

2 TIMOTHY

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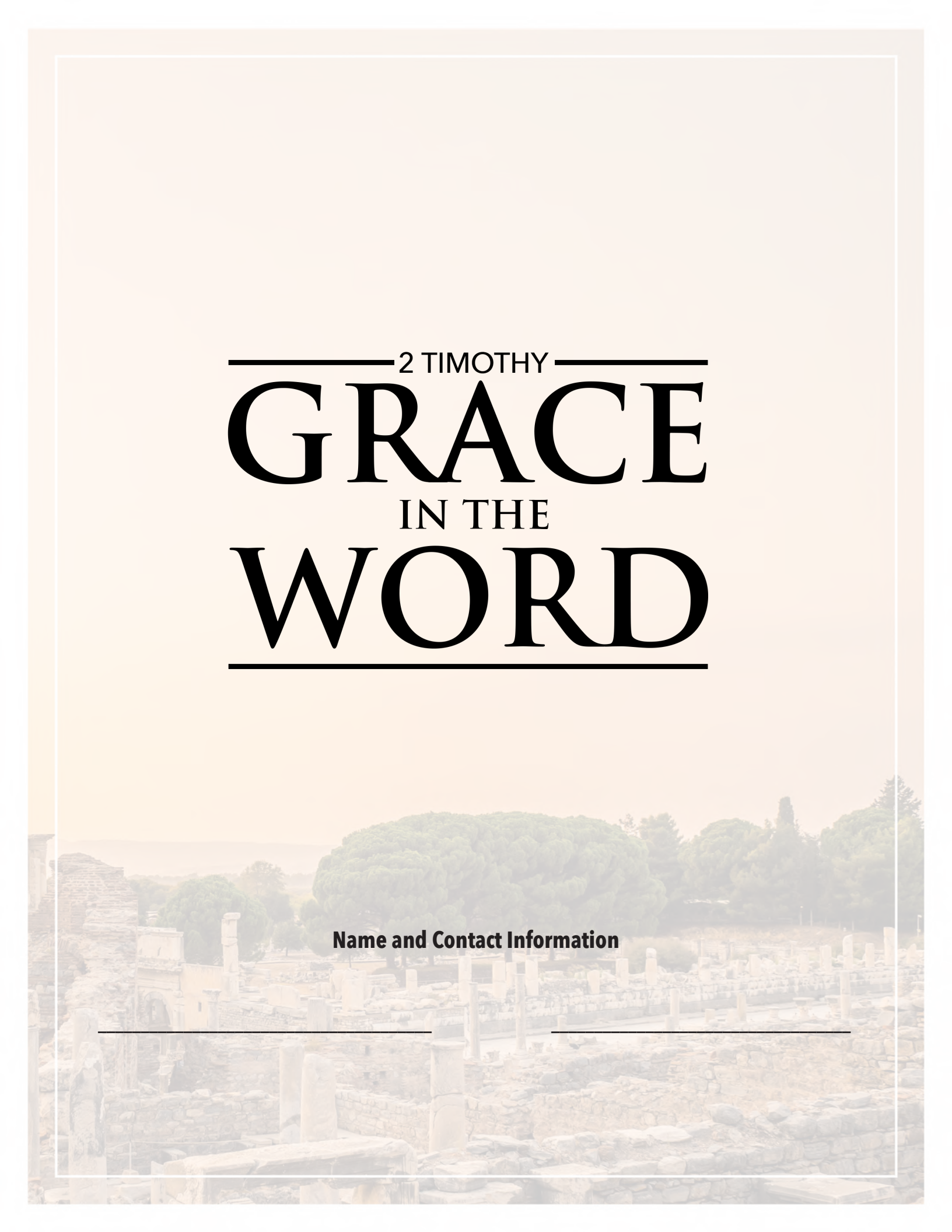
# GRACE

IN THE

# WORD

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# --- 2 TIMOTHY --- GRACE IN THE WORD ---

**Name and Contact Information**

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# A JOURNEY THROUGH 2 TIMOTHY

## ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

This reading plan walks you through the letter of 2 Timothy that Paul wrote to his ministry partner and protege, Timothy. This plan will take an in-depth look at each chapter of Paul's second letter to Timothy and point to his words' historical, spiritual, and practical significance.

### EACH DAY'S READING INCLUDES:

- A scripture reading for that week's corresponding chapter in 2 Timothy and other related scripture references throughout the bible.
- A commentary, devotional, or reflection thought to process the message of the text more intentionally.
- Space for you to write thoughts or questions from that day's corresponding scripture or reflection.

## ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

A great companion to this study is the *BibleProject.com*.

You can watch the videos that give an overview of 2 Timothy and how to read New Testament letters:

- 2 Timothy Overview Video from BibleProject - [graceintheword.cc/2Timothy](https://www.graceintheword.cc/2Timothy)
- How to Read New Testament Letters in Historical Context - [graceintheword.cc/NTLettersHistorical](https://www.graceintheword.cc/NTLettersHistorical)
- How to Read New Testament Letters in Literary Context - [graceintheword.cc/NTLettersLiterary](https://www.graceintheword.cc/NTLettersLiterary)

Check out [graceclarksville.com/graceintheword](https://www.graceclarksville.com/graceintheword) for more resources, and join our Facebook community at [facebook.com/groups/graceintheword](https://www.facebook.com/groups/graceintheword)

Study material in this guide was adapted from The BibleProject, ESV Study Bible, NLT Filament Bible App, 1 & 2 Timothy: He Reads Truth, N.T. Wright 2 Timothy Commentary, 2 Timothy Enduring Word by David Guzzik, The Message of 2 Timothy by John Stott

What is your hope for this study in God's Word?



# HOW TO READ A NEW TESTAMENT LETTER

2 Timothy is an epistle (letter) written by the apostle Paul to his apprentice Timothy.

## EPISTLES



EPISTLES ARE LETTERS THAT USUALLY HAVE A SECTION DEDICATED TO TEACHING TRUTH ABOUT GOD AND A SECTION DEDICATED TO TELLING PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THAT TRUTH. EXAMPLES INCLUDE ROMANS, TITUS, EPHESIANS, GALATIANS, 1 THESSALONIANS, AND 1 PETER.

## HOW TO READ A NEW TESTAMENT LETTER (EPISTLE)

*Adapted from "Galatians" She/He Reads Truth*

Most of the books that make up the New Testament are letters. Some were addressed to churches, while others were written to individuals. Here are some principles to keep in mind when reading these letters:

1. **Reading a letter can be like listening to one side of a conversation.**
  - We must look for context clues to figure out what was going on.
2. **Letters were meant to be read all at once.**
  - This allows the reader to see the author's progression of thought and make connections that might otherwise be missed.
3. **These letters were written to believers learning to live in Christian community.**
  - The authors intended for these to be read out loud to the entire church and often be shared with other churches.

4. **These letters were written to a specific group of believers in history.**
  - Some bits of guidance were written to a specific problem, while others articulate universally true principles.
5. **New Testament letters draw heavily on the Old Testament.**
  - The Old Testament was the Bible of the early church. The better we know the Old Testament, the better equipped we are to understand the New Testament letters.
6. **The New Testament Letters are part of our family history.**
  - Much has changed in the last two thousand years, but the faith that brought hope to Christians in these early churches is the same faith we hold on to today.
7. **Jesus is the point of these letters.**
  - These letters were written in the years right after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. They were written so the readers would grow in their understanding of who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do, so His followers can become more like Him.

## PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

### BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more and not puff me up.
3. God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

\*\* Prayers from The Bible Recap Reading Plan by Tara-Leigh Cobble \*\*

### TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, to whom it was written, and what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful, we recommend the NLT Study Bible)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, challenging
- Once you are finished reading, take a few minutes to meditate on what you have read:
  - Narrow down what you've read to just one or two main thoughts.
  - What did I learn about God in these passages?
  - How can I praise God for what this says about him?
  - What did I learn about the human heart in these passages?
  - What behavior/emotions come when I forget these things about God?
  - What is God revealing to me today that I need to listen to?
  - What sins do I need to confess in light of what God revealed today?
  - What next step can I take in light of what I have read today?

