



## World Christian Fellowship

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## 2 Timothy

**Author:** Paul of Tarsus – born to Jewish parents, a Roman citizen, speaks Greek eloquently, and a tent maker.

### Year Written:

Letter	Year Written
1 Thessalonians	52 AD
2 Thessalonians	52AD
1 Corinthians	57 AD
2 Corinthians	57 AD
Galatians	55-57 AD
Romans	57 AD
Ephesians	62 AD
Philippians	62 AD
Colossians	52 AD
Philemon	63 AD
Hebrews	64-65 AD
Titus	64-65 AD
1 Timothy	64-65 AD
2 Timothy	66-67 AD

Apostle Paul has written three pastoral letters from the Roman prison prior to his death: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. There are doubts cast by some regarding the authorship of

these books; however, looking at these letters, it is evident that Paul in fact has written them.

### **Time and Place of Writing:**

According to historical records, Apostle Paul was martyred by Nero in A.D. 68. Paul probably wrote these pastoral letters between A.D. 64 and 67. The second letter to Timothy must have been written around summer of AD67 from the dungeon of Rome prison.

### **Background:**

These two letters bore the name of Timothy, Paul's spiritual son, to whom the letters were addressed.

Timothy was from Lystra, a Roman colony in the province of Galatia, whose father was a non-Jew and mother a Jew.

Acts 16:1-3

Apostle Paul took Timothy along for his journey. Both his mother and grandmother were strong believers in the Lord, who had raised him up in faith right from his childhood (2 Timothy 1:5 & 3:14-15).

Paul as well as the church elders had laid their hands upon Timothy, prayed over him and sent him on his missionary journey (1 Timothy 1:18 & 4:14).

Acts 17:14-15; 18:5; 19:22 & 20:4-6 stress the fact that Timothy was in deed Apostle Paul's companion on his long missionary journey.

Paul calls himself a father to Timothy (Philippians 2:22) and Timothy his 'son' (1 Timothy 1:2, 18; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2:1). Timothy works in the many churches that Apostle Paul had established.

- Thessalonica – 1 Thessalonian 3:2;6
- Corinth – 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10
- Philippi – Philippians 2:19 & 23
- Ephesus – 1 Timothy 1:3

The apocryphal Acts of Timothy states that in the year 97, the 80-year-old bishop tried to halt a procession in honour of the goddess Diana by preaching the gospel. The angry pagans beat him, dragged him through the streets, and stoned him to death.

## **Purpose:**

Paul had established the church in Ephesus during his third missionary journey, staying there for about three years (Acts 19; 20:31).

Paul wrote to Timothy how to handle the false teaching which will come out of the church in his first letter which is 1 Timothy.

After few months Paul knew that he had been imprisoned and this time into the dungeons then his times has come. So one last time he longed to see his spiritual son. So primary purpose of this letter is to ask Timothy to visit him as soon as possible.

Also 2 Timothy is a personal letter to Timothy how he ought to live in Faith and role model Jesus Christ and Paul.

Paul encouraging Timothy to live a true Christian life by being strong in what he believes in and by string up the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which is in him.

Apostle Paul is lonely and feeling very cold in the prison of Rome so he asked him to bring his personal effects when Timothy comes to see him.

### **Brief Summary:**

This personal letter focuses on how to live a good Christian life.

Greetings 1:1-2

Timothy Faith and heritage 1:3-7

Don't be ashamed of the Gospel 1:8-23

Loyal to your Faith 1:13-18

Be strong in suffering and in Grace 2:1-13

How to handle to false 2:14-26

Evil persons in the last days 3:1-9

Continue in the word of God 3:9-17

Preach the Gospel & Teach the Truth 4:1-5

Paul ready to die 4:6-8

Personal words to Timothy 4:9-18

Final remark and Greetings 4:19-22

The main purpose of the church to proclaim the Gospel truth to the world and the responsibilities of the leaders is to teach the word of God and live an example in his first letter to Timothy.

From the time between these two letters the conditions of the church had deteriorated and leaders were becoming increasingly becoming Godlessness and worldliness like the last days ministers.

If the church failed to fulfil its purpose then God's truth would cease to go out into the world. The church would fail if its leaders failed to teach the whole truth of God's word in the church.

Paul wrote to Timothy in this letter saying that the essential resources of the Christian minister are God's gifts and grace.

Paul calls himself as a preacher, an apostle and teacher in this letter. (2 Timothy 1:11)

Paul gives always role model of Christ and himself when it comes to suffering for the gospel, loyal to the faith, be stronger in Grace and faith.

