

2 Timothy

Purpose

To give final instructions and encouragement to Timothy, pastor at Ephesus

Author

Paul

To Whom Written

Timothy

Date Written

Approximately 66-67 AD, from prison in Rome

Setting

Paul was virtually alone in prison; only Luke was with him. Paul wrote this letter to pass the torch to the new generation of church leaders.

Key People

Paul and Timothy

Key Places

Rome and Ephesus

Key Verse

"Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth." *2 Timothy 2:15*

Special Feature

Because this is Paul's last letter, it reveals his heart and his priorities

An Overview (4 Chapters)

- Foundations of Christian Service (*1:1-2:26*)
- Difficult Times for Christian Service (*3:1-4:22*)

Major Themes

- *Boldness*: In the face of opposition and persecution, Timothy was to carry out his ministry without fear or shame. Paul urged him to utilize boldly the gifts of preaching and teaching that the Spirit had given him.
- *Faithfulness*: Christ was faithful to all of us in dying for our sin. Paul was a faithful minister even when he was in prison. Paul urged Timothy to maintain not only sound doctrine but also loyalty, diligence, and endurance.
- *Preaching and Teaching*: Paul and Timothy were active in preaching and teaching the Good News about Jesus Christ. Paul encouraged Timothy not only to carry the torch of truth but also to train others, passing on to them sound doctrine and enthusiasm for Christ's mission.
- *Error*: In the final days before Christ's return, there will be false teachers, spiritual drop-outs, and heretics. The remedy for error is to have a solid program for teaching Christians.