

Key Verse: “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”
2 Timothy 1:7

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

We know that Paul was imprisoned in Rome and released from house arrest in A.D. 62. Following his release, Paul resumed his itinerant ministry in the Mediterranean world. Writing to Titus from somewhere in Macedonia, probably between A.D. 62 and 66, he said that he planned to visit Nicapolis (Titus 3:12). It is not known if he did get to visit there. We know he visited Troas from 2 Timothy 4:13 and that he eventually ended in prison in Rome for the second time (2 Timothy 2:9) most likely in a dungeon this time. He had already had his initial hearing and was awaiting trial when he wrote this epistle (2 Timothy 4:16). He believed that the Roman authorities would execute him soon (2 Timothy 4:6). There are 2 reasons to believe that Paul wrote 2 Timothy in the fall of A.D. 67. 1st Paul suffered execution shortly before Nero committed suicide in June of AD 68. 2nd, Paul wrote his last epistle fairly near the time of his execution but before the winter of AD 67-68; we learn from 4:21 Paul asked them to get to Rome before winter.

2 Timothy is unlike either 1 Timothy or Titus. It is an intensely personal letter written to encourage Timothy in his difficult task and to ask him to come to Rome. Since it was written to one of Paul's best friends who knew his theology, and not to a church who did not know his theology (Titus) or to a church who knew his theology but was choosing to ignore it (1 Timothy), one is not surprised if 2 Timothy does not sound like other letters. It was not intended to be a theological treatise.

Paul used the usual format for letters of the first century which included the name of the sender, the name of the recipient, and a greeting. In this letter he expanded it by adding a description of himself. He identifies his office – an apostle and tells by whose authority he holds the office (chosen by the will of God. **2307** *thélēma* (thel'-ay-mah) (from [2309](#) /*thélō*, "to desire, wish") – properly, a *desire* (*wish*), often referring to God's "preferred-will," i.e. His "*best-offer*" to people which can be *accepted or rejected*.

First, Paul attributed his calling as an apostle to "the will of God" (v. 1) rather than to the command of God as in First Timothy. The wording here is what Paul used in several of his other epistles (1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians).

Called to be an apostle - “called” means not merely to be invited, but has the sense of being appointed. It indicates that he had not assumed the office himself, but that he was set apart to it by the authority of Christ himself. It was important for Paul to state this, (1) Because the other apostles had been called or chosen to this work [John 15:16](#), [John 15:19](#); [Matthew 10:1](#); [Luke 6:13](#); and, Because Paul was not one of those originally appointed. It was of consequence for him therefore, to affirm that he had not taken this high office to himself, but that he had been called to it by the authority of Jesus Christ. His appointment to this office he not infrequently takes occasion to vindicate; [1 Corinthians 9:1](#), etc.: [Galatians 1:12-24](#); [2 Corinthians 12:12](#); [1 Timothy 2:7](#); [2 Timothy 1:11](#); [Romans 11:13](#).

Then he stated the reason he was called. And he was appointed that he might proclaim the life which God had in view for mankind by the incarnation of his Son Jesus Christ, and which was the end of all the promises he had made to men, and the commandments he had delivered to all his prophets since the world began. This new life begins at conversion and is fulfilled in eternity.

Day One: 2 Timothy 1:1 – 10

Prayer: We praise you because You are the One and Only True and Living God. We thank You for the rich spiritual heritage you have made known to us through Your Word. Amen!

Lesson 20: 2 Timothy

Key Verse: “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”
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1. What does grace mean to you? Mercy? Peace? 2 _____

2. Why do you think Paul reminded Timothy of his spiritual heritage? What was your spiritual heritage? 4–6.
What spiritual heritage are you passing on to your family?

Timothy and others may have been afraid for their lives because believers were under severe persecution. It had become dangerous to be a Christian or even to be associated with leaders of the church such as Paul. Many of Paul’s followers had deserted him v. 15. So Paul gives some instructions to Timothy. I like to think of this instruction as: B.I.B.L.E Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

3. What were the instructions in v. 8? Why is it important for us to heed these instructions also? Matthew 10:33 & Ephesians 1:4 _____

4. What has Jesus done for us? 9 & 10 _____

Day Two: 2 Timothy 1:13 – 2:10

Prayer: Father, help us as we study your basic instructions through your word and to apply it to our daily lives. Amen!

5. What were the basic instructions to Timothy and to us in v. 13 & 14?

6. What is the main source of our needed strength for daily living? 2:1

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7. Believers are all soldiers in the Lord’s army. What is our mission? 2:3 & 4

8. Paul uses several examples to suggest traits we need to have in our service to the Lord. What are they?
4 - 7

9. What reason did Paul give for his suffering? 2:8 – 10

Day Three: 2 Timothy 2:11 – 26

Prayer: Focus on 2 Timothy 11 – 13

10. What advice did Paul give about Christians having arguments over words? 2:14.

11. What did he say would be the result of godless chatter? 2:16

12. Who were the two who had wandered from the truth? What were they teaching? 2:17b & 18

13. What were Paul’s instructions? 2:22 – 26

Day Four: 2 Timothy 3

Prayer: Father, today we thank you that all Scripture comes from You and that it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Amen!

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14. Describe the “last days”. 1 – 5. How are we to treat these people?

15. What type people were vulnerable to their teachings? 6 & 7

16. How can we recognize these people? 8 & 9

17. What can we do to combat their influence? 10a, 14 & 15 & Joshua 1:8

18. Paul says all believers can expect persecution. How have you prepared yourself for this?

Day Five: 2 Timothy 4

In this last chapter in 2nd Timothy, Paul lets us know that he will soon die. Another example of someone facing death is Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was in a Nazi concentration camp conducting a worship service. It was to be his last as the guards came for him at the end of the service. He said, “This is the end; for me the beginning of life.” Here are 2 examples of men facing death. Neither man seemed to have any fear of dying whatsoever. Whether we want to think about it or not each of us will face death if we die before Christ comes again. Those of us in Christ know the end of this earthly life marks a transition, not a termination. Faith for today & bright hope for tomorrow – as the song says – (that hope in Christ) gives us strength to face whatever life brings. Sharing that hope – passing it on – is our ministry.

19. What did Paul say to make sure Timothy “got the point”? 1

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20. What did he mean by the phrase the “living and the dead”?

21. Who is Jesus going to judge? See also 2 Corinthians 5:10

22. What were some instructions from Paul? 4 & 5

23. Paul told us how he was finishing the race. How is your race going?

Prayer: To Him by glory for ever and ever. Amen!