

# 2 TIMOTHY

**Author :**

Paul an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Date :**

Sometime about 67 AD.

**Themes :**

Paul is in prison, being persecuted for preaching the gospel of Christ. His friends and helpers have forsaken him (1:15; 4:16). He knows that the time of his death is near (4:6). But in the midst of what could have been depressing circumstances Paul is not discouraged or sad or afraid or defeated – in fact, just the opposite. He reveals his hope and confidence to Timothy and writes to encourage him in the Lord’s service. By the inspiration of God’s Spirit he points out how people will be in the future, and emphasizes again the importance of right doctrine, correct teaching, holy living, faithful work, and courageous preaching.

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

2 To *my* dearly loved son Timothy: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as *my* forefathers *did*, with a clear conscience, that night and day in my prayers I constantly remember you. 4 Recalling your tears, I have a great desire to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 5 For I remember the sincere faith that is in you, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has

**1:1** Rom 1:1; Gal 1:1. "According to" – Paul's apostleship had to do with one great fact above all: the fact that God has promised eternal life to those who believe in Christ (compare Rom 1:2; Titus 1:2; 1 John 5:9-12).

**1:2** 1 Tim 1:2.

**1:3** "I thank God" – Rom 1:8; 1 Cor 1:4; Phil 1:3; Col 1:3; 1 Thess 1:2.

"Forefathers" – God's servants in the Old Testament. Paul indicates his conviction that true religion and service for God had their roots there, that his faith and service was a continuation of theirs.

"Clear conscience" – Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Cor 4:4; 2 Cor 1:12.

"Night and day" – Paul was in prison (v 8) but his ministry was not bound. He had plenty of time for prayer and he constantly used the opportunity.

**1:4** "Tears" – Paul is probably referring to their last parting. Timothy's tears revealed his love for Paul and what Paul stood for. Compare Acts 20:37,38.

"A great desire to see you" – Rom 1:11; 1 Thess 3:6; Phil 1:8.

**1:5** Timothy's father and paternal grandfather were Greeks and may not have been believers, but his mother and maternal grandmother were Jews. Both his mother and grandmother had believed the gospel of Christ (Acts 16:1-3).

"Sincere faith" – 1 Tim 1:5.

**1:6** By the "gift" he does not mean a natural ability but a spiritual ability which God gave Timothy at a specific time. God's servants may neglect such an ability or let its bright flame die down. So Paul gives this exhortation. Timothy received a gift by the laying on of hands of the elders of the church (1 Tim 4:14). We do not know whether Paul is referring to that occasion here. Two separate laying on of hands for different purposes was not unknown. See Acts 9:17; 13:3.

**1:7** "Spirit of fear" – it would seem from this that Timothy was tempted to let the flame of his spiritual ability die down because of a lack of boldness to use it. Courage is needed in the exercise of God's gifts (Acts

not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me his prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved *us* and called *us* with a holy calling. *This was* not according to our deeds, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but is now revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 For *this gospel* I have been appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 For this reason also I suffer these things. However, I am not ashamed, for I know

4:29; Eph 6:19). Paul speaks of three more things very much needed in the service of Christ. God's Spirit is the one who gives them. When God calls us to serve Him He makes us able to serve Him (2 Cor 3:5,6).

"Power" – Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 2:4; 4:20; 2 Cor 4:7; 12:9; Eph 1:19; 3:16; Col 1:11.

"Love" – love without power would be frustrating. Power without love would be harmful, not helpful. Above all, Christ's servants need love – 1 Cor 13:1-3.

"Sound mind" – or, possibly, "self-control". This is an ability to think in a healthy way, to control one's thoughts and so one's behavior. See 1 Tim 3:2.

**1:8** "Ashamed" – Mark 8:38; Rom 1:16. Many people consider the gospel of Christ foolishness (1 Cor 1:18,23), and the preaching of the cross of Christ offensive (Gal 5:11). A naturally timid Christian, giving in to the pride that rises so easily out of our fallen nature, might be tempted to be ashamed to speak of Christ to others. This temptation we should all overcome by the power of God's Spirit.

"His prisoner" – 2:9; Eph 3:1.

"Sufferings of the gospel" – sufferings that may come to those who proclaim the gospel or believe the gospel – 2:3; 4:5; Rom 5:3; 8:17; 2 Cor 4:17; 1 Pet 4:12-16.