# WEEKLY CHECKLIST

## WEEK ONE: 2 TIMOTHY BACKGROUND AND THEME

- Day 1 - Acts 16:1-5, 1 Timothy 1:18-19, 1 Timothy 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-15
- Day 2 - 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, Philippians 2:19-24, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8, 1 Timothy 1:2-5
- Day 3 - 1 Timothy 1:18-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, 1 Timothy 4:11-16, 1 Timothy 6:11-14, 20-21
- Day 4 - 2 Timothy 1:2-4, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Matthew 28:18-20
- Day 5 - 2 Timothy 1:8-9, 2 Timothy 2:1-3 and 15, 2 Timothy 3:14-15, 2 Timothy 4:2-6
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

## WEEK TWO: 2 TIMOTHY 1

- Day 1- 2 Timothy 1:1-4, 1 Samuel 18:1-3, 1 Samuel 20:16-17, 41-42, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:17
- Day 2- 2 Timothy 1:1-4, Acts 16:1-5, Proverbs 22:6
- Day 3- 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- Day 4- 2 Timothy 1:8-12, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
- Day 5- 2 Timothy 1:12-18, Hebrews 11:1-2, Revelation 2:10
- Day 6- Recap - 2 Timothy 1
- Day 7- Rest Day

## WEEK THREE: 2 TIMOTHY 2

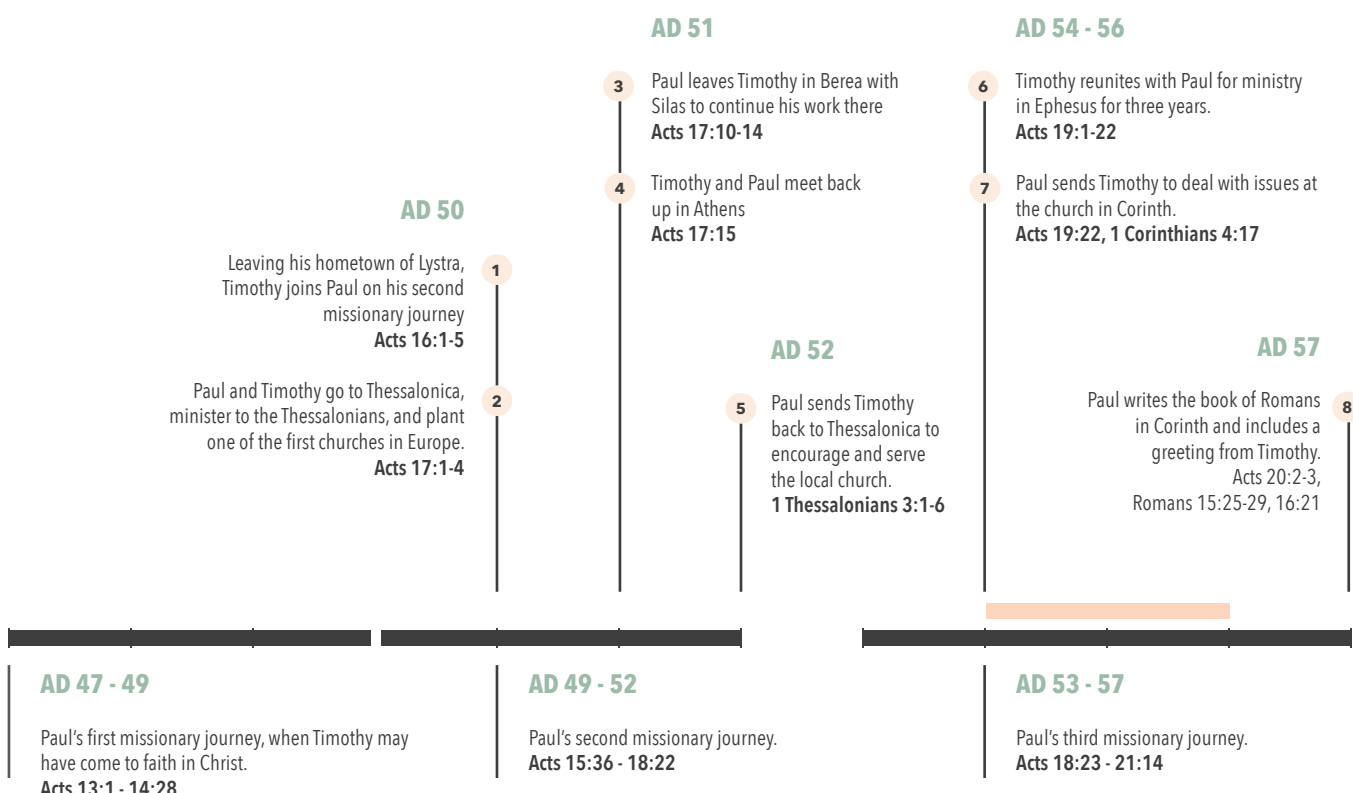
- Day 1- 2 Timothy 2:1-14, Romans 1:2-7, Romans 5:6-11, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- Day 2- 2 Timothy 2:1-14, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Day 3- 2 Timothy 2:1-14, Romans 6:3-11, Galatians 2:19-20, Ephesians 2:1-10
- Day 4- 2 Timothy 2:15-26, 1 Peter 3:13-18, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 4:29-32
- Day 5- 2 Timothy 2:15-26, Ephesians 4:17-27, Psalm 119:9-16
- Day 6- Recap - 2 Timothy 2
- Day 7- Rest Day

## **WEEK FOUR: 2 TIMOTHY 3**

- **Day 1-** 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 2 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 15:33, 1 Peter 3:8-18
- **Day 2-** 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Exodus 7:11 and 22
- **Day 3-** 2 Timothy 3:10-13, James 2:14-26
- **Day 4-** 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 4:4
- **Day 5-** 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 3
- **Day 6-** Recap - 2 Timothy 3
- **Day 7-** Rest Day

## **WEEK FIVE: 2 TIMOTHY 4**

- **Day 1-** 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Isaiah 40:6-8, James 1:19-21
- **Day 2-** 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Proverbs 3:5-8, James 1:5-8, Ephesians 5:6-20, Matthew 7:15-27
- **Day 3-** 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Deuteronomy 31:6-8, James 1:12-18
- **Day 4-** 2 Timothy 4:6-22, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Philippians 3:12-14, Acts 20:24
- **Day 5-** 2 Timothy 4:14-22, Colossians 3:12-17, Galatians 6:1-10
- **Day 6-** Recap - 2 Timothy 4
- **Day 7-** Rest Day







### AD 63

- 10 Paul writes to Timothy the letter that we know as 1 Timothy from Nicopolis  
**Titus 3:12**

### AD 67 & 68

- 11 Paul writes Timothy the letter that we know as 2 Timothy while in prison in Rome.  
12 Paul is martyred in Rome.

### AD 62

- 9 Paul sends Timothy to Ephesus again to pastor the church there.  
**1 Timothy 1:3**

To learn more about Paul and his story, check out Acts 9:1-19

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient ruins. In the center, there is a structure with several standing columns and a partially collapsed wall. To the left, there are more ruins, including a wall with a small arched opening. In the foreground, there is a low, curved stone wall. The background shows a hill covered in green trees under a clear sky.

WEEK 1 [REDACTED]

# **2 TIMOTHY BACKGROUND AND THEME**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7**

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

**2 TIMOTHY 2:15**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

**2 TIMOTHY 4:7**

# DAY 1 - MONDAY [REDACTED]

## WHO WAS TIMOTHY?

ACTS 16:1-5, 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19, 1 TIMOTHY 4:11-13, 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

### A TRUE SON IN FAITH

The book of 1 Timothy opens with these words from Paul...“ I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith.” This gives us insight into who Timothy was. He was an apprentice and dear friend to Paul during his time establishing the early churches. Timothy served as Paul’s representative to several churches and was later a pastor in Ephesus (when Paul wrote the letters of 1 & 2 Timothy). Paul likely met Timothy and his mother, Eunice, on one of his early missionary journeys. Timothy’s mother and grandmother had raised him in the Jewish tradition knowing of a coming Messiah. We even see Paul reference this heritage in 2 Timothy 1:5, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

Timothy’s mother was Jewish, and his father was Greek. This heritage gave Timothy a unique perspective and perhaps one that Paul knew would be useful in establishing churches. Timothy would have grown up with a deep knowledge of the Jewish scriptures. Even at a young age, he had a deeply rooted faith. It is assumed that his father was not a believer due to his Greek heritage, so Timothy grew up in a household of believers and non-believers. This likely proved helpful as the early church’s mission was to bring together Jews and Gentiles to fellowship together in the body of Christ.

Timothy was young, likely in his late teens/early twenties, when he joined Paul, but he already had a reputation that caught Paul’s attention. Paul knew he could mentor Timothy on staying strong in faith and firm in the gospel. Paul often sent Timothy to churches that were struggling to share the gospel with people who were not interested in hearing it. Timothy is an example for us as Christians today of how to be encouragers of the gospel amid a world that isn’t open to receiving truth.

