**2 Timothy**



**Paul’s Last Will and Testament**

A Commentary on 2 Timothy

By Manly Luscombe

Taught at Cades Church of Christ

Beginning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017

**Table of Contents**

Introduction 3

Outline 4

Chapter 1 5

Chapter 2 10

Chapter 3 18

Chapter 4 24

**2 Timothy**

**Paul’s Last Will and Testament**

**Introduction**

**General Introduction**

After his time in prison on Rome, there was some time he was free to travel. It would appear that he went on a 4th mission trip. We know he took Titus to Crete (Titus 1:5). He also left Timothy at Ephesus (2 Timothy 4:19). He left Erastus at Corinth (2 Timothy 4:20).

2 Timothy is very different from the first letter to Timothy. Paul knew his life was ending soon. He is more personal, more intense and more emotional. This letter compares with the farewell address of Moses, Joshua, David and Peter.

**Written to**

The letter is addressed to Timothy. In the first chapter, he mentions his training from his mother and grandmother.

**Author**

Paul identifies himself as the author of this second letter to Timothy.

**Date**

The letter was probably written in 67. Paul was killed in about 68. Nero died in June of 68 and Paul was killed shortly before Nero died. Most believe this letter was written late in 67. This would put the date of this letter within a few months of his death.

**Purpose / Main Theme**

This letter is, in many ways, Paul’s last will and testament. He expresses many personal desires. Thomas Constable summarizes this letter with these observations.

**First, the Lord will guard the lives of those who guard His Word** (1:12, 14). There is no safer place to be than doing God's will.
**Second, God has given the Scriptures to us in trust**, to pass along so that others will
benefit from them (2:2). We have an obligation to do this (cf. 1 Cor. 9:16).
**Third, we have a responsibility to be faithful to our trust.** Paul said this was true in this letter for three reasons: First, Christ will return soon. Second, there is growing apostasy in the church. Third, there are always gaps opening in the ranks of the church's leadership—by death (Paul) and defection (Demas, et al.). Second Timothy emphasizes faithfulness.

**Outline**

**I. Salutation 1:1-2**

**II. Thanksgiving for faithful fellow workers 1:3-18**

A. Timothy's past faithfulness 1:3-7

B. Charges to remain loyal 1:8-14

1. Exhortation to be courageous 1:8-12

2. Exhortation to guard the gospel 1:13-14

C. Examples of faithful and unfaithful service 1:15-18

**III. Exhortations to persevere ch. 2**

A. Charge to endure hardship 2:1-13

1. Timothy's duty 2:1-7

2. The examples of Jesus and Paul 2:8-10

3. A popular saying 2:11-13

B. Charge to remain faithful 2:14-26

1. Faithfulness in public ministry 2:14-18

2. Faithfulness in personal life 2:19-21

3. Summary applications 2:22-26

**IV. Directions concerning the last days 3:1—4:8**

A. Characteristics of the last days 3:1-13

1. Evidences of faithlessness 3:1-7

2. Negative and positive illustrations 3:8-13
B. Conduct in the last days 3:14—4:5

1. Adherence to the truth 3:14-17

2. Proclamation of the truth 4:1-5
C. Paul's role in the last days 4:6-8

**V. Concluding personal instructions and information 4:9-22**

A. Fellow workers and an opponent 4:9-15

B. Paul's preliminary hearing in court 4:16-18

C. Additional greetings and instructions 4:19-21

D. Benediction 4:22

Chapter 1

**1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,**

1. As is the usual custom, Paul identifies himself as the author.
2. He describes himself as an apostle by the will of God. Paul did not seek the office. God chose him.

**2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

1. Timothy is well known from the book of Acts and in the first letter Paul wrote to him.
2. Paul has a special connection with Timothy. There is a “father / son” relationship because Paul took Timothy and taught him, trained him, and trusted him.
3. Grace, mercy, and peace is a common salutation.

**3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did,* as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,**

1. Paul is thankful to God for his relationship with Timothy. Paul prays for Timothy night and day.
2. Inserted into this statement is the phrase “with a pure conscience.” While Paul made some mistakes in judgment, he always tried to do what he believed was the right thing. Even in harming Christians, Paul had a clear conscience.

**4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,**

1. It may have been a few months to one year since he last saw Timothy. But knowing his life is ending, he wants to see Timothy one more time.
2. At their parting, there were tears of fear that they would not see each other again.
3. Paul was feeling comfort, even joy, because of the emotional connection Timothy had with him.

**5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.**

1. In this time of emotion and desire to see Timothy, Paul remembers the young men he met years before.
2. Timothy had great and real faith that kept his going in times of distress.
3. Faith is not inherited. It is learned. Timothy learned from his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother Lois.
4. While his father was not a Jew, his mother taught him well in the Old Testament scriptures.

**6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**

1. Study 1 Timothy 4:14. The elders (apostles) laid hands on Timothy and gave him the gift of prophecy.
2. This verse mentions the laying on of hands by Paul to give Timothy a spiritual gift.
3. Stir up the gift means that it must be used, not neglected. Use it in the proper way and keep using it as needed.

