, but Paul was now a Roman prisoner! “Don’t be ashamed of me or of the Gospel!” Paul would say. “Our suffering is all a part of our heavenly calling as ministers.” When Christians suffer, they suffer with Christ. The same power that saves us also strengthens us for the battle.

What an encouragement it is to know that Christ is faithful and able to keep His own. “I know whom I have believed!” was Paul’s confidence not “I hope” or “I think.” Paul is saying that he knows he can trust Christ to protect him; but he is also saying that he knows Christ will enable him to keep what He has committed to him.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and answer the following questions.

Ever since he became a Christian, Timothy has been devoted to his mentor Paul. Now the mentor is chained in prison, and the young man faces a flock of immature Christians and a wall of trials on his own. Paul couldn't be with Timothy, but he knew what a fearful leader needed to hear.

1. Who was inspired to write this letter? Explain the work of an apostle and what was necessary for a man to become one?

2. Define the following words:

a. Grace

b. Mercy

c. Peace

3. How often did Paul pray for Timothy?

4. What was said about Timothy's grandmother and mother? How would you define "genuine faith"?

5. What influence can godly parents and grandparents have on a person?

6. What is “the gift of God which is in you”?

7. Think about the spirit we have been given (verse 7). Why are power, love and a sound mind all important for those who want to serve God?

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-12 and answer the following questions.

8. In verses 9-11 Paul outlines the gospel he has received from God and entrusted to Timothy. What key points does Paul mention?

9. Why is it important that God both “saved” and “called” us not because of anything we have done?

10. In verse 1 Paul mentions “the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.” How does he explain this promise in verse 10?

11. This promise was important to Paul as he faced execution in Rome. Why is it important for us to focus on this promise today?

Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14 and answer the following question.

12. What was Timothy to hold fast to?

Eunice A Mothers Legacy

Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5) was Jewish, but apparently her father was not very orthodox. He had violated one of the clear commands of the law in arranging a match for his daughters with a Gentile. Later when Timothy was born, he wasn't circumcised. So it seems that neither Eunice's father nor husband were observant of Judaism. But Eunice was. Paul praised her for her "genuine faith" which she shared in common with Lois, her mother (2 Tim. 1:5). Eunice imparted that faith to her son, Timothy, and more than anyone else equipped him for a lifetime of usefulness for God.

Eunice is an encouragement for every woman faced with the task of nurturing the spiritual life of her children, especially if she can't count on the help of a strong male. Eunice may have had no formal religious education and little encouragement from her family, except for Lois. But she had two crucial things going for her that offer hope for mothers today: The inherent power of being a mother and the dynamic power of a loving God.

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 2 – 2 Timothy 1:15-2:13
A Blueprint for Living
“Endurance”

All in Asia had forsaken Paul. The two men he names may have been members of the Ephesian church, men whom Timothy would know personally. But there was another man who had remained true, Onesiphorus. This godly man was probably a deacon at Ephesus. This man came to Rome, sought Paul, and served him without fear or shame.

“My son” in 2:1 suggests that Timothy had been born into God’s family by faith in Christ. In Eph. 2:19, Paul calls the local church the “household of God.” The only way to enter this family is by being born of the Spirit and the Word.

Every Christian is already a soldier in God’s army; it is just that some troops are loyal and some are not. We have been “enrolled” by Christ, the Captain of our salvation. Christians must learn how to endure hardship for Christ. The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground.

There are in Paul’s letters more than two dozen references to athletics: boxing, wrestling, running, to name a few. No matter how skilled the athletes were, they had to obey the rules of the game. If they won the race but broke the rules, they were disqualified. It takes discipline, dedication, and direction for an athlete to be a winner, and it takes these same qualities to produce a winning Christian life.

We now see the picture of the hardworking farmer. The church is a garden, and the seed is the Word of God. Various servants plant, water, and harvest the seed in due season. It takes time, patience, and hard work to develop a fruitful garden.

Paul now reminds Timothy that he too was suffering, but that their suffering had a dual blessing in it: they were suffering for and with Christ, and their suffering was for the benefit of the church.

Timothy was being attacked by false teachers, just as the church is attacked today. What are we to do? First, remind the people to stick to essentials and not to argue about empty words and philosophies. Second, be sure to rightly divide the Word, being diligent to handle it carefully. Paul warns that false doctrine “eats like a cancer or ulcer,” and that the only remedy is the “healthy doctrine” of the Word of God.