## **Application for Today:**

### **1. God will guard your life when guard His truth.**

#### **2 Timothy 1:12 & 14,**

*For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

*That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. (NKJV)*

The Lord will guard the lives of those who guard His Word. So there is no safer place for us to be than doing God's will.

### **2. We have been given the scriptures to trust and it comes with an obligation to preach to others.**

**2 Timothy 2:2,** *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. (NKJV)*

It's our responsibility to trust in the infallible word of God and to find faithful person to pass it on. The word of God will change the destiny of a person for eternity then is it not our responsibility to pass it on??

Paul writes to the church in Corinth saying that he was compelled to preach!!

**1 Corinthian 9:16**, *I have no right to boast just because I preach the gospel. After all, I am under orders to do so. And how terrible it would be for me if I did not preach the gospel!* (GNT)

### **3. Be whole hearted**

**2 Timothy 2:15**, *Work hard so God can say to you, "Well done." Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means.* (TLB)

The approval from God requires diligence, working hard and whole hearted effort not half hearted effort. In our modern day everyone wants to just the minimum and get by.

Also people will work only when the boss is watching or the children do their studies only when they are supervised. People obey the traffic rules when there is a camera to record.

Are you also a Christian only when someone is watching you? Are you whole heartedly committed to God?

## 4. Work Hard

**2 Timothy 2:4-6**, *Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. <sup>5</sup>And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. <sup>6</sup>And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labour.* (NLT)

Three examples,

- Soldier, (Commitment)
- Athlete and (Work hard to train)
- Farmer (Patience)

Like soldiers, Christians should work hard to do what the Lord wants. They should not get involved with things that would prevent them from doing this. Their main purpose in life is to please the Lord whom they serve.

In the ancient Olympics, competitors had to swear an oath before the statue of Zeus that they had been in strict training for ten months. Christian life is like a race and those who believe should train hard. They should accept the discipline of the Lord until He returns. But in this race, unlike in the world there is only one winner but God promises the crown of life to all who love and trust him to the end of their lives.

Christians, like the farmer should work hard to do what the Lord wants. The results of that good work is the harvest. The Lord will bless those who have worked well faithfully for Him. The Lord will give rewards to them for eternity.

## **5. Know and teach the scriptures**

The most important work of any leader in the ministry is twofold.

- a) Know the scriptures
- b) Teach them

Knowledge of the whole counsel of God is essential. We must know them because God uses His word to build the people. This is not just for the pastors or teachers but for every one of us.

**2 Timothy 3:14-16**, *But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.<sup>15</sup> You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (NLT)*

## **6. Be ready to share, Always!**

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

*Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. (NLT)*

We should be always ready to share the word of God, time season place immaterial. We need to defend the faith we have in Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me give you an illustration. Imagine there is a court case, a doctor has been accused saying that he did not attend to the person who had met with accident. If he had attended the patient then he could have been alive.

Now think about what we have been entrusted in our hands by God? The Gospel can change the person going to hell for eternity. So we should be ready!! Always !!!

## **7. Fulfil your ministry**

**2 Timothy 4:5**, *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.* (NLT)

Pauls great appeal to Timothy was that fulfil the call as an evangelist.

I would like to quote from one the great preacher Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones, who preached in Westminster Chapel in London.

The following comments in a sermon that he delivered on April 28, 1929. Quote,

*"It is not often that I make any kind of personal reference from this pulpit, but I feel this morning that I must speak of*

*an experience which bears on this very subject. [He was preaching on Matt. 22:20-21: "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's."] When I came here [as pastor of this church], people said to me, 'Why give up good work—a good profession—after all the medical profession. Why give that up? If you had been a bookie, for instance, and wanted to give that up to preach the gospel, we would understand and agree with you and say that you were doing a grand thing. But medicine— a good profession, healing the sick and relieving pain!' One man even said this: 'If you were a solicitor [lawyer] and gave it up, I'd give you a pat on the back, but to give up medicine!' I felt like saying to them, 'If you knew more about the work of a doctor you would understand. We but spend most of our time rendering people fit to go back to their sin!' I saw men on their sick beds. I spoke to them of their immortal souls. They promised grand things. Then they got better, and back they went to their old sin! I saw I was helping these men to sin and I decided that I would do no more of it. I want to heal souls. If a man has a diseased body and his soul is all right, he is all right to the end. But a man with a healthy body and a diseased soul is all right for sixty years or so and then he has to face an eternity of hell. Ah, yes! We have sometimes to give up those things which are good for that which is the best of all: the joy of salvation and newness of life."*

My prayer and plea this evening to you is this, ***Fulfil your ministry!!***