

Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy



Lesson 1-Being Faithful to the Calling of the Ministry

Focus: 2Timothy 1:1-18

- **Introduction:** *The second letter to Timothy was also written by the hand of Paul. Paul, the aged apostle was passing on his wisdom and experience concerning the Lord's work. In this letter he gave more instruction to Timothy about the importance of the Bible or "the Scriptures" as the basis for all Christian life and ministry (of knowing it well, studying it, living by it, and preaching and teaching it both "in season and out of season"). Timothy was warned of coming dangers to the Christian faith, terrible worldliness among many believers and our need to proclaim God's biblical truth and to fulfill a faithful Christian ministry. The instruction given here is very important and needful for us to follow closely today!*

Paul was nearing the end of his life at the time when this book was written. He was in prison at this time, condemned as an "evil doer" (2:9). Many had forsaken him and were not supporting him at this time (1:15; 4:10, 11, 16-18). Many people had fled for fear of their lives and Paul had prayed that it would "not be laid to their charge" or held against them (4:16). The political scene and story behind this setting is as follows: The evil, twisted, and cruel Roman Emperor **Nero** was in power at this time, **from A.D. 54-68**. The city of Rome had been **burned by a fire in July of A.D. 64**. Many began to suspect that Nero was the person behind this fire. In efforts to cover his tracks and to clear his own name, **Nero began blaming the Christians** for the fire. **A terrible persecution** broke out against Christians in Rome and also in other Roman provinces. Christians were being fed to wild animals and burned as human torches in the city. This was all by the command of Nero. For the last couple years, it is believed that Paul had been doing his ministry in Spain, AD 64 to 66. **Paul returned to Asia [minor] in AD 66**. Paul's enemies used the political unrest, and growing hatred and distrust against Christians to their advantage. Paul was arrested and no one came to support him (1:15; 4:16). He sat in a Roman cold Roman prison and was now expecting to die soon (2 Tim. 4:13,21; **2 Tim. 4:6,7**). **The second letter to Timothy was the last of Paul's written letters that we know of.**

Paul wrote this letter from Rome in the fall of AD 67 to Timothy. He was hoping that Timothy would come to him before the cold winter (4:13,21). Timothy was evidently still in Ephesus at this time, and would have gone through Troas and Macedonia on his way to Rome (See 1:18; 4:13, 19).

- **Addressing the letter to Timothy (v.1-5)**
 - Paul had great love and concern for Timothy. He was a "son in the faith" to Paul. Timothy had not learned much about his Jewish faith from his father, who was Greek

(an intercultural and interfaith marriage). But his mother and grandmother were very faithful women and it was from them and their faith that Timothy first learned to have a truly sincere faith (v.5; **Acts 16:1-3**; 14:8-20; 2 Tim. 3:15). Paul realized quickly from local reports that Timothy was a young man of strong faith and was very suitable for the ministry! So, he brought him into the ministry and began training him up. Paul never stopped praying for Timothy but was always concerned for his welfare and wanted him to become the best possible minister that he could be. Commonly in those days, a minister of the Jewish community, who was successful would train up younger ministers under him. Paul also followed suit in this, and it was in the order of God too. We should do the same in bringing up and training young ministers for God! Let the experienced work alongside of the inexperienced and train them up in the work of God!

- **Called and appointed to the ministry by God and the recognition of God's chosen leaders (v.6-11)**
 - Paul had laid hands on Timothy to pray for him and to anoint him for the ministry. God had chosen Paul and it was evident that Timothy had also been called of God for a very spiritual ministry! Paul recognized that and officially brought Timothy onboard in the line of sacred ministry for God! **It is a "holy calling" (v.9)**, and by God's grace alone can we be brought to such a place, for surely, of our own selves, none of us deserve such a holy privilege. We must be ever thankful to God for His mercies through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!
 - (v.10) Through Jesus and His gospel "life and immortality" were brought to light. When Jesus comes again, those who belong to Him shall experience this fully! (ref. 1 Cor. 15:51-54).
- **God Calls us to ministry and we must stay there no matter what comes (v.12-18)**
 - Surely Paul and the others faced many hardships in their days of ministry, but God had called them to this special task of ministry and they were not to give it up, no matter what was coming to them!! To be strong, **we must KNOW in whom we believe (v.12)**, as did Paul, **"Hold fast" to sound doctrinal teachings**, and have strong **"faith and love"** in Christ Jesus!! We must keep our faith by staying strong in the Holy Spirit! (v.14).
 - (v.15-18) Whether people help us in the ministry or flee for fear of their lives, we must pray for their souls, and our own as well, that we will all fulfill the will of God, repenting of our foolish sins, and reaching Heaven's gates in peace and salvation at last! Let it be so in our lives! For this we must pray!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to be faithful to God and His calling for your life? _____ *(If you're not sure just what that calling or purpose is, then will you prayerfully seek to know it by the revelation of God?)*