

1 & 2 TIMOTHY

Author: Paul

Date: A.D. 62; 67

Paul writes these two inspired letters to his beloved son in the faith. Timothy received his name, which means “honoring God,” from his mother (Eunice) and his grandmother (Lois). They were devout Jews who became believers in Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 1:5) and taught Timothy the Scriptures from his youth (2 Tim. 3:15). Timothy’s father was Greek and apparently not a believer in Christ. He may have died before Timothy met Paul.

Timothy most likely became a believer in Christ on Paul’s first missionary trip to Lystra (Acts 14:6-23). When Paul revisited Lystra as part of his second trip (Acts 16:1-3), he heard good reports about Timothy’s faith. Paul invited Timothy to accompany him on the rest of his missionary journey. Although Timothy was a young man (probably late teens or early twenties), he had a reputation for godliness. Timothy became Paul’s disciple, friend, and co-worker for the rest of the apostle’s life. Paul frequently mentions Timothy in his other letters.

After Paul’s first release from the Roman prison (Acts 28:30), he revisited some of the cities in which he had ministered including Ephesus. Later, Paul sent Timothy there to deal with some problems in the church at Ephesus. Paul went on to Macedonia where he wrote this first letter to Timothy. In this first letter, Paul seeks to guide his younger, less experienced assistant with very practical instruction. He deals with some doctrine, theological truths, public worship, Christian conduct, false teachers and Christian discipline.

Key verse: “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses,” (1 Tim. 6:12).

1 Timothy Outline

- I. Paul’s Charge Concerning Doctrine (1:1-20)
- II. Paul’s Charge Concerning Public Worship (2:1 - 3:16)
- III. Paul’s Charge Concerning False Teachers (4:1-16)
- IV. Paul’s Charge Concerning Church Discipline (5:1-25)
- V. Paul’s Charge Concerning Pastoral Motives (6:1-21)

Second Timothy finds Paul back in prison in Rome. This is the last of his inspired letters and was written shortly before his martyrdom. Paul’s letters provide Timothy with encouragement in ministry and with detailed instructions for church organization and living the Christian life.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul writes as one who knows his days are earth are coming to an end. He seeks to challenge and strengthen his faithful, yet somewhat timid, son in the faith. He urges Timothy to be steadfast in the fulfillment of his divinely appointed task. Central to everything in 2 Timothy is the sure foundation of the Word of God.

Key verses: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” (2 Tim. 2:15). “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work, (2 Tim. 3:16).

2 Timothy Outline

- I. Persevere in Present Testings (1:1 - 2:26)
- II. Endure in Future Testings (3:1- 4:22)