Read 2 Timothy 1:15-18 and answer the following questions.

1. In 1:15-18 Paul describes the actions of some Christians. Many had deserted him, but Onesiphorus has remained committed to Paul. Why do you think Paul inserted these comments and prayers between 1:1-14 and 2:1-13?

2. What four good things are said about Onesiphorus?

3. In verses 16-18 what two things did Paul desire of the Lord?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-9 and answer the following questions.

4. In what did Paul want Timothy to be strong in?

5. In your own words, define God's Grace?

6. What did Paul want Timothy to do with the things he had taught him?

7. What three illustrations does Paul use to encourage Timothy to endure hardship and to work hard?

8. Paul encourages Timothy to “endure hardship,” and then uses three examples to motivate him. What point is Paul making about Timothy’s work with each of these examples? To answer, first describe the characteristics Paul says make a soldier, athlete, and farmer effective. Then explain how those characteristics apply to the Christian servant.

9. Choose one of Paul’s three examples in 2:4-6. How does its lesson apply to you in your serving the Lord?

Read 2 Timothy 2:10-13 and answer the following questions.

10. Paul reveals his attitude toward others in 2:10. How can you develop a similar attitude? Does it require any action on your part?

11. According to verses 10-13 what convictions enable and encourage Paul to have this attitude?

12. In 2:1-13 what motivates you the most to endure in serving the Lord?

Mentoring, Kingdom Style

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

Here Paul describes the powerful process of mentoring (Advise or train someone, especially a younger colleague). Just as he had helped Timothy during a period in his development, he challenged him to mentor others, who in turn could become mentors and keep the reproductive cycle going. Believers today should model this pattern of older believers working with younger ones to “pass on the things they have learned.” Here are a few examples from the New Testament.

Barnabas with Paul: A wealthy landowner from Cyprus, Barnabas stood up for Paul. He introduced him to church leaders and supported his conversion.

Barnabas with John Mark: In an intense split with Paul, Barnabas took young John Mark home with him to Cyprus and rebuilt his confidence (Acts 15:36-39). Years later, Paul changed his opinion, describing John Mark as “useful to me for ministry.”

Priscilla and Aquila with Apollos: Manufactures of temporary living units (tents), Priscilla and Aquila drew alongside gifted but confused Apollos, tutoring him in the faith and sponsoring his ministry.

Paul with Timothy: Paul recruited young Timothy and built on the foundation laid by this young man’s mother and grandmother, enlisting him as a fellow traveler and mentored him in the faith.

Paul with Philemon: Paul helped Philemon, a wealthy leader in Colossae deal with a runaway slave who had broken the law.

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 3 - 2 Timothy 2:14-26
A Blueprint for Living
“A Workman Approved”

Timothy was being attacked by false teachers, just as the church is attacked today. What are we to do? First, remind the people to stick to essentials and not to argue about empty words and philosophies. Second, be sure to rightly divide the Word, being diligent to handle it carefully. “*Rightly divide*” implies “cutting through” the Word carefully, the way an engineer builds a highway. Paul warns that false doctrine “*spreads like a cancer,*” and that the only remedy is the “*solid foundation*” (sound doctrine) of the Word of God. When you start listening to the old fables or the false teachers, you may become spiritually sick. One lie can grow like a cancerous tumor and eat out the spiritual strength of the Christian or the local church. Every church should be a Bible school, where the Word of God is taught accurately.

Paul describes the local church as a house with a solid foundation and containing vessels of different kinds. The Old Testament Jews often put Bible verses on their houses, and it was not uncommon for Gentiles to write verses on their houses too. God’s house has two affirmations on it, one that is God-ward and one that is man-ward. God knows His own, and His own ought to be known to others by their godly lives. Each Christian is a vessel in the great house, but some vessels are defiled and cannot be used. Timothy is warned to cleanse himself from the dishonorable vessels, so he is not defiled. This is the biblical doctrine of separation. Believers should be set apart vessels unto God’s honor. Fleeing youthful lusts, and following that which is spiritual, would help Timothy be a prepared vessel that Christ could use for His glory. Verses 23–26 go on to explain how to deal with problems in God’s house so that there might not be strife and division.

Church members need to pray for their pastors and encourage them in the work of the Lord. Church leaders should faithfully do their work so that the pastors can devote themselves to their own ministry. Churches should provide enough financial support for the ministers so that they can fully devote themselves to the work of the ministry. In other words, ministers and members should labor together in the work of the Lord.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26 and answer the following questions.