Timothy’s life reflects that God can use a willing, teachable spirit, no matter your background, age, or insecurities. Timothy was not a mature, wise pillar of faith, but Paul saw something in him, a light that wanted to shine for Jesus and proclaim the truth. With Paul’s guidance and encouragement, we know that Timothy became a man who respected God’s Word, significantly impacted the early churches, and lived out a great legacy of faith.

### REFLECTION

What stands out about Timothy from these verses?

What can we learn from young Timothy and his reputation among those older than him?

## DAY 2 - TUESDAY [REDACTED]

# PAUL & TIMOTHY'S MINISTRY TOGETHER

1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-17, PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24, 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-8, 1 TIMOTHY 1:2-5

### PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Paul and Timothy were ministry partners. The two traveled to key areas where they preached and spread the gospel. Paul could not have done the impactful work for Christ that he did without the help, love, and support that Timothy offered. In return, Timothy's faith was strengthened, his ministry skills sharpened, and his heart for God's people deepened. Timothy was a young disciple serving in Lystra, an ancient city in modern-day Turkey. When Paul visited the cities of Derbe and Lystra, Timothy's reputation as a disciple of Christ drew Paul's attention. The two met, struck up a friendship, and Timothy followed him to do ministry work together.

The two of them would go on to work together for about twenty years. They would plant one of the first churches in Europe (in Thessalonica), minister and strengthen churches, and direct communities back to righteous worship and practice of faith. They would mourn their time away from one another and lament their persecutions together. Specifically, Timothy would help send and deliver the majority of Paul's epistles in the New Testament (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon).

The deep relationship that Paul and Timothy had for one another was the most beautiful part of their ministry together. Paul mentored Timothy and helped him grow up in the faith. In turn, Paul found in Timothy the son he never had (ex., He described Timothy as a son in 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 1:2). In 1 and 2 Timothy, we see affection in Paul's letters to his brother, co-worker, and son Timothy as well as, mentorship, and discipleship that we can all learn from Paul's final letter was to Timothy, and in it, we as Christians can learn much about how to keep faithfully serving and giving our lives away for the gospel.

### REFLECTION

Why is a discipleship relationship so important to the Christian life?

Who is someone you view the way Paul views Timothy? Who is someone who has mentored or discipled you?



## DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

# PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

1 TIMOTHY 1:18-20, 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6, 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16,  
1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16, 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-14, 20-21

### STICK TO THE TRUTH

Paul wrote the letter of 1 Timothy to Timothy after discovering false teachers in their midst in Ephesus. This letter is meant to help Timothy know how to handle leadership within the church and how to counter the false teachers by sticking to the truth of God's Word. Written towards the end of Paul's life, we sense the urgency in guarding the truth of scripture, clinging to sound doctrine and preserving it, teaching people to study the Scriptures and let the scripture form and shape them. Ephesus was the ancient center of pagan worship; because of this, Timothy encountered the struggles of the culture's influence on the church.

*Timothy's youth no doubt served him well, allowing for the energy and vigor he needed to serve his people. However, it also caused inevitable difficulties with older Christians who may not have taken quickly to the leadership of such a young man because of his lack of knowledge and experience in leadership. It was important to Paul that Timothy set an example of consistent faith and a good conscience, remaining above reproach and exercising the spiritual gifts that God had given him.*

- Chuck Swindoll

The message Paul gives Timothy in the book of 1 Timothy still rings true for us as believers in our culture today.

- Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. (1:19)
- Pray for all people. Ask God to help them, intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. (2:1)
- Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. (4:11)
- Stay true to what is right for the sake of your salvation and the salvation of those who hear you. (4:16)
- Pursue righteousness, a godly life, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for the true faith. (6:11-12)

The overarching theme of 1 Timothy is that true faith based on scripture, unlike false teaching, will bear fruit and lead to visible life change in the believer.

### REFLECTION

In what areas do you see culture influencing our churches today?

How could an emphasis in our lives on the truth of God's Word and living in light of this truth form us?

# DAY 4 - THURSDAY ████████████████████

## PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY 1:2-4, 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2, MATTHEW 28:18-20

### A LOVE LETTER

Paul's second letter to Timothy is a powerful one. It is far more personal than his first letter to him or arguably to any of the other churches he wrote to. It helps to remember that Paul is writing this letter from prison. This letter will be Paul's final letter to Timothy or anyone. In it, Paul writes his final words, words of encouragement, love, and instruction.

Paul gives instructions for Timothy's personal life and his integrity in ministry. Specifically, Paul points to how we can remain faithful servants of Christ in our lives and inadvertently how to give up our lives for Christ. This letter is a letter of love, not only to his partner in ministry, Timothy, but most importantly to his Savior, who he has given his entire life to following and introducing to the world at large. Paul uses his final words to be an encouragement and a directive for the work he dedicated his life to and for this work to continue after his earthly life has ended.

Final words are important. Jesus used His last words to call His disciples to continue to spread the gospel, and Paul is using his final words to encourage his son in ministry, Timothy, to do the same. The words we leave behind, the way we live, focus, and direct our lives will either point others to walk in fellowship with Christ or to turn away from Him. May we use as much love and intentionality as Paul did with Timothy in our lives with those around us.

### REFLECTION

Why do you think our final words are important?

How do Paul's final words to Timothy sum up their relationship and Paul's earthly ministry?

DAY 5 - FRIDAY 

# OVERALL THEME OF 2 TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9, 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-3 AND 15, 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15, 2 TIMOTHY 4:2-6

The overarching tone of Paul's letter of 2 Timothy is that of an older pastor passing the torch to the younger pastor to keep serving faithfully once he is gone. Our study of 2 Timothy will push us to think about how we face those who challenge our faith. We live in a culture much like Timothy, where not everyone is open to hearing the truth, and we are faced daily with moments that test whether we will bend to the culture or faithfully stand on the truth. Paul lived his life "poured out as an offering to God" and encouraged Timothy to do the same. This book encourages all believers to give their lives away in service to the Lord.

## REFLECTION

Spend some time with the Lord today. Ask him to show you an area where you need to stand on truth faithfully. Ask him to show you where you can pour out your life as an offering.

## DAY 6 - SATURDAY

# REFLECTION GUIDE

This week began our study of 2 Timothy. We looked at the ministry of Paul and Timothy, the letters Paul wrote to Timothy, and the theme of 2 Timothy. As we wrap up, reflect on the relationship/discipleship that these two shared, the focus of 2 Timothy, and follow these reflection practices below:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something we looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

DAY 7 - SUNDAY 

**REST DAY**

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.



WEEK 2 [REDACTED]

# 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 1



## GREETINGS FROM PAUL

<sup>1</sup> This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> I am writing to Timothy, my dear son.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

## ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE FAITHFUL

<sup>3</sup> Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.

<sup>5</sup> I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. <sup>6</sup> This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup> So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. <sup>9</sup> For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. <sup>11</sup> And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

<sup>12</sup> That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

<sup>13</sup> Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

<sup>15</sup> As you know, everyone from the province of Asia has deserted me—even Phygelus and Hermogenes.

<sup>16</sup> May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. <sup>17</sup> When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.

# DAY 1 - MONDAY ██████████

## A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-4, 1 SAMUEL 18:1-3, 1 SAMUEL 20:16-17, 41-42,  
PROVERBS 17:17, PROVERBS 27:17

The New York Times recently wrote about the new epidemic sweeping the nation. It's an epidemic that is primarily affecting the male population. It specifically affects men over thirty and science currently has no cure. The epidemic I'm referring to, of course, is pickleball. Pickleball is a sport that has gained a lot of popularity in the last few years and has been helping to connect men around a fun sport.

This New York Times article was referring to the actual problem facing men, loneliness, and how sports/rec activities, like pickleball, have been helping men to make relationships and form friendships with other men. Loneliness and isolation isn't a male-only problem, but it seems to be most prevalent in men, which is why the way Paul begins his letter to Timothy can catch many of us off guard. Paul uses affectionate language, calls Timothy his son (although they are of no blood relation), says he longs to see him again, and even describes tears that the two of them shed when they parted last.