**1:9** "Holy calling" – Rom 1:6; 8:30; 1 Cor 1:2; Eph 1:4.

"Purpose" – Eph 1:5,9,12.

"Grace" – Rom 3:24; Eph 2:8,9; Titus 3:57.

"In Christ" – John 15:4; Rom 6:5; 8:1; Eph 1:1,4.

"Before time began" – Eph 1:4; Titus 1:2.

**1:10** "Revealed" – John 1:17.

"Abolished death" – Matt 28:6; Heb 2:14; John 5:24; 11:25,26. Christ has laid the foundation for death's final overthrow – 1 Cor 15:26, and has opened the way to eternal life for believers – John 3:16; 5:24; 6:47. And He has revealed the truth about life and immortality – truth hidden and unknown before He came. On immortality see 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

**1:11** 1 Tim 2:7.

**1:12** Paul's sufferings (2:9; 2 Cor 1:8;

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whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have entrusted to him until that day.

13 Hold firmly the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who lives in us, keep that good thing which was entrusted to you.

15 You know that everyone in Asia has deserted me, including Phygellus and Hermogenes.

16 The Lord be merciful to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 17 When he was in

4:8-12; 6:4-10; 11:23-27) came because he was a servant of Christ (John 15:18-21; 16:1-4). He could have avoided them by withdrawing from the ministry. He did not do so because he was not ashamed to suffer for Christ – quite the opposite (Rom 5:3; 2 Cor 4:17,18; 12:10; Col 1:24).

“Whom I have believed” – he also knew what he had believed, but here he speaks of his personal knowledge of Christ. This is eternal life (John 17:3) and this knowledge all of God’s children have (Heb 8:11).

“What I have entrusted” – he is probably referring to himself and all that pertained to him. Long before this he had committed himself completely into the strong hands of Jesus Christ and was confident Christ would not let anything or anyone remove him from His care. Compare Rom 8:35-39; John 10:28; 1 Pet 1:5.

“That day” – Christ’s second coming.

**1:13** What Paul had taught Timothy was the very truth of God. Christ Himself had taught Paul this truth – Gal 1:11,12; Eph 3:2,3. Timothy was not to make his own “pattern” of doctrine. Neither are we. Everyone should follow the pattern God has given once and for all. If we preach and teach we must continually consult this pattern and build our ministry according to it. If we do not, we will make a wreck of it in God’s eyes (however much we may seem to be a success in the eyes of men).

“Faith and love” – we must hold to Paul’s teaching with a living faith. It must not become dead orthodoxy to us (compare John 5:38-40,45-47). And we must hold the truth with love. It is not enough to be sound in doctrine and to “contend for the faith” (Jude 3). If we do not have love along with all that we are nothing – 1 Cor 13:1-3.

“In Christ” – v 9.

**1:14** The “good thing” was God’s revealed truth, the pattern of sound teaching. Why do Christ’s servants need to guard it? Because there will be those who try to take it away from them and the Church.

“Holy Spirit” – note at John 14:16,17. God does not ask us to guard His truth with our own poor resources, our own arguments or wisdom or strength. He has given His servants a power and wisdom far greater than anything they have by nature.

Rome he sought me out very earnestly and found me. 18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that day. You know very well how many ways he served me in Ephesus.

**2** You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard from me with many witnesses *present*, those same *things* entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 You, therefore, endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that goes to war entangles himself in the affairs of *civilian* life, that he may

Compare Matt 10:19,20; Luke 21:15; John 16:13-15; Acts 4:13.

“Lives in us” – Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19.

**1:15** Paul was in prison and in danger. It was a sad fact that those who should have stood with him and helped him then did not do so (4:16). Compare Matt 26:56.

“Asia” – see Acts 16:6.

**1:16-18** “Onesiphorus” – he was in great contrast with those Paul mentions in v 15. They searched for a way not to help Paul; he searched for Paul to help him. There are still these two types of Christians in the world.

“Merciful” (v 18) – Paul’s desire was in accordance with the Scriptures – Matt 5:7. We have no right to expect God to be merciful or helpful to us if we are not merciful or helpful to others.