**7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

1. Fear is not part of the fruit of the Spirit. Love is. Joy is. Peace is. Fear is not.
2. Fear is used in two ways:
	1. Fear = dread, cowardly withdrawal, fear of illness or death, fear of attack or harm.
	2. Fear = awe and respect. We are to fear God and keep His commandment. Our fear of God is not dread but respect.
3. We must not live our life in constant fear and cowardice. We have something better to motivate us. Fear is a negative motivator. Fear causes us to hide.
4. We have the power of love and of a sound mind.
	1. **Love** – is from a Greek word that means to seek what is best for another even above what may be best for you. Love is not an emotion. It is a powerful decision we make about how to treat others.
	2. **Sound mind** – is from a Greek word also translated self-control or moderation. Keep your body and your mind under control. Avoid doing things in the extreme. Do all things in moderation.

**8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,**

1. Do not be ashamed. Paul was not ashamed. He stood and spoke without compromise or shame. He preached to kings, governors, judges, Jewish leaders, and to the emperor of Rome.
2. Don’t be ashamed of:
	1. **The Lord** – Preach the gospel without fear or favor. Never be ashamed to speak the truth.
	2. **Paul** – Paul is not in prison, again. Paul was familiar with prison – Jerusalem, Caesarea, Ephesus, Philippi and Rome and several other cities.
	3. **Sharing in his suffering** – As Paul suffers, he hopes that others will remember and empathize with him.

**9 who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**

1. Don’t be ashamed of the gospel or of Jesus. It was Jesus who died for us.
2. Jesus saved us by His death. Jesus called us with a holy calling.
3. We have been called out of the world. We are called by the gospel. We are called to accept the salvation that Christ offers to us.
4. We are not saved by our works. We cannot earn our salvation by the things we do. Salvation is not based on how many prayers you say, worship services you attend, or good things you do for others.
5. We are saved when we do what God planned and purposed for us from the foundation of the world.
6. Before time began – World – (KJV) The word here is for time – long or short. Time began when God created light. At that moment, there was a period of light and a period of darkness. One light period (day) and one dark period (night) equal one day.

**10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,**

1. We now know what the plan of God was. God opened the curtain and let us see and understand His plan. It was revealed slowly in the Old Testament through the hundreds of prophecies about the coming Christ.
2. The ultimate revealing was in the coming of Jesus in the flesh. His coming did two important things for us.
	1. **Abolished death** – Jesus conquered death. Others were raised from the death, only to die later. Their death was just postponed. Jesus was raised from the dead – never to die again.
	2. **Immortality** – We can now see that we have a part of us that is not subject to death. Our body might die and return to dust. Our soul is eternal. It will not die. It is alive for ever.

**11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.**

1. Paul was appointed:
	1. **Preacher** – One who conveys a message with authority, a herald
	2. **Apostle** – One sent as an ambassador, send on a specific mission
	3. **Teacher of Gentiles** – Paul was chosen to preach to the Gentiles.

**12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.**

1. Paul understands why he is in jail. He knows he did no crime against society. He knows that his suffering is because of his preaching and teaching to Gentiles.
2. Paul is not ashamed. Why?
	1. **Know whom I have believed** – Faith in Christ is more than just accepting the fact of his birth, life, death and resurrection. We must know more than the facts about Christ. We must know Christ.
	2. **I am persuaded** – God can do what He promised. Paul is assured that he will have eternal life when his life on earth comes to an end.
	3. **God keeps what we have committed to Him** – Jesus told us to lay up treasure in heaven. Whatever we lay up in store in heaven will be safe. It will not rust or be stolen. It will be there on our behalf. Paul knows that he has laid up treasure in heaven. It will be there when he arrives.

**13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.**

1. Hang on tightly to the message you learned from Paul.
2. **Pattern** – Many today resist the teaching that we have a “pattern” to follow in salvation, worship, work, morals and other areas of life. Study Hebrews 8:5. Israel had to follow a pattern to build the tabernacle. We, too, must follow the pattern of the New Testament church. See also 1 Timothy 1:16 and Titus 2:7.
3. **Faith** – We have a pattern of our faith. See Hebrews 11. Follow the example (pattern) of Jesus as we walk in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21)
4. **Love** – We must preach the truth in love. Speak with kindness and compassion.

**14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.**

1. Revelation from God is a special treasure. Don’t lose it. Don’t try to change it or abandon it. Timothy has been entrusted with some special knowledge and information. Don’t keep it a secret. Don’t quit preaching it.
2. This revelation is from the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. NOTE: This verse does not say that the Holy Spirit keeps revealing things to all Christians. It says – Timothy, you need to keep the revelation that has been given to you. You can keep it (not get it) by the indwelling Spirit of God.

**15 This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.**

1. Some were not keeping the faith. Some were turning away. Every letter (Romans thru Revelation) discuss the fact that some depart, reject and turn away from their faith.
2. Paul names two men – Phygellus and Hermongenes. These names appear nowhere else in the Bible. We know only that they once were with Paul and Timothy but have turned away.
3. **NOTE**: Persecution can do that. In times of severe persecution, some with grow stronger, bolder and stand up for their faith. Others will shrink away in fear for their life and abandon the faith they once upheld.

**16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;**

1. In contrast to the two named in the previous verse, Paul mentions one who has remained strong and constant in his faith.
2. Onesiphorus did not shy away. He sought Paul to help him. We do not know all that he did but he encouraged and refreshed Paul in a time of threat, harm, death and persecution.

**17 but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found *me.***

1. He actually sought out Paul. He went to Rome and looked for a way to visit Paul.
2. It took some work. He was zealous in his search until Paul was located.

