

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (c. 66)

2 Timothy 1–4

Salutation

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, according to the promise of life which *is* in Christ Jesus,
2 to Timothy, *my* dear child. Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul's Gratitude for Timothy's Faith

3 I am thankful to God, whom I have served with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day,
4 longing to see you *as* I remember your tears, so that I may be filled with joy,
5 remembering the sincere faith in you, which lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that *is* in you also,

Paul Urges Timothy to Rededicate Himself to the Ministry of the Gospel

6 for which reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands.
7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and love and self-discipline.
8 Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor me his prisoner, but suffer along with *me* for the gospel, according to the power of God,
9 who saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace that was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
10 but has now been disclosed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought to light life and immortality through the gospel,
11 for which I was appointed a proclaimer and an apostle and a teacher,
12 for which reason also I suffer these *things*. But *I am* not ashamed, because I know in whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard *what* I have entrusted until that day.
13 Hold fast to the pattern of sound words which you heard from me, in the faith and love *that are* in Christ Jesus.
14 Guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
15 You know this, that all those in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.
16 May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he refreshed me many times, and was not ashamed of my imprisonment,
17 but *when he* was in Rome, he diligently sought me and found *me*.
18 May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord in that day! And how much he served *me* in Ephesus you know very well.

Illustrations of Effective Service for God

2:1 You, therefore, my child, be strong in the grace *that is* in Christ Jesus,
2 and *the things* which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these *things* to faithful people who will be competent to teach others also.
3 Suffer together with *me* as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
4 No one who serves as a soldier is entangled in the activities of *everyday* life, so that he may please the one who enlisted *him*.
5 And also if anyone competes he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
6 The farmer who works hard must *be* the first to receive a share of the crops.
7 Consider what I am saying, for the Lord will grant you understanding in all *these things*.

Endure to the End for the Sake of the Gospel

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David according to my gospel,
9 in connection with which I suffer misfortune to the point of imprisonment as a criminal, but the word of God is not bound.
10 Because of this, I endure all *things* for the sake of the chosen, in order that they also may obtain salvation *which is* in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
11 The saying *is* trustworthy:

For if we died with *him*, we will also live with *him*;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with *him*;
if we deny *him*, he also will deny us;

13 if we are unfaithful, he remains faithful—he cannot deny himself.

Teach Sound Doctrine and Avoid Useless Quarrels

14 Remind *people* of these *things*, solemnly urging *them* before the Lord not to dispute about words. *This is* in no way beneficial *and leads to* the ruin of the hearers.

15 Make every effort to present yourself approved to God, a worker having no need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.

16 But avoid pointless chatter, for it will progress to greater ungodliness,

17 and their message will spread like gangrene, among whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

18 who have deviated concerning the truth *by* saying the resurrection has already taken place, and they are upsetting the faith of some.

19 However, the solid foundation of God stands firm, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” [Num 16:5] and

“Everyone who names the name of the Lord must abstain from unrighteousness.” [cf. Ps 34:14; Prov 3:7]

20 Now in a great house *there* are not only gold and silver vessels, but also wooden and earthenware *ones*, some of which *are* for honorable use, and some of which *are* for ordinary use.

21 Therefore, if someone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

22 But flee from youthful desires, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, *and* peace, in company with those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart.

23 But avoid foolish and uninformed controversies, *because you* know that they produce quarrels.

24 And the slave of the Lord must not quarrel, but be kind toward everyone, skillful in teaching, tolerant,

25 correcting those who are opposed with gentleness, *seeing* whether perhaps God may grant them repentance to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and they will come to their senses again *and escape* from the trap of the devil, being held captive by him to *do* his will.

Difficult Times Will Come—With Them Will Come False Teachers

3:1 But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come,

2 for people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 hardhearted, irreconcilable, slanderous, without self-control, savage, with no interest for what is good,

4 traitors, reckless, conceited, loving pleasure rather than loving God,

5 maintaining a form of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid these *people*.

6 For from these are those who slip into houses and captivate foolish women loaded down with sins, led by various kinds of desires,

7 always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these oppose the truth, people corrupted in mind, disqualified concerning the faith.

9 But they will not progress to a greater extent, for their folly will be quite evident to everyone, as also the *folly* of those *two* was.

Paul’s Example of Perseverance in Persecution

10 But you have faithfully followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

11 persecutions, *and* sufferings that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, *and* in Lystra, what sort of persecutions I endured, and the Lord delivered me from all *of them*.

12 And indeed, all those who want to live in a godly manner in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13 But evil people and imposters will progress to the worse, deceiving and being deceived.

The Vital Importance of God’s Word

14 But you continue in *the things* which you have learned and are convinced *of*, *because you* know from whom you learned *them*,

15 and that from childhood you have known the holy writings that are able *to make* you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture *is* inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

17 in order that the person of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Paul’s Charge to Preach the Gospel

4:1 I solemnly charge *you* before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom,

2 preach the word, be ready in season *and* out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and instruction.

3 For there will be a time when they will not put up with sound teaching, but in accordance with their own desires, they will accumulate for themselves teachers, because they have an insatiable curiosity,

4 and they will turn away from the hearing of the truth, but will turn to myths.

5 But you, be self-controlled in all *things*, bear hardship patiently, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Paul’s Testimony in the Face of Death

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is imminent.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have completed the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Final Requests, Warnings and Greetings

9 Make haste to come to me quickly.

10 For Demas deserted me, *because he* loved the present age, and went to Thessalonica. Crescens *went* to Galatia; Titus *went* to Dalmatia.

11 Luke alone is with me. Take along Mark *and* bring *him* with you, because he is useful to me for ministry.

12 But I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

13 *When you* come, bring the cloak that I left behind in Troas with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.

14 Alexander the metalworker did me much harm; may the Lord pay back to him according to his deeds, [cf. [Ps 28:4](#)]

15 against whom you also be on guard, because he vehemently opposed our words.

16 At my first defense, no one came to my *aid*, but *they* all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

17 But the Lord helped me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fulfilled and all the Gentiles might hear, and he rescued *me* from the lion's mouth.

18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will save *me* for his heavenly kingdom, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

20 Erastus remained in Corinth, but Trophimus I left behind in Miletus *because he* was sick.

21 Make haste to come before winter. Eubulus and Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers greet you.

22 The Lord *be* with your spirit. Grace *be* with you.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) "It may be assumed that Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28) and that he engaged in a subsequent second Aegean ministry that provides the proper framework for 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. If so, Paul probably wrote his first letter to Timothy some time after the year 60 (the most likely date of Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment), but before 66, the likely date for Paul's second Roman imprisonment that was followed by his martyrdom under Nero, who died in AD 68. The most natural reading of 1 Timothy 1:3 is that Paul wrote from Macedonia. Timothy, who was at that time stationed in Ephesus, needed counsel on how to deal with the false teachers in the Ephesian church. To this end Paul interwove personal instructions with those on community life, so that Timothy received public apostolic support while it was acknowledged that he also had certain standards to meet. Paul probably wrote 2 Timothy from Rome in the year 66. Titus was likely written in the interim between 1 and 2 Timothy (or possibly prior to 1 Timothy) from an unknown location."¹

¹ Andreas J. Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown*, (B&H Academic, 2009), p. 644.