# 2 Timothy "Faithful to the Finish"

**Theme:** Be Faithful

**Key Thought:** The Gospel

**Author:** The Apostle Paul (It is his last letter; his farewell address to

Timothy)

**Recipient:** Timothy

**Date of Writing:** A.D. 66–67

Place of Writing: Rome

**Main Divisions:** Be faithful to keep the gospel

Be faithful to endure for the gospel Be faithful to focus on the gospel Be faithful to the word of the gospel

**Key Verses:** 2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 3:16-17 2 Timothy 4:2-5, 7-8

# 2 Timothy: Faithful to the Finish

**Writer:** Paul (1:1)

**Recipient:** Timothy (1:2)

**Date:** A.D. 66-67

Theme: A Final Farewell from a Faithful Father

	Emphasis on the Work		Emphasis on the Word		
	Living out	Enduring for	Focusing on	Preaching the	
	the Gospel	the Gospel	the Gospel	Gospel	Conclusion (4:22)
Greeting (1:1-2)	<ul> <li>A wonderful heritage</li> <li>No shame</li> <li>Hold fast to faithful words</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Models for ministry</li> <li>A faithful saying</li> <li>Dealing with trouble makers</li> <li>Make yourself useful to God</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dangerous times</li> <li>Ruthless people</li> <li>A faithful example</li> <li>The inspired Word</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A charge to the minister</li> <li>A final farewell</li> <li>A plea for help</li> <li>Strength in the Lord</li> </ul>	
	1:3 1:18	2:1 2:26	3:1 3:17	4:1 4:21	
"Stir up the gift" (1:6)		"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God" (2:15)	"Continue in the things which you have learned" (3:14)	"Preach the word" (4	1:2)

#### **Introduction to 2 Timothy**

#### **The Pastoral Epistles**

Second Timothy is the middle book in the modern collection commonly known as the "Pastoral Epistles" (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus). These letters were written to two pastors, Timothy and Titus. All of Paul's other epistles were written to churches, with the exception of Philemon. It is generally believed that 2 Timothy is Paul's final letter of record. It is his farewell address.

#### **Date of 2 Timothy**

The date of 2 Timothy depends on whether or not it must fit into the history of Acts. If Pauline authorship is dismissed, then there are many possibilities. It seems clear that 2 Timothy, as well as the other Pastorals, refers to history lying outside the scope of Acts. The traditional date for the close of Acts is A.D. 61-63, making 2 Timothy subsequent to that date. Pauline authorship preludes a date after c. A.D. 67, the time of Paul's death. Paul hopes to see Timothy again (4:9-12), so sufficient time is needed for Timothy to get to Paul. However, Paul clearly indicates his death is not far off (4:6-8). A probable date would be somewhere around A.D. 66-67.

#### Origin

According to 2 Timothy 1:16-17, Paul is in Rome (the generally accepted view). Also, 4:6 and 16 seem to indicate Paul had already undergone one trial and was awaiting another where the outcome did not look favorable. Paul was awaiting trial in Rome because he was a Roman citizen and could appeal to Caesar (at this time Nero). The epistle was written from a Roman prison, a cold and uncomfortable dungeon.

#### **Audience**

The letter is clearly meant for Timothy (1:2) and is very personal in nature. It would appear Timothy was still in Ephesus as pastor (1 Timothy 1:3, 18; 4:19). Paul asked him to stop in Troas and then to come to him quickly.

#### **Purpose**

This is the last of Paul's letters of which there is any record. The closeness of his death (4:6-9) and the urgency of his message (4:1) reveal that Paul is giving his last instructions to his "dear son," should Timothy not be able to

reach him in time (4:21). Paul wants Timothy to remain faithful (4:1-5). This is the theme that runs throughout the letter and it ties all the pieces together. A strong secondary theme is "the gospel." Paul uses many different terms and phrases to describe the gospel, but all of them focus on the person and work of Jesus. Paul is urging Timothy to follow in his steps and finish the race faithfully. The nature and occasion of this epistle make it extremely important for all Christians to hear and heed its message.

- 1. Paul wrote to stimulate Timothy to:
  - a. Courage and faith (2 Tim. 1:7-8; 2:1-6, 11-13; 3:14; 4:1-2, 5)
  - b. Withstand false doctrine (2 Tim. 1:13; 2:18, 23, 25; 3:14-15; 4:2-3)
  - c. Choose faithful men for ministry (2 Tim. 2:2)
- 2. Paul wrote to summon Timothy to Rome (2 Tim. 4:9, 11, 13, 21)

#### The Outlook of 2 Timothy

- a. More personal than official (2 Tim. 1:4-6; 2:2; 3:14-15)
- b. A combination of pessimism and optimism (2 Tim. 1:15-16; 2:9, 20-21; 3:10-11, 13-14; 4:3-5)

#### **An Outline of 2 Timothy**

- I. A call to loyalty (1:1-18)
- II. A call to endurance (2:1-26)
- III. A call to orthodoxy (3:1-17)
- IV. A call to service (4:1-22)

# **Paul's Two Imprisonments Compared**

First Imprisonment	Second Imprisonment	
Accused by the Jews of heresy and sedition against the nation (Acts 24-26)	Pursued by Roman authorities and arrested as a criminal against the empire	
Good living conditions in a rented house (Acts 28:30-31)	Poor conditions in a cold, dark dungeon	
Many friends visited him	He is virtually alone	
Had many opportunities for Christian witness	Opportunities greatly restricted	
Expected freedom (Phil. 1:24-26)	Anticipated execution (2 Tim. 4:6)	

## A Portrait of the Minister of God

### 2 Timothy 2:1-7

I.	Be a Teacher	2:1-2
	1. Know where to stand.	2:1
	2. Know what to share.	2:2
	3. Know who to send.	2:2
II.	Be a Soldier	2:3-4
	1. You are called to participate in conflict.	2:3
	2. You are called to please Christ.	2:4
III.	Be a Competitor	2:5
	1. Get into the contest.	
	2. Go for the crown.	
	3. Engage with care.	
IV.	Be a Farmer	2:6-7
	1. The requirement: hard work.	2:6
	2. The reward: heavenly wisdom.	2:7