**18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day--and you know very well how many ways he ministered *to me* at Ephesus.**

1. Paul prays that Onesiphorus will continue in his faith until his death.
2. God will show mercy to him because of how he helped Paul. He had helped Paul, not only in Rome, but also when Paul was in Ephesus.

Chapter 2

**1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

1. With affection Timothy is addressed as “my son.”
2. As the end of chapter 1 discussed, there are hardships, suffering and persecution that must be endured. Therefore, Timothy must remain strong. Strong in his faith. If it begins to waver or his strength begins to fade, he will leave the faith as the two mentioned in 1:15 who turned away from their faith.

**2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**

1. Here is the four-step plan to keep preaching the gospel:
	1. Remember what you have been taught.
	2. Teach these things to faithful men
	3. The faithful men can, in turn, teach others
	4. By implication – Those taught by faithful men can teach others who will teach others.
2. This plan is also taught in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. There should be a continual line of being taught and being the teacher. Have you been taught? Are you teaching others?
3. Without the continuing teaching of others – the gospel will stop in one generation.

**3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

1. Paul uses three illustrations of how Christians must endure hardship.
	1. Soldier (3-4)
	2. Athlete (5)
	3. Farmer (6)

**4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.**

1. A soldier must stay alert and with full attention to the task at hand. If he begins to think about other things in life, his distraction could cost him his life.
2. His only focus must be on obeying those in command over him.

**5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.**

1. If one wants to win in some sport, he must make a full commitment to it.
2. They must know the rules and abide by them.
3. There is no crown of victory if you fail to know and obey the rules of the game.

**6 The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.**

1. The farmer must begin in the spring to prepare the soil, sow the seed, tend the field, pray for rain and WAIT.
2. Eventually, the crop is ready and he can enjoy the fruit of his labor.
3. SUMMARY:
	1. Endure hardness like a soldier.
	2. Know and obey the rules like an athlete.
	3. Work hard and be patient for the reward like a farmer.

**7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.**

1. Paul is speaking from wisdom of his years. He is telling Timothy to pay attention to these comments.
2. If Timothy will meditate on these things, think about them, he will see the wisdom and the value in – endurance, obey God, and be patient for the reward.

**8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,**

1. Jesus is in the blood line of King David. See Matthew 1 for the list from David to Christ.
2. Christ was raised from the dead.
3. This is the gospel which Paul preached. I don’t believe Paul is trying to claim the gospel message as his personal property. He is saying that this is the message that he has preached for many years.

**9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.**

1. Because of his preaching the gospel, he is now suffering in prison.
2. In the first century, the prison was not made of individual cells with doors. There was a room with chains that would be around their ankles and attached to the floor. Their freedom to move was limited by the length of the chain.
3. Paul is chained. The gospel is not bound. The gospel is not limited in how far it can go if we follow the plan mentioned in verse 2.

**10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**

1. Enduring the pain and suffering of the chains in prison were not going to stop the apostle from preaching the gospel.
2. Paul states that he will endure this hardship if others will hear and obey the gospel. If they will be saved, it will be worth the suffering.
3. The prison chains are temporary. Salvation with Jesus is eternal.

**11 *This is* a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him,* We shall also live with *Him.***

1. Here is another “faithful saying.” This is a way to call attention to the importance of what he is about to say.
2. What if we die because of our preaching the gospel? We lose this life. But we gain eternal life with Jesus.
3. We die with Him; we will live with Him.

**12 If we endure, we shall also reign with *Him.* If we deny *Him,* He also will deny us.**

1. In verse 11 we are told that if we die with Him, we will live with Him
2. Now he states that if we endure the suffering, we will reign with Christ.
3. Then he states the reverse. If we deny Him, He will deny us. Jesus taught this in Matthew 10:32-33.

**13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

1. What we do with our suffering and persecution does not change Christ.
2. We become faithless? He is still faithful.
3. The reason this is true – He will not deny Himself. You might reject Him, lose faith in Him, turn away from Him, deny Him; but He will remain faithful to His promise to save those that remain faithful.

**14 Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.**

1. Remind the church. Help them to remember. Not many sermons contain “new” information. Most listening to a sermon already know what they need to be doing. It is not a matter of giving them new information. We forget. We need to be reminded. Peter wrote his second letter to stir them to be more active and to remind them what he taught. (2 Peter 3:1)
2. Charge them. This is a stronger term. Remind them – gently. Then charge them. This word means to testify, become a witness about Christ in your life.
3. This is not time to get into an argument about words – especially if there is nothing to be gained. There is not profit to just discussing words. Such arguments will not lead people to Christ but drive them away.

**15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

1. The KJV says “Study.” The Greek word here means to exert ones self, to endeavor, to make haste. Most translations say Be diligent, Do your best, Give diligence.
2. There will be a time when we will stand before God. Will you come before God approved? We must live each day knowing that, above all else, we want to be approved of God.
3. To be approved by God we must be diligent workers. We must not be ashamed.
4. Rightly dividing the word of truth. The Greek word here means “to make a straight cut.” We must learn to cut at the right place to properly divide the Bible.
	1. **Dispensations** – We must learn where to cut between the Patriarchal, Law of Moses and Christian Ages.
	2. **Literature** – The Bible has poetry, history, prophecy (some apocalyptic prophecy) and letters. We must not read poetry and history in the same way. Learn to distinguish the type of literature you are reading.
	3. **History** – The Old Testament covers 12 periods of history. The New Testament covers 2 periods of history. We must learn the difference in this periods of history and “cut straight” the Word of God.

**16 But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.**

1. While we read the Bible, there are some things we should avoid.
2. There is no value in spending an entire Bible class discussing issues that only drive people away.
	1. **Profane** – Unholy, ungodly, that which is worldly, fleshly, base.
	2. **Vain babblings** – Vain talk leads to empty discussion of vain and useless matters. As yourself – What difference does it make? Where did Cain get his wife? What was Paul’s thorn in the flesh? What did Jesus write in the sand? Did the cup Jesus used in the Lord’s Supper have a handle? These are often asked and discussed. What difference does it make?
3. In the Open Forum at FHU a few years ago, someone asked Guy Woods about where Cain got his wife. Guy Woods said, “I have never seen so many people interested in another man’s wife.”
4. Churches have split over some of these issues. One cup vs. individual cups. One cup with a handle vs. one cup without a handle. Communion before vs. after the sermon. Taking communion to shut-ins. Classes for different age groups. Pay the preacher. Help someone who is not a Christian. The list goes on and on.

**17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,**

1. These discussions will spread like cancer. The Greek word here is for gangrene.
2. People fan the flames and a wild fire is soon out of control.
3. Again, Paul names those who need to be corrected.
	1. **Hymenaeus** – See 1 Timothy 1:20. Paul delivered him to Satan so he would learn not to blaspheme.
	2. **Philetus** – Nothing is known beyond this mention. All we know is that he was an advocate of error that spread and caused harm to the church.

**18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.**

1. They have strayed away from the truth. They are now teaching error. It must be exposed and stopped.
2. The error – The resurrection is already past. Through the years several have tried this approach. If you can make the end of time, resurrection and judgment apply to some other event then it is past and not in the future.
3. Beginning in the early 1970 Max King began teaching the doctrine now known as the AD 70 Doctrine or Realized Eschatology. There are several men around the country now teaching this doctrine. They teach that all events predicted in the Bible took place in AD 70 at the destruction of Jerusalem. This was, according to them, the resurrection and judgment. They claim that there is no future resurrection or judgment day. They will say that everything in the Bible was completed and fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem. Now, we are living, trying to please God and, according to them, when we die we go to directly to heaven or hell.
4. This doctrine was wrong in the time of Timothy. It is still wrong today. Let me offer two passages to consider.
	1. **Acts 17:30-31** The motive to repent is because judgment is coming. If the judgment is already past, the incentive to repent is also past.
	2. **1 Corinthians 11:26** teaches that we are to partake of communion “till He comes.” If he came in AD 70 then the communion expired and is no longer important for Christians.

**19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."**

1. The Word of God stands. Period. No false teaching can knock it down. No false teacher can nullify the will of God.
2. The seal – This is not “seal” not you seal a canning jar to keep air out. The word here refers to an official seal (think the seal of a notary). It is that which makes a document genuine and authentic.
3. God knows who are His. He does not need some false teacher to try to figure it out and decide who is saved and who is not saved. God knows who is fit for heaven and who has not been faithful to His word.
4. The second statement is a challenge. If you claim to be a Christian, if you wear the name of Christ – then you will reject iniquity in your life.

**20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.**

1. When you go the home of some wealthy or powerful family, you will find many expensive things in the home. Some are gold or silver. Some might have jewels in them.
2. But, you go to their kitchen cabinets you will find plain, simple soup bowls, cereal bowls and coffee cups. There are the expensive and beautiful on display, but there are others of less glory and value, but still useful.

**21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

1. **Application**: We are vessels. Some of us are beautiful, others are ugly. Some are gold or silver, others are wood or clay.
2. We are the vessels in the house of God. What kind of vessel are you? That is not the important question. The important question is: Are you useful to God?
3. Every vessel – gold or clay, silver or wood, needs to meet three requirements.
	1. You need to be a vessel of honor.
	2. You need to have some use for God.
	3. You need to be prepared for a good work.

**22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

1. Flee means to run away from, avoid, shun.
2. Youthful lusts – Lust is a strong desire for that which is forbidden. It takes some time and practice to overcome lust.
3. NOTE: There are many things that we are tempted to do, drawn toward, seek, desire and crave. God expects the Christian to be in control.
	1. **Married** – want to be with someone other than their mate
	2. **Homosexuality** – desire a relationship with one of the same sex
	3. **Alcoholism / addiction** – desire the drug or alcohol that is destroying their life
	4. The list is long. Anything forbidden that we desire is lust.
4. Here is the good news. We can overcome. We can resist the temptation. We can control the desire, the addiction, the lustful feelings. While we may continue to have that desire, we can control it and not allow it to control us.

**23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.**

1. Foolish questions – see the comments at 2:16.
2. Generate strife – Don’t bring them up. All they do is cause confusion, arguments and create anger and strife. Division is one of the things that God hates. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

**24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,**

1. Arguing is not who we are as Christians. God’s people don’t quarrel with each other.
2. Many trying to reach the lost get into heated arguments with them. You may win the argument but lose the soul. One many told me he “pinned their ears to the wall.” I asked, to you convert them?”
3. Here are three qualifications for Christians (preachers, elders, deacons, teachers, and all members of the congregation)
	1. **Gentle** – We must be mild mannered and considerate,
	2. Able to teach – This is not just for elders. Can you explain to your neighbor how and why we worship as we do?
	3. **Patient** – We must be forbearing with others. Patience is a prophet suffering. Patience is a farmer waiting for rain. Patience is Job enduring affliction. (James 5:7-11)

**25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,**

1. The most difficult quality for Christians is humility.
2. Here is a good definition of humility – gentle strength. There is a book about Christian men – title: Men of Steel and Velvet. That is humility.
3. Correct those in error. Notice that Paul has done this in this chapter. He named the men teaching error and he identified the error they were teaching. They need to be corrected.
4. Our job is to correct the error. Perhaps God will give them time to repent. We cannot make someone repent. We can teach the truth, point out the error and wait for the message to be accepted.

**26 and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.**

1. They must come to their senses. They have gotten off track in their thinking and need to come back. The Prodigal had to “come to himself.”
2. They must escape the trap the devil has set for them.
3. They have been under the power and control of the devil. They must realize where they are, the danger they are in. They must escape.

**Chapter 3**

**1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:**

1. **The last days** – There are many interpretations to this phrase. Some see Jesus coming back to earth for 1,000 years and setting up an earthly kingdom in Jerusalem. Some see the last days as a time of a world ruler who persecutes Christians. We know several things about the last days.
	1. **Hebrews 1:2** It is the Christian Age or Dispensation. Christ is the authority. “In these last days has spoken unto us by His Son.”
	2. **1 Timothy 4:1** There would be a departure from the faith.
	3. **Acts 2:17** The last days would begin with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Joel prophesied this and it was fulfilled in Acts 2.
	4. **2 Peter 3:3** In the last days there will come many who scoff and ridicule Christianity.
2. Perilous times will come. With a departure from the faith, scoffers who reject faith in God and the Bible, and many rejecting the authority of Jesus – there will be greater danger for those who remain faithful.

**2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,**

**3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,**

**4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,**

**5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

1. **Lovers of self** – Many are more interested in what is good for them, rather than how to help others. They choose a church, not for Bible teaching, but because they have a day care or a youth program. The last 30 years or so has been described as the ME generation.
2. **Lovers of money** – Clearly Jesus and the New Testament teach that the evil is not money itself. The love (greed) of money is wrong. Putting your trust in money rather than God is wrong. Seeking to get rather than share is wrong.
3. **Boasters** – They will be empty pretenders. This is pride gone to seed.
4. **Proud –** Webster’s Dictionary gives this meaning, “It is an inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one’s superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, etc.”
5. **Blasphemers –** Speaking evil slander is the primary meaning of this word. In the New Testament is it often applied to speaking evil of God or things that are to held as holy and with reverence.
6. **Disobedient to parents –** The growing disrespect for parental authority and outright rebellion to parents (and others in authority) is a problem of every generation.
7. **Unthankful –** Some are thankful in their mind and heart but fail to express their appreciation. Others feel that they were owed the kindness and don’t need to be grateful.
8. **Unholy –** Many will be impious and wicked.
9. **Unloving –** Without natural affection (KJV) Families will fall apart. The word here is the negative form of a word for family love. We love aunts, uncles and cousins because they are kin. There is a real problem with people don’t love their blood relatives.
10. **Unforgiving –** Jesus teaches that unless we forgive others, we will not be forgiven by God. (Matthew 6:14-15) Some think they can “forgive” but continue to bring up the fault and hold it against the person.
11. **Slanderers –** False accusers (KJV)
12. **Without self-control –** Over and over in the New Testament we are told to have self-control. We must control our emotions. We must control or desires. We must control our appetites. We must control our addictions. We must control our temper. We must control our tongue.
13. **Brutal –** Fierce or savage is the meaning of the Greek word.
14. **Despisers of good –** An elder must be “a lover of good men.” (Titus 1:8) This is the exact opposite. This word describes those who object when good is done.
15. **Traitors –** Luke 6:16 calls Judas a traitor. Anyone who betrays a friend or country is a traitor.
16. **Headstrong –** Describes one who dives into some activity without considering the results or consequences. The proverb – Look before you leap is often ignored.
17. **Haughty –** Puffedup with conceit is the concept here. Love is not puffed up. There is no room for conceit in the Christian.
18. **Lovers of pleasure –** What can I say? Many are more focused on movies, music, sports, pleasure – than they are of God. They can name and sing all the top songs, but don’t know the books of the Bible. TV, movies, internet, radio
19. **A form of godliness –** Some put on the appearance of being godly. They seem to be spiritual – when they are in a church assembly.
20. **Deny the power –** But they reject the power of God, the power of prayer, the power of worship, the power of God’s Word. They appear to be godly but they reject the authority and power of God.

**6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,**

1. The above list makes up those who wind their way into homes of unsuspecting Christians. They deceitfully enter and gain a hold.
2. Gullible women – This verse is often cited to show the Paul had a bias against women. Because most women in the first century were homemakers, they were not as alert or aware of the deceit in the world of business. Until a few years ago, a woman was considered an easy sale because of the lack of business experience. However, with many women in high positions in business and industry, this is not true like it was in the first century.
3. Led away – Because they were considered less aware, they were more easily led into accepting the teaching and view of the wicked.

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

1. They put themselves under the guidance of these false teachers, but they never learn what is truth and what is error.
2. Today, many listen to the preachers on TV. They keep hearing, but they are not able to know what is true. Error is mixed with a lot of Bible verses and a lot of truth. Like rat poison is 98% good wholesome corn. We must be alert for the 2% that will poison our soul.

**8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;**

1. These names are found nowhere else in the Bible. It is assumed that they were among the magicians who tried to duplicate the plagues of God.
2. The previous list of sinful behavior leads to:
	1. Resist the truth – Truth messes up their teaching.
	2. Corrupt minds – Their minds are so confused they don’t know what is truth and what is error.
	3. Being disapproved – Those who know the truth will reject them, correct them, and remove them from the fellowship if necessary.

**9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.**

1. If we know the truth, they will not make any more progress. Their teaching cannot stand in the light of truth.
2. The foolish thinking will be exposed.

**10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,**

1. Timothy was not taken in by these spiritual shysters. He learned from Paul. He knew the truth. He was following the teaching and example of Paul in:
	1. **Doctrine** – This word simply means teaching, or that which is taught. Doctrine falls in several headings.
		1. **Salvation** – What MUST one do to be saved?
		2. **Church** – Doctrines of the church include worship, singing, communion, prayer, giving, elders, etc.
		3. **Important** – Jesus, Virgin Birth, DBR, Inspiration of the Bible
		4. **False** – Variations of many Bible doctrines have been taught. While we must teach “sound doctrine” we must oppose that which is false.
	2. **Manner of life** – Paul’s life style was an example for Timothy to follow
	3. **Purpose** – Life needs a goal, a purpose. We need to understand where we are headed, why we get up in the morning, what our ultimate purpose in life is.
	4. **Faith** – Faith must be seen. It must be visible to others. People could see the faith of Paul. Read James 2. Show me your faith without works. I will show you my faith by my works.
	5. **Longsuffering** – Patient endurance is needed when talking to people about the gospel. Plant the seed, water it and – W A I T for the harvest.
	6. **Love** – Seek what is best for others.
	7. **Perseverance** – Patience (KJV) We must be able to idle our motor when we feel like stripping the gears.

**11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.**

1. While Timothy saw all the good qualities in Paul listed in the previous verse, he also saw the persecutions and afflictions.
2. He also saw how he was delivered from them.

**12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

1. This applies to us as well as the first century church.
2. There will always be opposition, resistance and hardship.
3. If you are living right, there will be those who oppose you.
4. Persecution does not always mean – prison or death. It can also mean law suits, slander, loss of work, gossiped about, and many other forms of pain.

**13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

1. Evil men will become worse and worse. They chip away at a moral stand until they convince people that what is immoral is right.
2. Isaiah 5:20 shows how people will get things so twisted they will call good evil and evil will be called good.

**14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them,***

1. Just keep doing what is right. Do not let the fear of persecution stop you.
2. You have assurance. You know the source of your teaching. You know that it is from God.

**15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

1. Not just what you learned from Paul. Remember what you learned as a child from your mother and grandmother.
2. You have known the Holy Scriptures. The Word of God is able to save your soul. The Word of God is powerful. The Word of God is alive and active. It is not a dead letter.
3. The Bible gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3)

**16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**

1. **All Scripture** – not just some of it. The Bible is not a pick and choose book where you pick the parts you life and skip the parts you don’t like.
2. **Inspiration** – The Greek word means “God breathed into”. The Bible is not of human origin. It came from God. It was “breathed” into the writers. There are four views or types of inspiration being advocated today.
	1. **Natural** – Inspired like any author gets and idea. The author then begins to write. **Problem**: This view leaves God out of the equation.
	2. **Mechanical** – This view says the authors were simply like a secretary. The letter is dictated and just wrote what God said. God choose the words and told the writer to write it down. **Problem**: This eliminates the style and vocabulary of the human writer.
	3. **Noematic** – God gave the general idea and allowed the writer to choose the words to express the idea. **Problem**: The writer may choose the wrong word to convey the thought from God. See Galatians 3:16. **Problem**: The writers searched their own writings for meaning. (1 Peter 1:10-12)
	4. **Verbal / Plenary** – God gives the thought and chooses from the writer’s vocabulary and style the words to express His idea. See the sermon outline below for a fuller study of Verbal Inspiration.

**17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

1. Why did God go to the trouble of revelation, inspiration, and preservation of the text?
2. God wanted us to be fully equipped. We needed to know everything that God thought was important for us to know.

**= = = = = = = = =**

Here is a sermon outline on the inspiration of the Bible.

**Theories of Inspiration**

**1. Define the terms -**

 A. Inspiration - To breath in, 2 Timothy 3:16 "breathed of God"

 B. Revelation - To part the curtain, to make clear or plain

 C. Inspiration does not always include revelation.

 D. Revelation does not always include inspiration.

**2. Theories of Inspiration That I Reject -**

 A. **Natural** - To get an idea by the natural thought process

 1. This eliminates God's involvement.

 2. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 32:2; Acts 1:16

B. **Mechanical** - Man was just a dictation machine

 1. Paul's form of logic.

 2. Luke used medical terms.

 3. Paul (5.2 letters per word); Peter (4.1 letters per word).

 4. Matthew (Jewish measurements); Mark (Roman); Luke (Greek).

 C. **Noematic** - The idea came from God; the words came from man.

 1. 1 Peter 1:10-12 Prophets searched their own writings

 2. Inspiration does not include understanding or acceptance

 Peter on Pentecost; Cornelius, and Galatians 2.

3. Galatians 3:16; Hebrews 7:12-14

(Argument is made on the word used.)

 4. If you believe in noematic inspiration, you believe nothing.

**3. Verbal or Plenary** - God guided man in the thoughts to be expressed and chose from that man's vocabulary the words to express the idea.

 1. Matthew 10:19-20 "how (words) or what (ideas)"

 2. Luke 12:11 "how or what"

 3. Luke 21:14-15 "mouth (words) and wisdom (ideas)"

 4. Jeremiah 36:6 "which thou hast written from my mouth"

 5. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

 Not naturally known or understood. (9)

 God revealed them (10)

 We have received - (12)

 Not spirit of the world

 Spirit of God

 Not in words of man's wisdom (13)

 But (in words) which the Holy Spirit teaches (13)

 "Comparing spiritual things with spiritual words" (ASV)

 6. 1 Timothy 4:1 "Spirit speak expressly"

Chapter 4

**1 I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:**

1. **Before God and Jesus Christ** – Who is our judge? In the Old Testament God was the judge. In the New Testament Jesus is described as our judge.
2. **Living and dead** – No one will escape the judgment. All who have died will be raised and appear at the judgment. All who are alive at the second coming will also appear at the judgment. That covers all who are now alive and all who have ever lived since Adam and Eve.
3. **At His appearing** – Judgment will take place when Jesus comes. The reference to His appearing includes visually seeing Jesus as he comes. See the statement of John in Revelation 1:7.
4. **His kingdom** – Many believe this is saying that Jesus will come back to earth and set up His earthly kingdom to reign for 1,000 years. This phrase is connected with His appearing. At the coming of Christ, His Kingdom and its citizens will be revealed. There are many “in the church” that may not be true and faithful followers of Christ. The true church (kingdom) will appear with Christ. We (faithful Christians) will be with Christ in judgment. Study Luke 22:30 as Jesus introduces the communion. Those who partake of this communion will be at the “Lord’s table” and will “sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

**2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

1. **Preach** – We must be the announcers of the good news. Preach includes more than delivering a sermon on Sunday morning when the church assembles. Preaching also includes all opportunities to share the news with others – at work, social contacts, relatives, friends and neighbors.
2. **The Word** – Today man sermons are social and political. God wants us to preach the Word of God.
3. **Be ready** – Are you ready to explain what you believe and practice? Can you tell others how to be saved? Are you prepared to teach others about worship?
4. **In season and out of season** – This phrase simply means – when it is acceptable and when it is not; when it is popular and when it is scorned; when it is liked and when it is despised. Preaching the Word is not always a popular and well received activity. Many will hate you because of the truth. 1 John 3:13 says we should not be shocked when the world hates us.
5. **Convince** – Convict (KJV) This word shows a mix of logic to convince and a sense of conviction that they are wrong. Thayer says that this includes “a suggestion of shame of the person convicted.”
6. **Rebuke** – This is a stronger term meaning to reprove sharply.
7. **Exhort** – This is a milder word meaning to beg or entreat.
8. **Longsuffering** – All teaching, in any form or strength, must be with patience.

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;**

1. **Not endure sound doctrine** – Sound doctrine is teaching that is healthy and will lead one to eternal life, not away from it. Paul has already said that perilous times shall come. (3:1)
2. **Their own desires** – Many will not want to hear the truth. They only what what pleases them and what they want to know or learn.
3. **Itching ears** – They will only what to listen to what is pleasing and makes them feel good.
4. **Heap up** – They will seek to multiply the number of preachers who will please them.

**4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**

1. Tickle my ears and I will be happy. Teach the truth and I will close my ears and turn away.
2. They would rather listen to fables (fictional stories with a moral truth).

**5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

1. **Watchful in all things** – Be alert at all times. We do not know when Jesus will come, so we must always be on guard.
2. **Endure afflictions** – We will suffer hardship. We will have trouble because we preach the truth.
3. **Work of an evangelist** – There is a lot of work to do. Evangelist is from the same word translated gospel. The gospel is good news. The evangelist is the one who speaks the good news to others. This term is often applied to preachers. Everyone who speaks the good news to others is an evangelist.
4. **Fulfill your ministry** – Fulfill means to bring in so that it is full, to cause to be filled, to carry through to the end, to bring to completion. Ministry is a form of the word for minister or deacon. A minister or deacon is one who serves others. Ministry is the work of serving others.

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

1. Paul saw his life nearing its end. He believed as he wrote this letter that his life was already being poured out. The next jailer coming near him could be taking him for execution. Paul saw his death as imminent.
2. **Departure** – Paul knows that soon his soul will leave his body and he will be with Jesus. The departure is the leaving of this life and work on planet earth.

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

1. **Fought the good fight** – Paul had his share of fights and struggles. This term is a sport term for a wrestler or boxer in a fight.
2. **Finished the race** – We must run the race of a Christian. (Hebrews 12:1-2) This is not a sprint but a marathon.
3. **Kept the faith** – In the New Testament faith is about the personal belief and trust that one has in God and Jesus as the Son of God. “The faith” is a special term to include all the teachings of the gospel. In Jude 1:3 we must fight constantly for the faith.

**8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

1. **Assurance** – Many sing Blessed Assurance, but they don’t have it. We ought to know if we have obeyed the gospel or not. We know if we are faithful to God or not. We know if we have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)
2. **On that Day** – The day of judgment is when the rewards will be given out.
3. **Not to me only** – Paul does not have a corner on the market of salvation. What Paul has in store, Timothy can have also. And, by extension, you and I can also have eternal life on that day.
4. **Loved His appearing** – Does the second coming bring you joy or dread? In the early church, many prayed for the quick return of Jesus. “Lord, come quickly,” was a common prayer.