Today, men struggle even to communicate regularly, let alone write one another letters. Paul not only writes to another fellow brother in Christ but openly shares his emotions, triumphs, anxieties, and hopes. It's not only the instructions Paul gives to Timothy that are important for us in learning how to walk in faithful service to God but also the relationship between these two. Christian fellowship is a bond, a connection, and a relationship that should be more intentional and deeper than any other friend relationship we have. This friendship comes with a shared grace that has been gifted to us. Christian friendship shares a common burden of carrying the grace-filled message of salvation to others. Finally, Christian friendship is a relationship that shares the same trials and hurdles that come with a life of faith.

God has created and called us to be people of authentic, deep, meaningful relationships. Whether man or woman, we need to evaluate if we have relationships with other Christians that run as deep as Paul and Timothy's and, if not, begin to seek them. Why? Because faithful service was not and cannot be done in isolation. When we embrace other followers in a whole, honest, and vulnerable way, we can find a partner in the journey of faith we are all called to.

### REFLECTION

Reflect on a Christian friend you have. Consider writing them a letter like Paul wrote to Timothy today to encourage them. If you cannot think of a friend that you have like this, spend some time in prayer and reflection on who that person could be or how you can connect in Christian friendship at Grace.

## DAY 2 - TUESDAY ██████████

# A HERITAGE OF FAITH

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-4, ACTS 16:1-5, PROVERBS 22:6

Paul begins his second letter to Timothy differently than any other letter he wrote to the early churches. His letter is far more personal, tender, and practical. This is because Paul is authoring this letter from a prison cell. He knew his days on earth were numbered, and he was writing to someone he viewed as dearly as a son (1 Timothy 1:2). Paul viewed Timothy as family and loved and cared deeply for him. This final letter is written in the same spirit as a letter from a father who has raised his son in the faith and is sending his last words of direction, encouragement, and love.

In these first four verses, there is a theme of being raised in a heritage of faith. Paul points to his ancestors serving God (2 Timothy 1:3), then reminds Timothy of the faithful home he was raised in with his mother Eunice, and his grandmother Lois. Timothy came from a family with a strong faith background, and their influence played a significant role in shaping his spiritual journey and his partnership with the Apostle Paul in spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Through these four simple verses, we see the importance and impact that comes from faithful parents, faithful leaders, and a faithful community raising and leading those around them in a heritage of faith. A Pew Research study conducted in 2022 found that 80% of those raised as Christians are still Christian today. Statistics are not foolproof, but it does point to the truth that is found in scripture, specifically in the example of Timothy, that when we raise our children and mentor those around us in the faith, we create fertile ground for them to grow in a life of dependence and faith in Christ.

We, like Paul, are called to cultivate a heritage of faith in the world around us. The urgency Paul uses in his final letter to encourage Timothy to serve Jesus faithfully should be the same urgency we carry today in leading our families, children, and community. We are called to have a heritage of faith, which is only possible when we live and serve faithfully.

### REFLECTION

Why do you think it is so important to create a heritage of faith in the relationships in your life?

Paul says in verse three that he constantly prays for Timothy. Let's take his example and end our time today by praying for those we want to serve faithfully by pointing them to faith in Jesus. Maybe use the remaining space to write their names down as a reminder to pray for them.

## DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

# FRUITS OF FAITH

2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7, 1 JOHN 4:17-18

We are rewarded with gifts when we live lives that faithfully serve God. These gifts aren't physical or monetary possessions that rust and fade away. The gifts we receive through faith are spiritual and everlasting. Timothy had a spiritual gift of some kind that Paul alludes to in verse six, but the universal gifts of faith for all believers are listed by Paul in verse seven: power, love, and self-discipline.

He clarifies that the earthly feelings of fear and timidity are not from God. Paul wants to clarify to Timothy that God blesses us with power, love, and self-discipline when we walk in faith with Him. Timothy will need these tools, fruits, and gifts to continue faithfully serving God by leading and ministering to the churches and people around them.

These words from Paul should work as an encouragement for us as well. Far too often, we allow fear and our timid nature to dictate our conversations and actions with family, friends, and our community. These qualities keep us quiet when we see others walking in a way that contradicts God's will, keep us in states of worry and uncertainty about our future and purpose, and keep us looking at ourselves, not Christ. When we lean on the practice of faith in Jesus, we are rewarded with the natural gifts of faith: the power to do His work, love for Him and the people He has called us to, and self-discipline to overcome the spirit of fear and timidity that seeks to rule our actions.

### REFLECTION

What do you fear about walking in deeper faith with God? How have you been timid in your faith?

How can you begin to walk in faith with Jesus today practically, and what do you think might change about the direction of your life if you embrace faithful service to God?

## DAY 4 - THURSDAY

# DON'T BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12, 2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

It's easy to forget. At the time this letter was written, following a crucified Master wasn't easy. It wasn't something one would specifically find pride in doing. Jesus spent His time on earth teaching principles that contradicted the ways of the world and then died a brutal death. For those who did not understand the good news of the resurrection, the testimony of Christ was one steeped in shame. We, too, can find ourselves placing the good news under a cloak. Both afraid and embarrassed to share about the Jesus we've known to be true because we're more concerned with how others will receive our testimony based on what they know of Jesus.

But the truth is that when we step into the gift of courage in Christ, we shed shame. When we recall what God has proven to be true, the remnants of shame that attempt to attach themselves to the good news of the gospel we are called to share are removed (v.11).

When we find ourselves shrinking back from proclaiming the good news of Christ, what we know to be true of Jesus can be the backbone of our courage.

Shame cannot exist in the context of true intimacy. As we pursue Him and allow the Holy Spirit to make deposits into us, we are moved from shame to honor. No longer burdened with embarrassment as we tell others of Jesus, but brought into a place of joy and delight regarding the testimony of our King.

*She Reads Truth: 1 & 2 Timothy*

### REFLECTION

What typically leads to you feeling shame? Why should pursuing Jesus not be something that leads to shame in our lives?

How can you begin to live unashamed in your life/work for Jesus?



## DAY 5 - FRIDAY ████████████████████

# FAITHFUL IN SUFFERING

2 TIMOTHY 1:12-18, HEBREWS 11:1-2, REVELATION 2:10

At the end of Paul's first chapter of his letter to Timothy, he calls on Timothy to remain faithful. This is the overarching theme/purpose of his letter to Timothy, but it's also a genuine plea in a time of great loneliness. Paul is writing this from prison. He is alone and probably concerned that his fate will deter those he loves, and has led to Christ, to turn away from doing the work that Christ has given them. This is why Paul has called Timothy to be unashamed in his faith, and this is why he ends his letter with a plea for Timothy to remain faithful.

Paul knows the weight that following Jesus can be. He used to persecute and kill Christ-followers himself. Since his conversion, he has seen others he loves and worked with martyred for living and sharing in the gospel life. As he now experiences his final days on earth, he writes for Timothy to find strength, courage, and faith to remain steadfast in their mission and his life of fellowship with Jesus.

It can be challenging for us to relate to the urgency Paul has in this letter because we never have, and probably never will, face persecution like this for Jesus. We have never been hunted, jailed, or murdered for our faith, but we can still heed Paul's words and grow from them. Although we may not face the same circumstances Paul, Timothy, or the early church faced, we face the real threats of comfort, complacency, and passivity toward the life Christ has called us to. Paul's encouragement to continually seek Christ in everything, put Him above all else, and remain faithful to Him, no matter what we face, is as important today as it was in his days.

### REFLECTION

Take some time and write down or reflect upon all the ways God has been faithful to you.

What are the modern-day tests you face to remain faithful? How can remembering His faithfulness to you help you to remain faithful to Him?