1. According to 2:14, 16, 23, why should Christians avoid ignorant disputes and quarreling about words?

2. What does it mean to “rightly divide the word of truth”? (2:15)

3. According to the following verses, how should a Christian respond to foolish arguments?

2:15

2:16, 23

2:21-22

2:24-25

4. Why does Paul so strongly condemn the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus? Why is their teaching about the resurrection so dangerous? (See 1 Cor. 15:12-19).

5. Why is it often hard to be kind, patient, and gentle with quarrelsome people?

6. Even though foolish speaking leads to foolish teaching and immorality, what confidence can a Christian leader have? (2:19)

7. Why is it wise to flee “*youthful lusts*” (2:22) and to “*avoid foolish and ignorant disputes*” (2:23)? What is the difference anyway?

8. Paul not only tells us to flee from sin, but also to pursue righteousness. Practically speaking, how can you pursue righteousness this week with your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

9. What attitude does Paul want Timothy to have toward those that oppose him? (2:24-26)

10. Choose your favorite verse from 2:14-26. In what practical way can you apply this verse to your life?

Great Word on 2 Timothy 2:15 from Jon Courson

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Over the years, I have observed that many people who love the Lord Jesus deeply are, nonetheless, embarrassed occasionally when unbelievers raise questions like the following: “How could a God of love order the extermination of the Canaanite civilization?” “How could a God of love mandate the slaughtering of bulls and goats and little lambs and pigeons for sacrifices?” “Why does the Bible set guidelines for slavery rather than abolishing it altogether?” On and on, questions come our way that cause some who love the Lord to feel embarrassed about parts

of the Bible. The problem isn't with the Bible. The problem is with our inability to rightly divide it. The Greek word for "divide" means to cut a straight line, to make an incision. In order to rightly divide the Word, we need to understand first of all that the Bible is not simply a book of theology, but rather a drama through which we see the unfolding of God's redemption of mankind.

Truly, there's a flow, a drama that unfolds throughout Scripture, which is not seen by those who simply focus on one section. That's why Paul said to Timothy, "Study." That's why we meet together regularly to study. And in so doing, we are able to say to the Jehovah's Witness, for example, that the 144,000 among which he numbers himself are part of a dispensation yet to come. And we are able to tell the Adventist that keeping the Sabbath in the "Age of Grace" is impossible if for no other reason than the fact that attending church on the Sabbath is in direct violation of the law that prohibits travel beyond one hundred yards.

An understanding of God's unfolding plan of redemption will cause one to read the Scriptures with an awareness of the scope and purpose of any given dispensation. However, one can rightly divide the Word and still miss the point if the Word of God doesn't divide him (Hebrews 4:12). That is, the Word of God must not only lodge in our minds—it must touch our hearts.

How can we know if the Word is touching our hearts? In Revelation 10:10, we read that when John ate of the scroll, signifying the Word, it was sweet to his mouth, but bitter to his belly. So, too, when I study theology, (the promise of heaven, the assurance of salvation, the doctrine of justification) I find them oh, so sweet. But I know the Word is truly accomplishing its work within me when, upon further contemplation, I find them bitter as I realize the plight of those around me who don't yet know Jesus. In other words, I know the Word is having its intended effect when it not only satisfies my spirit, but when it motivates my soul to ministry, to service, to prayer, and to love.

May we be those who, like a skilled surgeon, rightly divide the Word. And may we be those who, like a willing patient, allow the Word to divide us, and to make us more like Jesus.

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 4 - 2 Timothy 3:1-9
A Blueprint for Living
Rejecters of Truth

Paul now looks down through the years and with the eyes of the prophet tells us what to expect. This chapter is his prophetic appeal to Timothy, his charge in the light of the future of the church. “The last days” is a period of time that actually began with the life and ministry of Christ on earth. However, the New Testament indicates that “the last days” refers particularly to the state of the church before the coming of Christ. These shall be “perilous” times, that is, “difficult, hard to deal with.” We are in those days now! Self-love will be the hallmark of the last days. This self-love will lead to a grasping attitude and a boastful spirit. True affection will almost disappear; unnatural affection will prevail.

