

II TIMOTHY

Synopsis: ^ The book of II Timothy is the second letter to the young preacher from Paul. Paul apparently believes his death is imminent (4:6). The purpose of the letter is to pass the torch to Timothy, who was to keep it burning, then pass it on to others (2:2). A key passage is “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (4:2).

Author: Paul

Chapters: 4

Background: ^ At the close of Acts, Paul had been in prison two years (Acts 28:30, 31), but he expected to be released soon (Philemon 22). By the time he wrote II Timothy, he was in prison in Rome and believed his death was imminent (II Tim. 4:6ff.). We are not sure where Timothy was at the time of the writing of this letter.

Paul urged Timothy “to come...quickly” (4:9). “Do your utmost to come before winter” (4:21). The implication is if Timothy did not come before winter, Paul would not see him as he would likely be dead by spring.

Above all, Paul expressed his faith in Jesus, who had helped him through all his troubles, and who (Paul was confident) would help him now (4:8, 17, 18). According to tradition, Paul was beheaded in Rome A.D. 64 or 65.

Five Great Lessons*

1. The gospel must be passed on to the next generation.
2. The Bible can and must be understood.
3. Some are determined to cause trouble in the church.
4. The reward for faithfulness is heaven.
5. Some have only the appearance of truth.

Outline^

SALUTATION (1:1, 2)

- I. PAUL ENCOURAGES TIMOTHY (1:3 - 2:26).
 - a. Be faithful (1:3-18).
 - b. Be steadfast (2:1-13).
 - c. Be approved of God (2:14-26).

*Butterworth, Ken. *God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook*, 2006.

^Roper, David. *Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures*, 1999.

- II. PAUL WARNS TIMOTHY (3:1 – 4:8).
 - a. Beware of apostasy (3:1-9).
 - b. Defend the faith (3:10-17).
 - c. Preach the Word (4:1-8).

CLOSING NOTES: Greetings, personal requests, benediction (4:9-22).

Lessons^*

“Famous last words” of an individual often have special significance. In II Timothy we have the last known recorded words of one of the world’s greatest men: the apostle Paul. An important focus of this letter (as well as I Timothy and Titus) is found in 1:13-14: “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing [treasure] which was committed [entrusted] to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.” God’s Word is like a treasure that has been given into our keeping; we should guard it with our lives!

The Word of God has been given by inspiration (3:16-17) and must be guarded, taught, and obeyed. It is simple (3:15), knowable (3:14-15), holy (3:15), able (3:15), produces faith (3:15), will save (3:15), is inspired (3:16), and must be preached (4:2). We are to learn how to “rightly divide” it (2:15, KJV) or “handle it aright” (ASV). The only way we can do that is by constant and diligent use.

In 2:24-26 we see a beautiful picture of “the servant of the Lord,” including a summary of the attitude and approach we should use in teaching others. That attitude includes being gentle, patient, and humble in correcting those in opposition.

The words in 3:1-7 sound as if they came directly from today’s headlines! As we read in Ecclesiastes 1:9, “there is nothing new under the sun.”

Challenging Themes* & Selected Passages

- 1:5 Christian mothers and grandmothers have trained many gospel preachers.
- 1:13 The Bible is the pattern (blueprint) for all things. To it we should “hold fast”.
- 2:15 The key to obtaining more knowledge of the Bible? Study and then study some more.
- 3:16-17 The God-breathed scriptures can and must be understood.
- 4:6-8, 18 The reward for faithful and righteous lives in Christ? Crown of righteousness & heavenly kingdom

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