# DAY 6 - SATURDAY

## REFLECTION GUIDE

2 TIMOTHY 1

### REFLECTION NOTES & QUESTIONS

This week we looked at 2 Timothy chapter one. As we wrap up, go back and read chapter one. Reflect on this chapter and reflect/journal the following things:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is something we looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

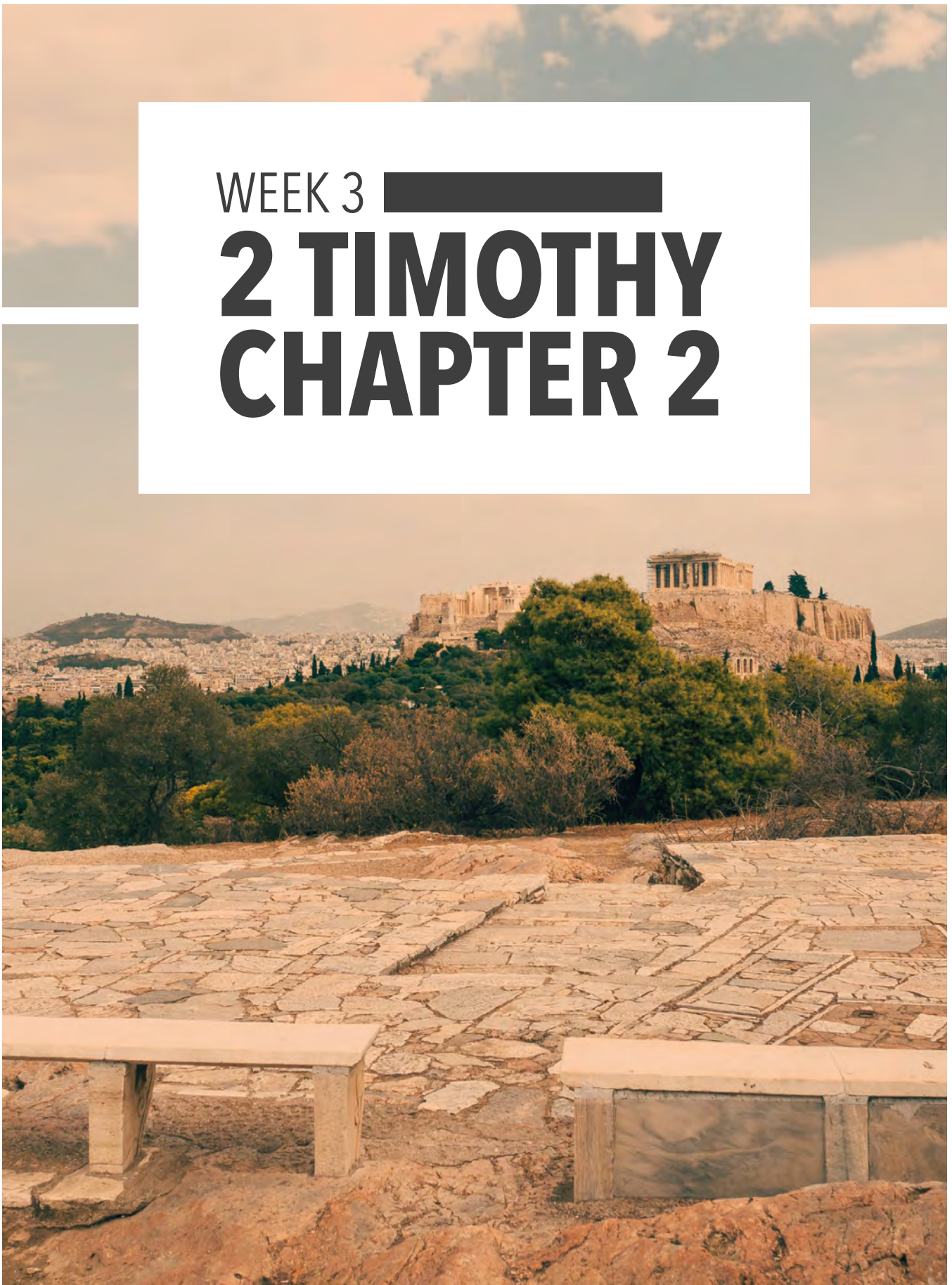
# DAY 7 - SUNDAY

## REST DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.

WEEK 3 

# 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2



## A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST JESUS

<sup>2</sup>Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

<sup>3</sup>Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. <sup>5</sup>And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. <sup>6</sup>And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. <sup>7</sup>Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

<sup>8</sup>Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach. <sup>9</sup>And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. <sup>10</sup>So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

<sup>11</sup>This is a trustworthy saying:  
If we die with him,  
we will also live with him.

<sup>12</sup>If we endure hardship,  
we will reign with him.  
If we deny him,  
he will deny us.

<sup>13</sup>If we are unfaithful,  
he remains faithful,  
for he cannot deny who he is.

<sup>14</sup>Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.

## AN APPROVED WORKER

<sup>15</sup>Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. <sup>16</sup>Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. <sup>17</sup>This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. <sup>18</sup>They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.

<sup>19</sup>But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the Lord must turn away from evil."

<sup>20</sup>In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. <sup>21</sup>If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

<sup>22</sup>Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

<sup>23</sup>Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. <sup>24</sup>A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. <sup>25</sup>Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. <sup>26</sup>Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.

# DAY 1 - MONDAY ██████████

## STAY STRONG AND PASS IT ON

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-14, ROMANS 1:2-7, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

Paul realizes that his time on earth is near its end, so he encourages Timothy to stay strong and continue to pass the gospel on to others. His main goal is to ensure that the gospel perseveres for all generations. Paul's goal continues to reign as an important message for us today as we are responsible for passing gospel truth on to other people, much like passing a baton in a relay race. Think back on who shared the gospel with you; maybe it was a parent, a family member, a friend, a co-worker, or a pastor. That person also had someone who shared the gospel with them. This "good news" has been passed on through generations. Sharing the gospel with others can feel intimidating, but it's as simple as sharing who Jesus is to you, what He has done for you, and what you have done in response to following Jesus.

Simply put, this is the gospel:

Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior, Lord, and King. We have all turned from God's way and gone our own way; this is what the Bible calls sin. We are sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus died in our place, paying the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead and is alive today, reigning as the Lord of all. As we understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us, we realize there is nothing we can do on our own to earn salvation from our sin and its consequences. Jesus Christ has done it all. The gospel reveals God's great love for us that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) In response to the gospel, we live lives that look more like Jesus in the ways we love and serve. We look to Jesus for peace, comfort, and strength to endure challenges and suffering.

Timothy was facing opposition to sharing the gospel in his time. In his humanity, Timothy likely felt defeated, weary, and lonely. We can often feel that way as we look to share the gospel today. But when we are strong in grace, our lives begin to look different, and people will notice; this is when we have the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with them. As 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Tara-Leigh Cobble points out in The Bible Recap that:

*Paul likely worries that Timothy will shrink back from speaking the truth because of the consequences Paul has experienced. He encourages Timothy to dig his heels in even more to do the hard work of spreading the gospel and to not be surprised when it's challenging. He's willing to endure whatever it takes for the gospel to reach those who will believe it, and he wants to impress this same urgency on Timothy: Do not abandon the gospel, no matter what.*

This is the same challenge for us today: "Be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."

### REFLECTION

What can you do to ensure the gospel reaches the next generation?

Ask God to show you if there is someone in your life who needs to hear the "good news."



## DAY 2 - TUESDAY ██████████

# BE ARMED FOR BATTLE

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-14, EPHESIANS 6:10-18, 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

Paul uses three illustrations in 2 Tim. 2:3-7 of a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer to encourage Timothy in the work he was called to as a believer. All three of these show us how, as believers, we are to be committed to a fight that is bigger than ourselves. This fight will take sacrifice, and will require real effort from us.

*The ESV Study Bible* explains it this way:

Paul sets forth the call to service and suffering. Verse 4 calls for single-minded desire to please God. Verse 5 reiterates that one must obey God's rules in order to succeed. Verse 6 seems to encourage hard work by holding out the promise of blessing.

The first is the mention of a good soldier in battle. Scripture often talks of the Christian life as a battle against Satan in a hostile world. Paul paints a similar picture in the Ephesians 6 passage we read today of putting on armor to fight the battle. To be victorious, the soldier can't get distracted by civilian affairs but seek to please their commanding officer (the LORD). We should strive to serve him without distraction. We must stay alert and prepared.

The ESV Study Bible points out that verse 4 is often misinterpreted as "a call away from "secular," pursuits. The Bible, however, does not separate life into distinct realms of "spiritual" and "secular." We are spiritual beings, so all of life is to be lived in obedience to the Spirit according to the Word of God. Paul is simply warning Timothy not to allow anything (so-called "secular" pursuits or even perhaps seemingly good "spiritual" pursuits) to distract him from pleasing God. "Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts." (1 Thess. 2:4)

The second illustration involves an athlete. The athlete won't gain victory unless he follows the rules, or in other words, the believer gains victory over sin when he is obedient to God's Word. Disregarding God's boundaries and rules leads to us making our own rules, and that's a dangerous place to be. We don't make very good gods for ourselves. We flourish when following God's boundaries and guidelines for life, much like an athlete flourishes when following the rules of the game.

Third, Paul compares Timothy's work to that of a farmer. Farmers are diligent, hard-working, and patient, knowing the harvest might take a long time. "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." (Galatians 6:9). Laziness will fail to produce a harvest. We must sow the seeds of faith, cultivate good soil for growth and prune away the things in our lives that aren't producing good fruit. Following Jesus is not always easy—it takes effort, obedience, and patience but He is worth it.