Verses 5–8 indicate that there will be plenty of religion in the last days, but it will be a mere imitation, a form of godliness without the life-changing power of God. The departing from the faith that Paul predicted in 2 Thess. 2 is upon us today, yet there is still plenty of religion! The Bible continues to be a national best-seller, yet the crime rate increases and problems multiply. True Christians are in the minority. These false teachers of Paul’s day preyed especially upon women.

Paul compared the apostate teachers to the Egyptian magicians Jannes and Jambres, who opposed Moses by imitating what he did. Satan is an imitator, and his imitation gospel and church will spread in the last days. But just as Moses overcame these imitators by the power of God coming in great judgment, so Christ will ultimately overcome these latter-day deceivers. “*From such turn away!*” warns Paul (vs. 5).

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and answer the following questions:

1. What does Paul predict will happen in the last days?

2. List the characteristics of the people in those times (See 3:2-5). Define each one.

3. For each of these vices write down a word or phrase that describes its opposite, “the trait a Christian should have”.

4. What does it mean to love God rather than self or pleasure? How does loving God affect what a person does?

5. The definition of Godliness is: “a personal attitude toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God,” “devotion in action.” How might the power of godliness enable you to grow less attached to things of this life and more attached to your love for God?

6. The picture that Paul paints in verses 2-5 bears a striking resemblance to what we see in our world today. What are some ways that you see this godless mindset in our society?

Read 2 Timothy 3:6-9 and answer the following questions:

7. What kind of influence do these men have over some women? (See 3:6) In what sense do such men “make captives” of women?

8. Give some current examples of the type of men who have this kind of influence over women.

9. What does it mean to be “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth”?

10. Where is the ultimate truth found?

11. What is a corrupt mind?

12. Compare Paul’s description of a corrupt people in 2 Tim. 3:2-8 to another in Rom. 1:28-32. How are they similar and how are they different?

13. What kind of mind should a believer have? (See Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:1-3).

Counterfeit Christianity

Whenever people accept the truth of God and begin practicing it, counterfeits soon surface. That's what Paul found at Ephesus, and what he warns Timothy about (2 Tim. 3:8-9). He mentions two characters, Jannes and Jambres, whose names mean "he who seduces" and "he who is rebellious." Neither name is in the Old Testament, but Jewish legend held that these were the names of two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses' demand of Pharaoh to free the Israelites. They tried to duplicate the miracles of Moses in an attempt to discredit him. But God showed that Moses' authority was more powerful (Ex. 7:11-12, 22).

Paul faced a similar experience at Ephesus. For two years he taught the message of Christ there, in a culture heavily steeped in pagan idolatry and occultism. God confirmed His teaching through powerful miracles and the release of many from evil spirits. But local exorcists attempted to duplicate the miracles. Their scheme backfired, however to the benefit of the gospel.

Counterfeits to the truth of Christ abound today, as Paul predicted they would. If we effectively communicate the gospel to friends and coworkers, we can virtually count on the fact that competing systems and worldviews will soon appear. That's why we must "*continue in the things you have learned and been assured of,*" basing our lives and our witness on the firm foundation of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 5 - 2 Timothy 3:10-17
A Blueprint for Living
“Timothy’s Guides”

If Jannes and Jambres were ministers of Satan’s work, then Paul is our best example of a worker for the Lord. He hid nothing. Paul names the cities in the area near Timothy’s home, because Timothy would be familiar with them. Timothy knew Paul’s teaching, his conduct, the purpose that motivated his life, the faith that sustained him in trials, the long-suffering, love, and endurance that he showed, even when persecuted, and the wonderful way God took care of him through it all. Paul’s life had been an example to young Timothy, as ours ought to be to others today.

Persecution is not something that Christians should deliberately encourage, but if they live godly lives, persecution will come automatically. *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly”* is the best translation of v.12. When our will is dedicated to God, then Satan will attack us. You can be sure that during these last days, it will be more and more difficult to live for Christ. As never before, we need Christians who will, like Paul, live for Christ completely.

Since these satanic seducers are going to continue, what should the Christian do? Continue to be faithful to the Word of God. The only answer to Satan’s lies is God’s truth. If every local church would get back to the Word of God, and if every pastor and Sunday School teacher would teach the Word of God, Satan’s disciples would be defeated.