**2:1** Spiritual strength is a gift of God which is given in Christ to all believers. We should learn to appropriate this strength (Eph 1:3,19; 3:16,20; 6:10; 2 Cor 12:9,10; Isa 40:31).

**2:2** This is the way God has planned for His truth to spread throughout the earth. Paul taught Timothy (1:13); Timothy was to teach others and they, in turn, would teach still others. Compare Matt 28:19,20.

“Faithful men” – it is of no use to entrust important things to unreliable men. Compare Matt 24:45-51; 1 Tim 1:12; 1 Cor 4:1,2.

**2:3** “Hardship” – 1:8; 3:12; John 16:33; Acts 14:22.

“Good soldier” – Eph 6:11-18. All believers are soldiers in Christ’s spiritual army. Being so we should try to be good ones and bravely endure whatever comes to us in the line of duty. Doubtless this is especially true for those whom Christ has called into positions of leadership. We must not murmur or complain or try to avoid difficulties at any cost (as the manner of some is).

**2:4** “Entangles” – there is nothing wrong with either believers or preachers of the gospel having a secular job and working for a living (Acts 18:3; 20:34,35; 1 Thess 4:11,12; 2 Thess 3:7-10; Titus 3:14). But it is wrong if we get entangled in that or in any of the affairs of the world so that we fail to be good soldiers of Christ. We must have our priorities right. We must want to please our

please the one who has chosen him to be a soldier.  
 5 Also if a person competes in athletic contests, he does not gain the *victor's* crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer must be the first to get a share of the crop. 7 Consider what I say. May the Lord give you understanding in all things.

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, among the descendants of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer trouble, as if I were a criminal, even to the point of chains. But the word of God is not chained. 10 So I endure everything for the sake of God's chosen, that they

commanding officer (Christ) above all else – 2 Cor 5:9; Gal 1:10; Col 1:10; 1 Thess 4:1. Even if we are in a secular job or attending to some affair in the world we must always remember we are Christ's soldiers under His orders.

**2:5** "Athletic contests" – believers are also like athletes in the spiritual realm – 1 Cor 9:24-27; Gal 5:7; Phil 3:13,14; Heb 12:1. There are crowns for winners – 4:8; Jam 1:12; 1 Pet 5:4; Rev 2:10. But no one will be a winner who does not obey the "rules." There are spiritual laws, training and discipline which believers must follow. If they do not they will lose the rewards they might otherwise obtain – 1 Cor 9:27; Col 2:18; 2 John 8; Rev 3:11.

**2:6** 1 Cor 9:10; Gal 6:9; John 4:36; Ps 126:5,6. Paul's emphasis here is on "hardworking." Compare 1 Cor 15:58.

**2:7** Here are two things necessary to understand and apply any revelation from God. We must think, reflect, meditate, and the Lord must give insight, discernment, wisdom. Compare Ps 1:2; 1 Pet 1:13; Eph 1:18; Phil 1:9; Col 1:9; Jam 1:5.

**2:8** Rom 1:3,4; Matt 28:6.

"Remember" – an exhortation we need because of the possibility of forgetting Him among our cares and pleasures, labors and relaxations. Compare Deut 6:12; 8:11. We are to keep Him in mind always, fix our thoughts on Him – Col 3:1,2; Heb 3:1; 12:2,3. It is the only way to peace, power and victory.

"My gospel" – Rom 2:16; 16:25; 1 Cor 15:1-4.

**2:9** See 1:12. This is one error in thinking (among many) that opponents of the gospel fall into. They think they can bind God's Word by locking up God's servants, or destroy the gospel by destroying them. Actually by such methods they are often unwitting instruments for the spread of the gospel (Phil 1:12-14; Acts 8:3,4). Striking a seed-bearing plant scatters the seed.

**2:10** Paul (an example set forth by God for us) did not live for himself or face sufferings for his own sake, but for Christ. Compare 1 Cor 9:19-23; 10:33-11:1; Acts 20:24.

"Chosen" – Matt 24:22,24,31; Rom 11:7; Titus 1:1. Here Paul means those whom God has chosen for salvation and whom He

may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 *This is* a faithful saying: For if we died with him, we will also live with *him*. 12 If we endure, we will also reign with *him*. If we deny *him*, he will deny us also. 13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful; he cannot deny himself.

14 Remind *them* of these things, and solemnly declare in the presence of the Lord that they must not quarrel about words, which is useless and ruins those who hear it. 15 Make every effort to show yourself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, using the word of truth

has not yet brought into His kingdom. Compare John 6:37; Rom 8:29; Eph 1:4; 1 Pet 1:1,2.

"Eternal glory" – John 17:5,24; Rom 5:2; 8:17,18.

**2:11** "Died with him" – Rom 6:2-8; Gal 2:20.

**2:12** "Endure" – vs 10; Matt 10:22; 24:13; Rom 12:12; 1 Cor 13:7 – the Greek word contains the idea of patience or courage. Patiently, courageously enduring for Christ what He has given us to endure is a proof that faith is genuine.

"Reign" – Matt 19:28; Luke 1:33; Rev 5:10; 20:6; 22:5. This promise is not made to those who are not willing to endure hardship for Christ's sake.

"Deny" – Mat 10:33; Luke 12:9. Here Paul does not mean a temporary denial such as Peter's was (Matt 26:34,75), but a way of life.

**2:13** Rom 3:3,4; Ps 57:10; 89:1,8,14,33; 117:2; Titus 1:2. The believer's expectation of salvation is based on God's faithfulness, not on his own. God can never act contrary to His Word or His nature.

**2:14** Here are two duties of a pastor or teacher – reminding and warning. The people of God need both (Acts 20:31; Rom 15:15; 1 Cor 4:14; 15:1; Gal 5:21; 2 Thess 3:15; 2 Pet 1:12,13,15; 3:1).

"Quarrel about words" – some words are very important – God, Christ, truth, faith, love, salvation, etc. The realities these words represent are worth dying for. Paul here doubtless means quarreling about less important matters. Compare v 23; 4:4; 1 Tim 1:4; 4:7; 6:4. But quarreling about even the greatest matters is not the task of God's servants (vs 24,25), though they must proclaim them with much zeal, and stand for them with all the strength God gives.

**2:15** Here is excellent instruction for every preacher, pastor, evangelist, or teacher.

"Approved" – Rom 16:10; 1 Cor 11:19; 2 Cor 10:18; Gal 1:10; 1 Thess 2:4.

"Ashamed" – if any servant of Christ turns out poor quality work because he is lazy, careless or incompetent he cannot gain God's approval. Our work is going to be very carefully examined – 1 Cor 3:12-15. We should do it in such a way that we will not need to be ashamed when we stand before God.

"Word of truth" – in Eph 1:13 and

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rightly. 16 But avoid profane, empty babblings, for they will result in more ungodliness. 17 And their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among these are Hymenaeus and Philetus. 18 They have veered away from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place. And they upset the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless the foundation of God stands firm, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his"; and, "Let everyone who utters the name of Christ keep away from wickedness."

20 But in a large house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and

clay, some valuable and some of no value. 21 So if a person cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a valuable vessel, sanctified, and useful to the Master, *and* prepared for every good work.

22 Also flee from youthful cravings, but follow righteousness, faith, love, and peace, *together* with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But avoid foolish and ignorant debates, knowing that they engender quarrels. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be kind to everyone, able to teach, *and* patient. 25 *He should* humbly instruct those who oppose him, *hoping*

Col 1:5 Paul defines this as the gospel of Christ. Here he may mean that, or, possibly, the whole of God's revelation in the Scriptures. To win God's approval we must learn to handle God's truth correctly and well. We need to understand it thoroughly and be able to teach it and explain it to others. It is the most important thing God has entrusted to us and we should study and labor accordingly.

"Using. . . rightly" – the Greek has a single word here. Originally its literal meaning was to cut straight, but it came to mean to accurately deal with a thing. In Paul's usage here it can hardly mean to cut or divide the Scriptures. Its more likely meaning is to use them accurately, rightly or in a straight way.

**2:16** Verse 14; 1 Tim 1:6; 6:20.

**2:17** "Gangrene" – this is the dying of body tissue. It happens when the blood supply is cut off. It spreads up a limb of the body until the limb has to be amputated. If neglected it kills the whole body. False teaching is like this. If it is allowed to spread in a church or denomination it can gradually bring it to a state of spiritual death. This is the reason why it must not be permitted to gain a foothold.

**2:18** "Veered away from the truth" – 1 Tim 1:6,19,20; 6:10,21. The future resurrection of the dead is a clear teaching of Christ and His apostles – John 5:28,29; 1 Cor 15:20-23. By saying it was already past these false teachers dared to deny this teaching. They were saying that the resurrection is only spiritual – man's spirit being made alive now, not his body rising sometime in the future.

"Upset" – the false teachers were causing much confusion and some of the Christians for a time hardly knew what to believe. But if their faith was genuine it would not be destroyed.

**2:19** Whatever false teachers may do they will not be able to destroy Christ's true Church or His people. God knows how to keep the foundation firm and His people believing (Matt 16:18; Luke 22:31,33; 1 Pet 1:4,5; 2 Pet 2:9).

"His" – John 6:37; 17:6; 1 Cor 6:19,20. "Keep away" if a person practices evil and yet claims to be a Christian, there is reason to doubt the reality of his faith. Compare Rom 8:13,14; 1 Cor 6:9; Gal 5:24; Eph

5:5,6; 1 John 2:4,6; 3:9,10.

**2:20,21** In the visible church in the world there are different kinds of people. Some belong to the Lord, and He knows who they are. Some do not belong to Him, and He knows who they are too (compare Matt 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50). Here Paul compares these two kinds of people to two kinds of vessels or articles in a house. Compare Rom 9:21. Paul in the preceding verses has been speaking of false teachers and the need to turn away from wickedness. False teachers and those who practice wickedness in the church are like dishonorable vessels. God's true people must have nothing to do with them (3:5). If we want to be the kind of honorable "vessels" God wants us to be, we must do what He tells us in this verse. If we do not, we are in danger of being corrupted – 1 Cor 15:33.

**2:22** See 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Pet 1:3-9. There are some things we should run from as from a great danger. Others we should run after. Some evil desires are very strong in young men. The best way to deal with them is to stay clear away from opportunities to satisfy them, and to flee if they appear.

"A pure heart" – Matt 5:8.

**2:23** Verses 14,16. God's servants should never allow themselves to be distracted from their main task and should not engage in quarreling at all.

**2:24** "Must not quarrel" – the Greek word is translated "fighting" in Acts 7:26. Verbal battles that have the sole aim of crushing an opponent do not promote the work of God. Of course, standing for the truth and reasoning with people in order to win them to Christ is good and necessary. But we should be careful that kind of situation does not develop into a useless quarrel. Our fight is not against men but against Satan – Eph 6:12.

"Able to teach" – 1 Tim 3:2.

"Patient" – opponents sometimes say cutting things, objectionable and unreasonable things, and make personal attacks. Christ's servants must learn to bear such things patiently and lovingly.

**2:25** "Humbly" – compare Matt 11:29. If opponents of the truth do not receive instruction from us given in a humble, gentle way, they will not likely receive it in some other way. See the hope Christ's servants should have when they instruct their

that perhaps God will grant them repentance *leading them* into a knowledge of the truth, 26 and *that* they may wake up *and escape* from the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to *do* his will.

**3** Understand this also: In the last days perilous times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, lacking self-control, fierce, opposers of the good, 4 traitors, reckless, arrogant, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of

opponents. Observe too that it is God who can enable men to repent, not our arguments or instruction (Acts 5:31). Notice also that it is only by repenting that men can come to a knowledge of God's truth.

**2:26** "Come to their senses" – compare Luke 15:17. Those who oppose the gospel of Christ are spiritually out of their minds (compare Eccl 9:3). They behave in a senseless way against their own welfare. This is because Satan has taken them captive and they have believed his lies (compare John 8:44; Acts 26:18; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2). Christ's servants must not be ignorant of the forces opposing them. They should understand also that it is only the power of God which can set men free, and that God may use our teaching of the truth to accomplish this.

**3:1** "The last days" – Jam 5:3; 1 Pet 1:5; Jude 18 – the time at the end of this age. There have always been terrible times and people in the world such as Paul described in vs 2-4. Compare Rom 1:28-32. But Paul evidently means that the times will get worse and that such people will be in the outward visible church (v 5).

**3:2-4** The word "lovers" is the key word in these verses. The terrible people of those terrible times will be "lovers" but altogether of the wrong kind. Their character will be opposed to the clear teaching of God's Word. They will be

"lovers of themselves";

"lovers of money" – compare Luke 16:14; 1 Tim 6:10;

"lovers of pleasure" (v 4) – 1 Tim 5:6; Titus 3:3; Jam 4:3; 2 Pet 2:13.

They will be "without love" for what is good and right, for their parents and neighbors, for God. They will not be willing to give up sinful pleasures for Christ's sake, or obey Him in the matter of money or renounce anything they really want. By their attitude and actions they will show that they do not have the one kind of love that really matters – the love of God (1 John 2:15,16; Matt 22:37-40; 1 Cor 13:1-3; 16:22).

Because of this all the other evils in these verses will find a nest in their hearts and minds. Of all people they will have the least to boast about, but they will boast. If they

godliness but denying its power. Keep away from such people.

6 These are the sort who worm their way into households and take over silly women *who are* loaded down with sins and led away with various cravings, 7 always learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so these also resist the truth, *these* men of corrupt minds, rejected in regard to the faith. 9 But they will proceed no further, for their folly will be made clear to everyone, just as theirs was.

10 But you have fully known my teaching, manner of life, purpose, faith, patience, love,

are rebuked they will get abusive. They will have no more gratitude than those of Rom 1:21. They will reveal they do not have God's forgiveness by refusing to forgive others. Believers will not be able to trust them or believe anything they say. Though they are spiritually blind and ignorant they will think they know everything and will not listen to godly teachers.

**3:5** "Form of godliness" – outwardly they are Christians, inwardly they are fierce wolves (Matt 7:15). In other words, they are hypocrites. They can use Christian language but do not really know its meaning. They know nothing of the power of the gospel to save sinners (Rom 1:16), the power of Christ's Spirit to make men new (John 3:5-8). Not knowing this power in their own lives they deny it altogether.

"Keep away from such people" – compare 2:21; Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 5:11,13; 2 Cor 6:17; 2 Thess 3:6; Titus 3:10. Paul's telling Timothy to avoid them shows that there were such people then also. There are such in every generation. But it is probable that there will be even more of them as the end of the age approaches (Matt 24:10-14; 2 Thess 2:1-12).

**3:6** Some of these hypocrites will seek for some people to deceive and control, and their eyes will fall on the women in the church. It seems they will consider them easier prey than the men.

**3:7** This is the sad condition of many. They hear the truth again and again, and may even think they want the truth. But actually they do not, so they do not understand what they hear. This is the reason why opponents of the truth are able to lead them astray (2 Thess 2:10).

**3:8** The names Jannes and Jambres appear nowhere in the Bible except here, but the opposition to Moses is recorded in Ex 7:10-12,22, etc.

"Corrupt minds" – 1 Tim 6:5.

**3:9** They will not be able to conceal forever their lack of truth and power. Jannes and Jambres were exposed (Ex 8:18) and so will these hypocrites be.

**3:10** Paul was not trying to get glory and honor for himself. He speaks in this way because he knew God had set him forth as an example of how believers and Christian

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endurance, 11 persecutions and hardships which came to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! But the Lord delivered me out of *them* all. 12 Yes, and all who want to live godly *lives* in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and hypocrites will go on getting worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you *must* continue in the things you have learned and have been assured of, knowing who you learned *them* from, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of

workers should live, and he wanted Timothy to follow him (v 14; 1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; 2 Thess 3:7; Acts 20:18-35).

**3:11** Acts 13:49 - 14:20; 2 Cor 11:23-27.

**3:12** John 15:18-21; 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Pet 4:1,12; Rom 8:17.

"In Christ" - 1:9. Persecution will vary from place to place, from time to time, from individual to individual. Sometimes it will result in physical sufferings, sometimes it will mean facing dislike and discrimination. But all godly believers will face it in some measure at some times in their lives.

**3:13** They have an evil goal in life and will make steady progress toward it. Evil always results in further evil, deceiving others will result in becoming unable to recognize the truth oneself.

**3:14** Verse 10; 1:13,14; 1 Tim 1:3.

**3:15** "From childhood" - 1:5. The likely meaning is this: Even before they became Christians Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Old Testament ("Holy Scriptures"). They took seriously God's command in Deut 6:6,7; etc. Should Christian parents today do any less? - Eph 6:4. Now the "Holy Scriptures" are both the Old and the New Testaments in one holy book. Observe here that the O.T. when understood is able to make people "wise for salvation." Compare Luke 24:25-27,45-47; John 5:39,46.

"Faith. . .in Christ" - the Old Testament is not an end in itself, is not God's complete revelation. It points to Christ and proclaims to all men "have faith in Him."

**3:16** By "all Scripture" Paul did not mean all that the various religions of the world regarded as holy books or as God-given writings. Absolutely not. He was referring to the Holy Bible. See also 2 Pet 1:20,21; Matt 4:4; 5:17,18; 15:3,4; 22:43; Mark 12:36; Luke 24:44; John 10:35; Acts 4:35; 1 Cor 2:13; Heb 1:5-13; 1 Pet 1:11; Rev 1:1; 2:1; 22:18,19. Compare Jer 1:2,9; etc. See the Introduction to the book of Judges.

"All" - not some words of Scripture more than some others, not one book of the Bible more than some other.

"Inspiration of God" - the word literally means "God-breathed." God breathed His truth, His thoughts, His words into the minds of His servants the prophets, and He

God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be perfectly prepared and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**4** Therefore I give *you this* charge in the presence of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: 2 Preach the Word. Be ready in season, out of season. Refute *errors*, rebuke, exhort with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but following their own desires they

breathed His Spirit into their hearts and inspired them to write down exactly what He wanted them to write. And so the words of Scripture can be called "God-breathed." In another place it is said that man must live by every word that comes "from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4).

Observe why God acted in this way. It was not that men should worship the Bible or merely regard it as sacred and hold it in awe. He gave the Bible that men might use it. Paul speaks of four ways in which it is useful - teaching the truth (about God, Christ, man, salvation, etc), rebuking sin and false teaching, correcting those who err or go astray, and training God's people how to behave righteously in an unrighteous world.

**3:17** No servant of Christ can be thoroughly equipped for every good work without a thorough knowledge of the Bible. We may learn other things but let this be the chief study of our lives.

"Every good work" - 2:21; Eph 4:11-13; Heb 13:20,21.

**4:1** How very solemnly Paul now speaks. He has something of very great importance to say.

"Judge"-John 5:27; Acts 17:31; Rom 2:16; 1 Cor 4:5; 2 Cor 5:10.

"Appearing" - v 8; 1 Tim 6:14; Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28.

"Kingdom" - Matt 4:17; 13:11; 19:28; 25:34; Luke 19:11,12; Acts 1:3,6.

**4:2** "Preach the Word" - here is the great work of pastors, teachers and evangelists (and there is no greater work on earth). They are not to preach their opinions or the opinions of other men. The Word of God is to be their message and nothing else. Compare Matt 28:20; Mark 16:15; 1 Cor 1:23; 2:1-5; 2 Cor 4:5; 1 Pet 4:11.

"In season, out of season" - this speaks of being ready always whether in church or out of it, whether it is convenient or not.

"Refute. . .encourage" - 3:16; 1 Thess 3:2; 4:18; 1 Tim 5:20; Titus 1:9,13; 2:15; Heb 3:13; 10:25.

"Patience and teaching" - 2:24,25.

**4:3,4** See 3:1; 1 Tim 4:1.

"Sound doctrine" - 1:13; 1 Tim 1:10,11; 6:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1.

"Following their own desires" - such

## 2 Timothy ( No. 8 )

will accumulate crowds of teachers for themselves *because they* will have itching ears. 4 And they will turn away *their* ears from the truth, and turn them to *empty* stories. 5 But you be watchful in everything. Endure hardships. Do the work of an evangelist. Make full proof of your ministry.

6 For I am now being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is reserved for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me in that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who love his appearing.

9 Make every effort to come to me quickly,

people wish to do what they please and hear what pleases them. Their question is not "what is true?" but "what makes me feel good?" (though they would not put it in these words). They do not want the truth, because the truth condemns their way of life and interferes with what they want to do. So they draw back from the light of truth into the darkness. This is their great sin and condemnation – John 3:18-20. To receive God's salvation we must desire the truth above everything else. But these people do not desire it and do not want to desire it. See 2 Thess 2:10-12.

"Empty stories" – 1 Tim 1:4; 4:7; Titus 2:14. They will prefer empty stories to God's truth.

**4:5** "Hardships" – 2:3.

"Evangelist" – though Timothy was a pastor and teacher he was also to win people to Christ by preaching the gospel.

**4:6** "Drink offering" – Phil 2:17.

"My departure" – evidently the Lord had revealed this to Paul.

**4:7** "Fight" – 1 Cor 9:26; 2 Cor 10:4; 1 Tim 1:18; 6:12; Eph 6:10-18.

"Race" – 1 Cor 9:24; Gal 2:2; 5:7; Phil 3:13,14; Heb 12:1. His goal expressed in Acts 20:24 was reached.

"The faith" – the truth God gave as a foundation for faith. This had been entrusted to him (1 Cor 4:1; Eph 3:2-9). He kept it – kept it as the object of his own faith, and as the rule of his life, and kept it as a steward to give out to others. Because he had faithfully done this he could view his "departure" with great joy.

**4:8** "Crown" – the Greek word used here (and in 1 Cor 9:25; Phil 4:1; 1 Thess 2:19; Jam 1:12; 1 Pet 5:4; Rev 2:10; 3:11; etc) does not mean the sort of crown kings wear. It means a wreath made of leaves which was given to the winners in athletic contests in those days. Paul, his race over, looked forward to his "crown." Compare 1 Cor 9:25. Crown of righteousness means a crown which is the reward of the kind of righteous life he lived, a reward for fighting against unrighteousness, running a righteous race and keeping the righteous faith. Concerning crowns see the references given above.

10 for Demas has deserted me, because he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry. 12 And I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 13 When you come bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. The Lord repay him for what he has done. 15 You too beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

16 At my first defense no man stood with me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be put to their account. 17 However, the Lord stood by me

"That day" – 1:12,18; 2 Thess 1:10.

"Love his appearing" – what is the connection between a crown of righteousness and loving Christ's appearing? Only those who are living righteous lives will long for Christ to come again. And those who want Him to return will purify themselves. See 1 John 3:2,3. It is not enough to know about His coming and talk and preach about it. To earn the crown of righteousness we must earnestly desire it.

**4:10** "Loved this present world" – a very sad thing to have to say of anyone. See 1 John 2:15-17.

**4:11** "Luke" – Col 4:14; Philemon 24.

"Mark" – Acts 12:25; 13:5,13; 15:37,39; 1 Pet 5:13. After his failure Mark proved himself to be a faithful servant of God. It is a very good thing that God does not cast us off when we fail, but bears with us and works in us to make us better.

**4:13** "Parchments" – scrolls were of papyrus (writing material made from a plant), parchments were made of the skins of animals. Paul does not tell us what was written on these particular ones.

**4:14,15** See 1:15; 2:17; 1 Tim 1:20. Paul did not hesitate to name names and warn people about individuals who could harm them.

**4:16** "Defense" – he was in prison and had to face a trial in court. Here he speaks of a preliminary investigation. Compare Acts chapter 24.

"Deserted me" – 1:15. Evidently Luke was not there at that time. It is highly unlikely that he would have deserted Paul.

**4:17** Men may desert the servants of the Lord Jesus but the Lord will not – Heb 13:5,6. "Strengthened" – Isa 40:29-31. Compare Acts 18:9,10.

"Might hear" – Paul probably means those who conducted his trial and any others present who were Gentiles. The Lord gave Paul boldness even at such times to declare the gospel. Compare Matt 10:17-20; Mark 13:9; Luke 21:12-15; Acts 26:19-23.

"Mouth of the lion" – he means some kind of extreme danger, but whether physical or spiritual danger he doesn't say.



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and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully known, and all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work, and will keep *me* safe for his heavenly kingdom. To him *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household

**4:18** "Deliver me" – he does not mean that the Lord will rescue him from death. He has already said the time of his death was near – v 6. But he is sure the Lord will preserve him from evil and take him to heaven in His way and at His time. Compare Matt 6:13.  
**4:19** "Prisca" (Priscilla) and "Aquila" – Acts 18:2,18,19,26; Rom 16:3.

of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus stayed at Corinth, but I have left Trophimus at Miletum sick. 21 Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, and Pudens *does too*, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

22 The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

**4:21** Verses 9,13. Winter in that area can be very cold.

**4:22** These are the last written words that we have of the great apostle. He repeats two principal themes of his whole ministry – the presence of the Lord Jesus with His people and the grace of God which saves, keeps, and blesses them.