### REFLECTION

Which of the three illustrations do you find that you relate to the most in your walk with the Lord? Why did you choose this one?

# DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

# TO DIE IS GAIN

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-14, ROMANS 6:3-11, GALATIANS 2:19-20, EPHESIANS 2:1-10

**This is a trustworthy saying:**

**If we die with him,  
we will also live with him.  
If we endure hardship,  
we will reign with him.  
If we deny him,  
he will deny us.  
If we are unfaithful,  
he remains faithful,  
for he cannot deny who he is.  
2 Timothy 2: 11-13**

This was possibly a familiar poem or hymn among first-century Christians. If we die with him, we will also live with him refers to our union with Christ. When we trust Him as our Savior, sin loses its grip on us as we put that old self to death. We are then raised to new life with Christ, where we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us overcome temptation and sin. Your eternal future is secure because we have died to ourselves and are now living for Him. "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)

As we endure suffering, we can look forward to a day when our suffering and hardships will end, and we can reign with Jesus forever. If we deny him, he will also deny us, which seems harsh, but if we seek to please ourselves rather than to please the Lord, God will honor that decision and give us what we desire. But that self-seeking desire will lead us to an eternity separated from Him. In this context, to deny him must be a more severe offense than being unfaithful. Denying Christ is a permanent denial or rejection of Jesus, in contrast with a temporary lapse in trusting Christ.

We will not live this Christian life perfectly, so the last sentence reminds us that when we are unfaithful, he remains faithful. When our faith grows weak or fails, God remains true to his promise to love and draw us back to Himself. He will never leave us or forsake us. To fail to keep his promise would be for him to deny himself, and he cannot deny himself. This trustworthy statement moves from comfort to challenge and back to comfort. God is loving, merciful, kind, and gracious but also all-powerful and seeks justice for all. He will get the final word when He comes to restore what is broken and make it whole again; until then, may we learn to live faithful to Christ.

## REFLECTION

Reflect on 2 Timothy 2:11-13 and take some time to write what it means to you in your own words and turn it into a prayer.

## DAY 4 - THURSDAY

# WORDS MATTER

2 TIMOTHY 2:15-26, 1 PETER 3:13-18, GALATIANS 5:22-25, EPHESIANS 4:29-32

Paul's warning (2 Timothy 2:15-17, 22-26) is that how we use our words to share truth matters. We have to be able to share God's truth with others in a way that isn't argumentative or aggressive. He reminds Timothy not to "get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth."

We must approach others first with a posture of humility before they are even willing to listen to the truth we have to share. Often we care more about being right and proving our point than displaying the fruit of the spirit to others; if that's true, we must reevaluate our motivation. We will not reach people with the gospel if we are engaging in foolish talk. We see in these scriptures that some have turned people away from faith with their words. We are to be people who speak the truth in the context of genuine relationships and love. God is the one who changes hearts, but we are His representatives to the world; they see Him through us, so choose your words wisely.

Peter echoes this same idea in 1 Peter when he says, "If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way." Our aim is to live our lives for the approval of God rather than men, seeking to keep a clear conscience and a good reputation. We will not do this perfectly, but let this be our aim. "Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

*"We cannot be too careful about the words we use; we start out using them and they end up using us. Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God." - Eugene Peterson*

### REFLECTION

Take some time today to meditate on what the Spirit produces in our lives, as listed in Galatians 5:22. How can you use this list as a filter for your words?

# DAY 5 - FRIDAY [REDACTED]

## PURE HEARTS

2 TIMOTHY 2:15-26, EPHESIANS 4:17-27, PSALM 119:9-16

Paul encourages Timothy to “flee youthful lust and pursue righteous living.” Here he is addressing Timothy’s personal holiness. Our personal holiness is a pursuit of progress over perfection.

John Stott, in his book *The Message of 2 Timothy*, describes 2:20-22 like this:

The Master of the house lays down only one condition: the articles which he uses must be clean. His promise hinges on this. It is evident at once that some kind of self-purification is the essential condition of usefulness to Christ, but exactly what is it? Purity of doctrine and purity of life – is the essential condition of being serviceable to Christ. Timothy is to flee the evil desires of youth and pursue the four essential marks of a Christian – righteousness, faith, love and peace – and he is to aim for these in good company (maybe to compensate for the company he will have to avoid if he is to ‘cleanse himself from what is common’), the company of those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart, that is, who share with Timothy the same hunger for righteousness and who cry to God with complete sincerity to satisfy their hunger. We are to recognize sin as something dangerous to the soul. We are not to come to terms with it, or even negotiate with it. We are both to run away from spiritual danger and to run after spiritual good; both to flee from the one in order to escape it and to pursue the other in order to attain it. Thus, we are to deny ourselves and follow Christ. We are to put off what belongs to our old life and to put on what belongs to our new life. We are to put to death our earthly desires and to set our minds on heavenly things. We are to crucify the flesh and to walk in the Spirit. It is the ruthless rejection of the one in combination with the relentless pursuit of the other which Scripture reveals to us as the secret of holiness. This is the only way we can hope to be fit for the Master’s use.

We know we will never reach perfect holiness this side of heaven, but our aim should be to grow in holiness every day. This pursuit is almost impossible to do alone. Our connection with a like-minded community of believers will be essential to our progress and ability to persevere in hard times.

### REFLECTION

Is there an area of your life that God is prompting you to flee from in order to pursue holiness?

Who in your community can you ask to hold you accountable in that area?

# DAY 6 - SATURDAY

## REFLECTION GUIDE

2 TIMOTHY 2

### REFLECTION NOTES & QUESTIONS

This week we looked at 2 Timothy chapter two. As we wrap up, go back and read chapter two. Reflect on this chapter and reflect/journal the following things:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is something we looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

# DAY 7 - SUNDAY

## REST DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo in Side, Turkey. It features large, weathered stone columns and pediments. In the lower section, there are niches containing statues of figures in classical attire. The sky is a hazy, warm orange color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text.

WEEK 4 [REDACTED]

# **2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3**



## THE DANGERS OF THE LAST DAYS

<sup>1</sup>You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup>For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup>They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup>They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. <sup>5</sup>They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

<sup>6</sup>They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. <sup>7</sup>(Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.) <sup>8</sup>These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. <sup>9</sup>But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres.

## PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

<sup>10</sup>But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. <sup>11</sup>You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. <sup>12</sup>Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. <sup>13</sup>But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.

<sup>14</sup>But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. <sup>15</sup>You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup>God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

# DAY 1 - MONDAY [REDACTED]

## DISRUPTION

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5, 2 PETER 3:9, EPHESIANS 5:11, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33, 1 PETER 3:8-18

Evil affects all of us. At our worst and weakest times, it leads us to submit and give in to sin. At the best of times, it leads to a consistent daily battleground to stay away from sinful living and live in righteousness. When Paul writes of the difficulties to come, he is writing of the natural response evil has towards its defeat, which is to make a mess. When Christ was crucified, he defeated evil's hold on our souls and eternity. He has won, and He is victorious, but as Christ waits patiently to allow His people to have the chance to receive His grace and salvation, evil is trying to burn the town down.

Evil is working to disrupt and deconstruct our lives by leading us to hearts full of pride, disobedience, and unforgiveness or, at the very least, by making life difficult for us by surrounding us with people that give in to these things. Paul gives Timothy the only advice he can of what to do with this work of evil, and these people that give in and embrace it, "stay away."

### REFLECTION

Why do you think Paul says to simply stay away from evil and not to try and fight it?

What practical steps can you take to avoid evil today?

The trick of evil is that it can be deceptive and try to hide within our actions and words. Evil tries to justify itself to us as coping, venting, or just living freely, but ultimately evil is a liar and deceiver. End this time today by reflecting on how you have found evil trying to work into your life. Evaluate your thoughts, words, and actions today to see how evil may affect you, and finally, take steps to remove its destruction from you by praying for help and beginning to take action to stay away.

## DAY 2 - TUESDAY ██████████

# WICKEDNESS

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9, EXODUS 7:11 AND 22

"Some of the people he's describing (Paul) are active in propagating their own views. One of the ways they do this is by preying on the vulnerable. I've seen it happen; I've watched people with particular agendas, and a strong belief in the rightness of their cause, approach people who can't say no to them and persuade them to go to a meeting with them, to listen to their ideas, to join their club. There are many people - the ones Paul seems to have known were women, but many men come into this category too - whose moral or immoral past and whose muddled present makes them easy targets for such predators...