Timothy’s relationship to the Bible is outlined in these verses. It began when he was a child and learned the Old Testament Scriptures from his mother and grandmother. They did not merely teach him the facts of the Bible; they gave him assurance and spiritual understanding. Timothy knew for himself the truth of the Word; he did not depend on others to defend the Word for him.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. The word “inspired” means “God-breathed, filled with the breath of God.” The Spirit of God enabled men of God to write the Word of God, for the Spirit of God is the “breath” of God. “All Scripture” means that every word of God is inspired.

What is the purpose of the Bible? Of course, salvation is the first purpose, but Christian living is also included. The Word is profitable for teaching, conviction, setting right, and discipline. It enables the child of God to become a man or woman of God, matured in the things of the Lord. It is fine for Christians to take study courses and learn methods of ministry, but the best way for them to equip themselves to serve God is to study and practice the Word of God. Study books tell us how, but the Bible gives us the motivation and power to live what we learn.

The great need among churches and Christians today is to return to the Bible. If the churches do not get back to God's Word, the satanic deceivers will take over and millions of lost sinners will go to hell because they were led astray by religious lies.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-13 and answer the following questions:

1. Why should Paul's words, lifestyle, goals, character and experience strengthen Timothy (See 3:10-11)?

2. List Paul's qualities that Timothy followed. Define each one.

3. Has anyone served as this kind of example for you? If so, how has that person strengthened your service to God?

4. 2 Timothy 3:12 says that a committed Christian can expect persecution. Why is this so? (See 2 Tim. 3:12, John 15:18-25, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7).

5. Who besides Paul will be persecuted?

6. Has God promised His people a life of ease on earth? Do godly people in every age suffer exactly like Paul did? Explain.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and answer the following questions:

7. As others become more evil and cause persecution, what should Timothy do (See 3:14)? According to what we have studied, from who had he learned these things?

8. What role did Scripture have in Timothy's education?

9. Why should children be taught God's Word?

10. What can we learn from vs.14-15 about staying faithful even as others become unfaithful and as we suffer for the truth?

11. *God-breathed, "Inspired by God"* in the NKJV. The Greek word *theopneustos* is composed of *theo*, meaning "God," and *pneustos*, which refers to breathing, blowing, or sending forth one's spirit. In the Bible, the breath, wind, or Spirit of God is closely connected with His creative Word and inspired speaking (Genesis 1:2-3, 1 Kings 19:11-13, Acts 2:1-4). When God breathed His spirit into men so that they might be His spokesmen (prophets, writers of Scripture), He did not take over their minds or wills, but somehow guided them to speak His truth as they gave Him their attention. *"All Scripture is 'God-breathed' and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"* 2 Timothy 3:16 NIV
What is the source of Scripture? Why is this important?

12. List 4 uses of Scripture according to 3:16.

13. What can Scripture do according to 3:17?

Leading by Example

Brethren join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil. 3:17

As Paul recognized leaders always lead by personal example, whether they are aware of it or not. And their example extends far beyond the nature of the task at hand. People pattern their motives and values after executives, supervisors, and other leaders. Paul encouraged others to follow his example. What sort of example do you set for others? Are you aware of how you influence them? Are you close enough to the people around you, and in touch enough with your own tendencies to have confidence in how others might follow you?

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 6 - 2 Timothy 4:1-8
A Blueprint for Living
Passing the Mantle

This chapter records the final message from the inspired pen of Paul. Shortly after dictating these words, Paul was martyred for the cause of Christ. It is no surprise, then, that we find in this chapter an intense personal appeal for Timothy's faithfulness to the Lord and to his mentor Paul.

Paul closed the previous chapter by exhorting Timothy to continue in the Word in his own personal life; now he exhorts him to share that Word with others. We must first receive before we can transmit. So important was the preaching of the Word to Paul and to the ministry of the church that he gave Timothy a charge—a “military command”—to keep on preaching the Word. And Paul called upon Christ to witness his charge to Timothy, reminding Timothy that Christ would one day return and test his ministry.

Why must we Christians proclaim the Word of God? *“Because the time will come”* when people will not want the Word of God. That time is upon us! Many church attenders do not want “healthy” doctrine; instead, they want religious entertainment from Christian performers who will tickle their ears. Too often the person who simply opens the Bible and teaches it is ignored, while the shallow religious entertainer becomes a celebrity. Verse 4 indicates that “itching ears” soon become “deaf ears” as people turn away from the truth and believe man-made fables.

Paul was about to finish his course, but Timothy's life and ministry still lay before him. Our task is to find His will and do it as long as we live. This involves watching, enduring, and working. Paul's argument is clear: he is now about to leave the scene, and somebody must take his place. Young people in our churches need to be reminded that they are the future in the church. Paul has no regrets as he faces eternity: he had been a good soldier, a faithful runner, a faithful steward of the treasure of the Gospel. He looked forward to receiving his reward from the Lord.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and answer the following questions:

When he left the world, Elijah gave his mantle to Elisha to signify that the young man who had served him would now succeed him as Israel's chief prophet. When a tired runner finishes his lap in a relay race, he passes the baton to a fresh runner and then goes on to rest. Paul was not passing his apostolic status to Timothy, but he was passing on his task of guarding and spreading God's truth.

1. What does Paul charge Timothy to do in 4:1-2?
2. What does it mean to "*be ready in and out of season*"?
3. List and define the key words in 4:2.
4. According to verse 2, how should we deal with this problem?
5. Does what Paul describes in 4:3-4 happen today? If so, can you think of some examples?
6. Define the word "Evangelist."

7. What role should evangelists play in dealing with the issues in verses 3-4?

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and answer the following questions:

8. According to 4:6, what future lays ahead for Paul?

9. List 3 action statements Paul used to summarize his life in 4:7.

10. What would it take in your life to say as Paul did, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*?

11. What reward awaited Paul? Who else can receive this crown?

12. Which reasons in 4:1-8 most motivate you to serve with joy and endurance?

13. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 from the New Living Translation. Note your final thoughts and how to apply them to your life.

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ² Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their

own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths. ⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. ⁶ As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing. NIV

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 7 - 2 Timothy 4:9-22
A Blueprint for Living
Personal Needs

Why was Timothy to hurry? Demas had forsaken Paul. Crescens and Titus were away ministering; Tychicus had been sent to Ephesus; and only Dr. Luke was with him. As he waited patiently for the Lord to call him home, Paul yearned for the Christian companionship of his son in the faith. In vs. 21 Paul urged him to “*come before winter*” because the shipping season would soon end; it was likely that Paul would be dead if Timothy waited too long.

We first met Dr. Luke in Acts 16:10. It was at this point that Luke joined Paul’s party. He was a Gentile and was the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Luke is mentioned with Demas in Col. 4:14 and the contrast is clear: Demas was unfaithful while Luke was faithful to Christ and Paul.

John Mark had been rejected by Paul but now was accepted. Mark had proved himself in his ministry with Barnabas. Paul was willing to forgive and forget, the mark of a great man.

Paul asked for the cloak he had left at Troas; winter was coming, and he would need it in his Roman prison. The “*books*” were probably some of his own writings; the “*parchments*” would be his copies of the Old Testament Scriptures. While awaiting trial, Paul would spend his time studying the Word. What an example to follow!

He warned Timothy about Alexander, who withstood his words. At Paul’s first defense, no believer stood with him; but the Lord was still with him, and that is all that mattered! This had always been his encouragement in difficult times.

Though facing certain death, Paul still thought about others. How like Christ when He was hanging on the cross. “*Grace be with you!*” says Paul, and closes his part of the New Testament writings. “*Grace*” was the key word in his ministry. May it be the key word in our lives as well.

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 and answer the following questions:

1. What did Paul urge Timothy to do? (See 4:9)
2. What did Demas do? (See 4:10) What does it mean to “*Love this present world*”?
3. Who is still with Paul and what do we know about him?
4. What things did Paul want Timothy to bring? What does this tell you about Paul’s needs and interests?
5. Who did Paul warn Timothy about? (See 4:14). Why? What warning did he give about this man?
6. What can we learn about naming individuals and warning other people to avoid them and their sin?
7. What troubled Paul about his first defense? What can we learn? (See vs.16)

8. What hope did Paul have? What kind of deliverance did he have in mind? (See vs.18)

9. Who did Paul greet in 4:19? What do we know about each of these people?

10. After reading this whole letter, what caused Paul to persevere despite the emotional setback of some of these hard situations?

11. What is the most important lesson you learned from our study in 2 Timothy about:

- a. God's Character
- b. The Christian life
- c. The character of a Christian leader
- d. The responsibilities of a Christian leader
- e. Obstacles to healthy church growth
- f. Reasons for godly leadership

12. Have you noticed any areas (thoughts, attitudes, opinions, behavior) that you have changed as a result of studying 2 Timothy? Note those changes for discussion.

Take some time to pray and thank God for His amazing Grace.....