**9 Be diligent to come to me quickly;**

1. Paul is hoping that Timothy can make the trip sooner rather than later. He knows his time is short. He wants to see Timothy one more time before his death.

**10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.**

1. Paul now gives some quck updates on where others are working.
	1. **Demas** – He was with Paul in Colossians 4:14 and doing a good work. Now he has left the work. Some read this in a bad sense of Demas leaving Christ and going back to the wicked world. Most believe this is more a statement that he left the work and went home. This preset world may mean the sinful world or it can refer to his desire to go home.
	Albert Barnes writes - There is, perhaps, a slight censure here in the language of Paul - “the censure of grief;” but there is no reason why Demas should be held up as an example of a worldly man. That he desired to live longer; that he was unwilling to remain and risk the loss of life, is indeed clear. That Paul was pained by his departure, and that he felt lonely and sad, is quite apparent; but I see no evidence that Demas was influenced by what are commonly called worldly feelings, or that he was led to this course by the desire of wealth, or fame, or pleasure.
	2. **Crescens** – We know nothing about this man except he is in the province of Galatia.
	3. **Titus** – Paul left Titus on the island of Crete to set those churches in order and ordain elders. Perhaps that work was now completed so Titus went to Dalmatia. Dalmatia was a part of Illyricum mentioned in Romans 15:19.

**11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.**

1. Luke is with Paul. Not that Luke was in jail, but was in Rome and supporting Paul. Luke had been with Paul on several journeys and wrote the Gospel of Luke.
2. Bring Mark – This is John Mark, the nephew of Barnabas. He left them in the middle of the first mission trip. There was a strong argument about taking Mark on the second mission trip. They parted company. Paul took Silas and Barnabas took Mark and headed to Cyprus. Later Perhaps Mark changed, or Paul had a change of attitude. Now Mark is useful for Paul.

**12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.**

1. Tychicus – He is a beloved brother at Ephesus (Ephesians 6:21) Apparently he was with Paul as they met with the elders from Ephesus. (Acts 20:4)

**13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come--and the books, especially the parchments.**

1. **Paul has need of his cloak** – The cloak was the outer garment to add a layer to keep warm in winter. Some believe that Paul left it at Troas when he was re-arrested and taken back to Rome. In the damp and dark prison, the cloak would be a great help.
2. **The books** – We do not know what books Paul was wanting. Perhaps copies of some of his letters. The books may have been some of the OT books.
3. **Parchments** – These are deer skins which were shaved thin and tanned into leather. It was the common writing material for scrolls. It would be needed if Paul was wanting to write letters to encourage some of these preachers he has just mentioned.

**14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.**

1. **Alexander the coppersmith** – This is the same person mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:20. Paul had delivered him to Satan. Some believe this is the same Alexander that is mentioned in Acts 19:33.
2. **Imprecation** – In the Bible, especially David in the Psalms, there are many prayers of imprecation. These are prayers for God to punish or harm the wicked. This is not a prayer for Paul to seek revenge. It is a prayer asking God to deal with the wicked who have harmed Paul and his work.

**15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.**

1. Paul is not seeking to gossip or spread tales and rumors. He has a real fear for the harm that a man like Alexander can do unless we are alert and aware.
2. Paul has talked with him (in person or by letter) but he has resisted and refused to change his teaching and behavior.

**16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.**

1. **First defense** – Paul is now in prison for the second time. He spent time in prison in Rome. Had a trial and was put under house arrest for 2 years. After this he was free to travel again. He was later arrested again and returned to prison in Rome.
2. **All forsook me** – Paul is not angry. All forsook Jesus at His trial. Paul stood in his own defense and was allowed to have house arrest with freedom to write and have visitors.
3. **Not charged against them** – Paul prayed that God would not hold this against those who escaped for their own safety. Some may see this as a form of denial like Peter did with Jesus. Others see this as cowardice and running to hide. Still others see them simply wanting to survive to keep up the work that Paul had started.

**17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.**

1. **The Lord stood with me** – God was on the side of Paul. If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
2. **Strengthened me** – God is able to help us in time of stress and trouble. 1 Peter 5:10 says that God will make you “perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.”
3. **Delivered** – Paul could have been executed at his first trial. But he was given a light sentence and able have house arrest and after 2 years, he was free again.
4. **Mouth of the lion** – This phrase implies the potential for death. But he was spared that sentence at his first trial.

**18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve *me* for His heavenly kingdom. To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!**

1. Paul has faith that God will continue to deliver him from wrong.
2. But there is also a thought that Paul has a place in the heavenly kingdom.

**19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.**

1. **Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila** – They were tent making Christians from Rome. They were expelled from Rome and came to Corinth where they met Paul.
2. **Onesiphorus** – See 2 Timothy 1:16

**20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.**

1. **Erastus –** Mentioned in Romans 16:23.
2. **Trophimus –** Listed in Acts 20:4 as being with Paul.
**NOTE**: Paul had the power to heal the sick. Why did he not heal this good worker for the Lord? Answer: Miracles were to convince the lost that God is with the speaker or teacher. Miracles were not for personal use or convenience.

**21 Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.**

1. **Come before winter** – The winter season was difficult to travel – land or at sea. Paul needed the cloak for the cold of winter that was coming. There is an urgency to the trip of Timothy.
2. **Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia** – All of these are common Roman names but not known elsewhere in the New Testament.

**22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.**

1. Paul ends his letter with a prayer for Timothy.