So who were "Jannes and Jambres", and when did they oppose Moses? According to ancient Jewish legend, these were the two principal magicians of Egypt referred to in Exodus 7.11 and 7.22. When Moses was performing the God-given signs to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go from their slavery, the Egyptian magicians did their best to copy the signs so that Pharaoh wouldn't take Moses seriously. Paul's point is that when the liberating, healing gospel is going forwards in power, there will always be people who oppose it by whatever means and tricks they can. His words of comfort ('they won't get very far') are meant to give us hope; in Exodus 7.12, when the magicians turned their staves into snakes as Moses had done, Moses' own serpent ate theirs up. We have to pray and watch for the equivalents in today's church and world. But this hope shouldn't lull us into thinking that there won't be problems to face. We shall need all the good advice of the whole chapter and letter if we are to stay calm and unafraid in the face of the wickedness of the 'last days'."

-N.T Wright

### REFLECTION

There's something important to be studied in this passage. Paul describes these people who prey on others that are weaker, more desperate, and more easily swayed to try and get them to believe what they want. It's vital for us, as Christians, to ask ourselves: do I do this? Am I like this when sharing my faith with family, friends, and co-workers? Take time today to reflect and seek guidance on these more difficult questions.

Paul talks about these people who prey on the weak as having a "counterfeit faith" What do you think he means by that? How can we be sure we do not have a counterfeit faith?

-How can we share our faith with people in an honest but not manipulative way?

## DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY [REDACTED]

# SOMEONE WITH FAITH

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-13, JAMES 2:14-26

### REFLECTION

Paul told Timothy he could trust him because he had proven his faith and motives for sharing that faith through his actions. Paul lived out his faith in patience, love, and endurance. Take a moment and think about someone you know or admire for their faith. Reflect or journal the specific qualities that stand out to you about them that make their expression of faith unique.

Why do you think faith, when it is genuine, comes out in our actions?

How does faith build and develop our character?

# DAY 4 - THURSDAY

# GOD'S WORD

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, HEBREWS 4:12, MATTHEW 4:4

Paul has repeatedly pointed to the positive influences in Timothy's life in this letter. At the beginning of chapter one, he talked to Timothy about his mother and grandmother raising and influencing him in the faith. Paul has spoken of his work in Timothy too, but in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul points to the most significant influence on Timothy's life and ministry work, scripture.

The importance of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 cannot be overstated. Paul's words in verse 16 summarize the entire reason for our dependence upon the Bible. He refers to scripture as our guide and means of knowing what truth is, what God desires for us, and to help us see and understand the wrong in our world. The world is a great mystery; the Bible is our guide and instruction manual for navigating it.

Just as Paul pointed to scripture as Timothy's way to continue to walk in faith, we need to be pointed this way too. This is why, as a church, we put money, time, and resources towards making this Grace in the Word Study happen each Fall and Spring semester. We need God's word like oxygen, and God's Word is like oxygen to our souls. Without it, we grow weak in our faith. Without it, we lose sight of where we're meant to go; without it, we fall out of fellowship with God. Don't lose sight of the necessity and gift that is God's Word for our lives.

## REFLECTION

What kind of relationship have you had with the Bible? Has it felt like a chore you had to do as a child? Does it feel like something you must do to gain favor from God? Has it been a source of knowledge and wisdom? Has it been a means of finding joy?

Our approach to God's Word is just as important as the words written within it. If we view His Word as an encyclopedia, that's all we'll get from it; if we view it as a chore, that's what it will be. But if we view it as God's breath of life into our souls, we will find a new life in it and through it. Reflect/journal how you can begin to approach reading God's Word differently in order to experience Him more fully in your life.

## DAY 5 - FRIDAY ████████████████████

# COMMUNION IN THE WORD

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, 2 TIMOTHY 3

### REFLECTION

Yesterday we looked at the last part of the third chapter of Paul's second letter to Timothy. We looked at and reflected on the importance of God's Word for our lives. The motive of this study is to help us better understand this book of the bible but also to help us establish a rhythm of regular communion in our Bibles. Today, in reflection on the importance of Paul's words to Timothy about scripture, reread 2 Timothy 3. As you read through it, consider highlighting parts that stand out to you and then journal here or in a notebook why that stands out to you. Finally, reflect on what you found about God in this chapter and how that can bring new life to your faith in Him.



## DAY 6 - SATURDAY

# REFLECTION GUIDE

2 TIMOTHY 3

### REFLECTION NOTES & QUESTIONS

This week we looked at 2 Timothy chapter three. Yesterday you took time to read 2 Timothy 3 as a whole. Today go back and either read chapter three one final time or spend time reflecting on what you read through this week. Open your heart to the importance and power of God's Word and reflect/journal the following things:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is something we looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

## DAY 7 - SUNDAY

# REST DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.

The background of the slide is a collage of ancient Egyptian temple carvings. The top section shows a wide view of a temple interior with high ceilings and walls covered in hieroglyphs and statues. The bottom section features a large, detailed statue of the goddess Isis, seated and wearing a long, pleated dress, with her hands resting on her knees. The statue is set within a niche, flanked by columns and other carvings.

WEEK 5 

# 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4

<sup>1</sup> I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

<sup>3</sup> For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

<sup>5</sup> But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

<sup>6</sup> As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near.

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. <sup>8</sup> And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

## PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

<sup>9</sup> Timothy, please come as soon as you can. <sup>10</sup> Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry. <sup>12</sup> I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left with Carpus at Troas. Also bring my books, and especially my papers.

<sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done.

<sup>15</sup> Be careful of him, for he fought against everything we said.

<sup>16</sup> The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death. <sup>18</sup> Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

## PAUL'S FINAL GREETINGS

<sup>19</sup> Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila and those living in the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup> Erastus stayed at Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick at Miletus.

<sup>21</sup> Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus sends you greetings, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters.

<sup>22</sup> May the Lord be with your spirit. And may his grace be with all of you.

# DAY 1 - MONDAY ██████████

## PREACH THE WORD

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5, ISAIAH 40:6-8, JAMES 1:19-21

Paul's message to Timothy here is clear, "preach the Word," but if we are honest, sometimes we hear those words and think, surely that message is not meant for me. "I'm not a preacher, a pastor, or a teacher, so preaching the Word must be a job for others." But the Greek word Paul uses here means to "proclaim the Word," so it's more like sharing or passing on the Word. We don't need a seminary degree or a ministry title to do that.

As a follower of Jesus, we are called to be prepared when the opportunity presents itself to share what we know to be true about Jesus and how he has worked in our lives. We often aren't sure how to share, we fear getting it wrong or don't feel gifted with eloquent words to share, but this misses the heart of sharing the gospel. People in your everyday life at places like a local coffee shop, office, neighborhood, ball field, or grocery store aren't looking for a sermon to convince or encourage them. They are looking for a light in the darkness, a kind word or smile, a caring relationship, and someone who shows up for them in a time of need. Once you establish those connections, the words of His truth will come.

We have a beautiful truth that needs to be shared. We know what a personal relationship with Jesus does for us and what it can do for every person we encounter; isn't that worth sharing? We have a light and hope for the darkness and despair; isn't that worth sharing? We carry the "good news" with us into every interaction we have every day, and that "good news" is worth sharing. It is a life-or-death message; it can bring such life and light to those in our world. There were many in Paul & Timothy's day clinging to a false gospel that didn't stay true to God's Word; the same is true today. So we have a responsibility as followers of Jesus and should feel a sense of urgency to share the true gospel message of Jesus and what a relationship with Jesus means to us with those around us every day. God's Word stands forever and can save souls, so go out and "preach the Word."

### REFLECTION

Spend some time today thinking about how your relationship with Jesus has changed your life. Write down a few ways that you might share that with someone this week. Ask God to show you small ways to share His Word with someone this week, and be alert for opportunities to do so.

## DAY 2 - TUESDAY ██████████

# KEEP A CLEAR MIND

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5, PROVERBS 3:5-8, JAMES 1:5-8, EPHESIANS 5:6-20, MATTHEW 7:15-27

Paul is urging Timothy to “Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.” We established yesterday that, as believers, we all have a call to share the gospel, but we have a culture that is not always open to what we say about faith, Jesus, or God’s Word. This is why the tone and posture of how we share God’s truth with people matters. Some in the church in Ephesus followed their desires and rejected the truth. They were drawn instead toward teachers who validated their unwise choices and said exactly what they wanted to hear. The same is true today as it is easy to look to voices in the media or online other than looking to God’s Word to guide our daily choices. As we aim to share with others, who might be straying from the truth, we need to note some important things in this challenge from Paul. He says, “patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching and keep a clear mind in every situation.”

John Stott explains that Paul mentions three different ways of sharing the truth depending on the situation. There are three different approaches: correction is intellectual (addressing doubts or in need of convincing), rebuking is moral (addressing sin and the need to repent), and encouragement is emotional (addressing fears and giving hope).

We are to use wisdom and discernment to apply the truth that is relevant to the person and situation we are dealing with. When sharing truth with others, there is not a one size fits all. We don’t have an open door to be pushy, disrespectful, rude, or insensitive. Most will not be open to hearing what you have to say with that posture. We must be patient and gentle, not pressuring, manipulative, or controlling with the truth.

Stott writes that Timothy’s call is to “be ready at every opportunity, be relevant in his application, be patient in his manner and intelligent in his presentation. The harder the times and the deafer the people, the clearer and more persuasive our proclamation must be.” Not only do we need wisdom and discernment on how to share truth with others, but we also need wisdom and discernment to be sure we aren’t looking to teachers who tickle our ears and lead us away from the truth. God promises us wisdom when we seek Him, so ask for wisdom in your life and in sharing with others. Matthew 7 serves as an excellent reminder to us to be on the lookout for teachers who produce good fruit rather than following those who produce bad fruit.

### REFLECTION

Where are the areas in your life that you are tempted to sway from the truth laid out in God’s Word?

Is there someone you feel has strayed from the truth in your life? If so, how could you use one of the three approaches mentioned to patiently and gently draw them back toward the truth?



## DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

# A FUTURE HOPE

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, DEUTERONOMY 31:6-8, JAMES 1:12-18

Paul is sharing beautiful words with Timothy about his journey with the Lord. He has poured out his life as an offering to the Lord, fought the good fight, finished the race, and remained faithful. When we are pouring out our lives, fighting to run the race faithfully, it can feel challenging and, at times, impossible. When we feel this way, we can cling to the hope that Paul offers here of a future reward in eternity with God. We can lean on the encouragement that Moses gave to Joshua in Deuteronomy 31, "the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you." We can fight the fight, run the race and stay faithful because He is with us every step of the way, and there is a beautiful crown of life in our future. Paul and Moses knew something about faithfully walking with God that they were passing on to those coming behind them. It is worth the effort to stay close to Him; not only will it bring peace, joy, and comfort here, but also for eternity, so "be strong and courageous for God is with you."

### REFLECTION

When do you feel most discouraged in your journey with the Lord? Why?

Spend some time with the Lord bringing what feels hard and discouraging at the moment before him. Meditate over Paul and Moses' words of encouragement today; let them bring hope to your discouraging places.



## DAY 4 - THURSDAY

# PAUL'S LEGACY

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, HEBREWS 4:12, MATTHEW 4:4

One of the most magnificent aspects of Christianity is the legacy we share, the way the faith is passed down from generation to generation. Not only is the faith passed down, but leadership and care for the church are passed on as well, with older shepherds handing off responsibility to younger shepherds. As 2 Timothy comes to an end, what we see is older shepherd Paul handing off the baton of leadership to a younger shepherd, Timothy.

For Western Christians, it's easy to have the mindset of finishing our course and then resting on our laurels, spending our final years in ease and comfort. So it is striking how Paul does it: there is no coasting to the finish line. He reminds Timothy of His responsibility—self-control, endurance, evangelism—and urges him to fulfill his calling. This is the passing of the baton.

Then Paul says these iconic words: "The time for my departure is close. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (vv.6-7). He persevered to the end, using the days God had given Him, even to the point of asking for scrolls and parchment so He could continue his ministry of writing to churches. Paul concludes by saying, "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it" (v.17). He persevered because of the Lord's help and finished the ministry He was given to do by God. So he not only handed off ministry to Timothy, he exemplified how to do it faithfully to the end.

Paul says something else amid His encouragement to Timothy—he points to the reward for faithfulness, the crown of righteousness reserved for all who eagerly await the coming of Christ (v.8). To urge perseverance and faithfulness without a promise would be to call for exhaustion. But that is never what God calls His people to. This is the legacy of Christianity, passed from one generation to the next: keeping the faith and passing it on. One generation shows the next how to persevere and fight the good fight as we look ahead with joy and eagerness to the coming of Jesus so that we can be transformed to be like Him and receive the crown of glory as we sit at His side.

Written by Barnabas Piper, *He Reads Truth*

### REFLECTION

How do we show those around us how to persevere and fight the good fight well?

What is a mark of faithful legacy? What steps can you take this week to ensure you leave a lasting legacy for those who come after you?

## DAY 5 - FRIDAY [REDACTED]

# FAITHFUL TO THE END

2 TIMOTHY 4:14-22, COLOSSIANS 3:12-17, GALATIANS 6:1-10

At the closing of this book, we see Paul's humility and humanity on display. He has everyday human needs and desires; he is lonely, longs for companionship, and would like some comforts of home, his cloak, and his scrolls. He had been deserted by friends, opposed by many, and unsupported by those he considered friends, yet he showed them grace and forgiveness. After acknowledging his human needs and desires, he ends with acknowledging that the Lord has met him in his every need. This section of the letter is personal; we are reading a conversation between spiritual friends. These comments are particularly touching and special. Paul is reminding Timothy that walking with the Lord will be challenging but rewarding.

Paul shows in these final words that relationships will be challenged, but with the help of Jesus we can forgive and want the best for others. We also get a hint at how much Paul values his spiritual friendships and how much joy they bring him. Even when human relationships disappoint us, we need that connection and community. Jesus is the only relationship in our lives that will never disappoint us, and Paul knows this, but he also knows that we're not meant to go through life alone. Even through his own trials and hardships, Paul still poured into his relationships. The Gospel message was entrusted to Timothy by Paul, and he did the same for so many others along the way. He was faithful until the end.

The gospel truth we have to share is much more compelling to people if they believe we genuinely love and care about them enough to pour into a relationship with them. This is a message near and dear to Paul's heart as we read not only in the 2 Timothy passage but also in Colossians and Galatians. Let's learn from Paul's example that it is crucial that we pour into others in a profoundly personal way to share Jesus with them. As we close our time in 2 Timothy, consider this:

*"Our God is a God of history. He buries his workmen, but carries on his work. The torch of the gospel is handed down by each generation to the next. As the leaders of the former generation die, it is all the more urgent for those of the next generation to step forward bravely to take their place. Timothy's heart must have been profoundly moved by this appeal from Paul the old warrior who had led him to Christ. We cannot rest for ever on the leadership of the preceding generation. The day comes when we must step into their shoes and ourselves take the lead. That day had come for Timothy. It comes to all of us in time."* -John Stott

### REFLECTION

Have you cultivated these kinds of spiritual relationships in your life?  
If not, how can you begin today? If so, how can you go deeper in your spiritual friendships?

What would it look like for you to apply the words of Paul in 2 Timothy to your life going forward?

# DAY 6 - SATURDAY

## REFLECTION GUIDE

2 TIMOTHY 4

### REFLECTION NOTES & QUESTIONS

This week we wrapped up the book of 2 Timothy. As you end this study, look back on chapter four. Reflect on this chapter and reflect/journal the following things:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is something we looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What was your biggest takeaway from our journey through 2 Timothy?

# DAY 7 - SUNDAY

## REST DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.

[illegible]

# NOW WHAT?

Paul's words in the letter that we know as 2 Timothy are words of gentleness, encouragement, kindness, and deep affection. Paul had a relationship with Timothy. He viewed him as a son and longed to see him continue in the faith. As we end this study, we may wonder: "What should this study open in my heart?" We hope and pray that this study has been a shaping tool for your soul. The hope is that through this study, you have not only drawn close to the Word of God but have begun to internalize the message God has for us in this letter to continue to serve Him faithfully.

How can we continue faithfully serving Jesus? Paul has given us an example in his letter to Timothy. We continue to faithfully serve Christ by drawing near to Him, drawing close to those around us, growing in our affection for one another, and together walking in steps of service to Him through encouragement and teaching.

Go now and seek relationships like this and/or deepen the Godly relationships you are already in because we are meant to move forward in faithful service, and we can't do this alone. Remember, you need community like Paul had to keep walking in faith, and there are those around you that you don't even realize need you to. Find them, grow with them, and move forward in faithful service together.



GRACE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH