

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

The year is 67 A.D. Paul is in chains, imprisoned at Rome for the second time. This time he is not allowed to live by himself (*Acts 28:16*) but is placed in the dungeon. This Letter he writes from Rome to Timothy, is the last he will ever write. Perhaps three months after this, he will be executed (beheaded) as a criminal (armed terrorist) who had tried to destroy the city. [The Christians were made the *scapegoat* for the burning of Rome.] Peter was also executed in Rome about his same time, crucified upside-down. The uniform testimony of the early church verifies these things.

Jewish "knowledge" was a great threat to Christianity as Paul wrote these Letters to Timothy and Titus. Some of the *circumcision party* had found elements of Greek Philosophy which pleased them. The Gnostics claimed that to reach God, very special knowledge was necessary, and a strict asceticism. This permitted certain Jews to claim that the Law of Moses and the Jewish dietary restrictions gave that special knowledge and asceticism. Two evil extremes grew out of this: (1) the grace of God was turned into debauchery (see *1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-9*); (2) a legalistic asceticism (see *1 Tim. 4:3*). This was especially dangerous, because it claimed to be grounded in God's Old Testament revelation. These Scriptures were used to invent legends and lists of names to "prove" what they wanted to prove. They said Jesus Christ could not have come as a human being, since all matter (material things) was evil, and this would have involved Him in sin. Paul stresses that Jesus came as a *man* (*1 Tim. 2:5; 3:16*). See also *1 John 4:2-3*. The Letters to Timothy and Titus are a positive and healthy affirmation of the good life in Christ, who is the Wisdom of God! Read also the introduction to First Timothy.

Timothy, Paul's dear son in the gospel, is still in distant Ephesus. Paul would like to see him once more, as he writes from the dungeon. He asks Timothy to come to him (at Rome) soon! The *key* to this Letter is found in *2 Tim. 1:8*. Paul writes to help him understand the ghastly events which would make both of them martyrs for Christ! [Timothy would outlive Paul by some twenty-five years.]

THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

1 From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, sent to proclaim the promised life which we have in union with Christ Jesus—

²To Timothy, my dear son:

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

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

³I give thanks to God, whom I serve with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did. I thank him as I remember you always in my prayers, night and day. ⁴I remember your tears, and I want to see you very much, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I remember the sincere faith you have, the kind of faith that your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice also had. I am sure that you

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

To Timothy, my dear son: **2**

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Encouragement to Be Faithful

I thank God, whom I serve as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded, now lives in

1. From Paul, an apostle. See notes on *1 Tim. 1:1*.

2. To Timothy, my dear son. He was "true son" in the First Letter. There is a different feeling (empathy) in this Second Letter. Paul says more about love, and seems less confident about Timothy. Some think this implies that Paul had doubts about Timothy's ability to *stand up* under the problems which faced him. But I think it more probable that the reason for this difference is that Paul is under sentence of death as he writes, and he is aged. Since Paul knows he is being sacrificed (*2 Tim. 4:6*), he reaches out in love to Timothy, his dear son in the faith, whom he is about to leave behind in a very serious situation.

3. Whom I serve with a clear conscience. The *circumcision party* said Paul was a traitor to God because he preached the Good News to the Gentiles without forcing them to convert to Judaism. But Paul could say truthfully that he had a clear conscience (see note on *Acts 23:1*). He was doing what God had commanded him to do (*Acts 26:16-18*). As my ancestors did. Two thoughts are in Paul's mind: (1) the awareness of God which he inherited from his ancestors (compare *verse 5*); (2) the continuity of God's revealed Word. The same *light* of truth is in the New Covenant as the Old, but the brightness of the New is like the *sun* compared to the *moon*. Compare *Acts 26:19-23* and notes.

4. I remember your tears. Compare *Acts 20:37*; *2 Cor. 2:4*; *Phile. 7*. Timothy is Paul's dear friend!

5. I remember. Compare *Eph. 1:15*. The kind of faith. Timothy was a second-generation Christian. See note on *Acts 16:1* and introduction to First Timothy. Note also the *chain of influence* which began with this devout grandmother.

have it also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to keep alive the gift that God gave to you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of witnessing for our Lord; neither be ashamed of me, his prisoner. Instead, take your part in suffering for the Good News, as God gives you the strength for it. ⁹He saved us and called us to be his own people, not because of what we have done, but because of his own purpose and grace. He gave us this grace by means of Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰but now it has been revealed to us through the coming of our Savior, Christ Jesus. He has ended the power of death, and through the Good News has revealed immortal life.

¹¹God has appointed me to proclaim the Good

you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an a-

6. **For this reason.** "Because I am sure that you do have this sincere faith." **Keep alive the gift.** This is the gift which God gave him. This means it is a supernatural gift from the Spirit. See note on 1 Tim. 4:14. The gift was evidently the ability to direct others (compare 1 Cor. 12:28 and note). **When I laid my hands on you.** Compare Acts 9:17; 10:44; 13:3; 19:6 and notes. God gave the gift when Paul laid his hands on him.

7. **Does not make us timid.** The Expositor's Greek Testament says us refers to The Christian Society (messianic community). See Rom. 8:15 and note. **Power** = courage. See Acts 4:31 and note. **Love.** Christians are not motivated by selfish spirit seen in the Jewish leaders and the Circumcision Party, who hated everybody and loved only the members of their own group. "You can only love God as much as you love your brother!" (1 John 4:20). **Self-control.** A disciplined, orderly life. Compare 1 Cor. 6:12.

8. **Do not be ashamed.** (1) of witnessing. [Witness: to attest, testify, furnish proof of, things known or believed to be true (Webster).] (2) of me. See 1 Cor. 4:8-9 and notes. The ghastly things happening to Paul are a humiliation and disgrace. Timothy cannot escape the effects of this, and must deliberately share in it for the sake of the Good News! **Instead, take your part.** "Come to Rome and share my suffering, as a good soldier of Christ. If you are ashamed of me, it will be the same as being ashamed of Christ!" Compare verse 15; 2:1, 3, 8, 9.

9. **He saved us.** "God gives us our strength! He called us to be his own people (John 6:44-45)." **Not because of what we have done.** He mentions this in Titus 3:3-5; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:8-10. Romans ch 9 examines this. **Before the beginning of time.** See Eph. 3:9-11; 1 Cor. 2:7-10 and notes.

10. **But now it has been revealed.** See Luke 1:78; 1 Tim. 2:5-7. **He has ended.** See Heb. 2:14-15. Christ is the guarantee of our eternal life!

11. **God has appointed me.** See 1 Tim. 2:7 and note.

News as an apostle and teacher, ¹²and it is for this reason that I suffer these things. But I am still full of confidence, because I know whom I have trusted, and I am sure that he is able to keep safe until that Day what he has entrusted to me. ¹³Hold to the true words that I taught you, as the example for you to follow, and stay in the faith and love that are ours in union with Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Keep the good things that have been entrusted to you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

¹⁵You know that everyone in the province of Asia deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶May the Lord show mercy to the family of Onesiphorus, because he cheered me up many times. He was not ashamed that I am in prison, ¹⁷but as soon as he arrived in Rome he started

postle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for

12. **And it is for this reason.** This implies that the unbelieving Jews are the cause of his second imprisonment. Compare *Acts 22:21-22*; *Eph. 3:1* (which show the cause of his first imprisonment). Christ said it would be this way (*John 16:33*; *Matt. 10:34-39*). **But I am still full of confidence.** "I know the power of the One who appointed me to preach the Good News." **What he has entrusted to me.** The TEV give the correct translation, as PARATHEKE has that meaning in other places Paul uses it (*1 Tim. 6:20*; *2 Tim. 1:14*). *Spain* says this best fits the context of *verses 11-14*. *Chrysostom* understands the thing entrusted as: "the faith, the preaching of the Gospel." [If it is understood as "What I have entrusted to Him," it is Paul's entire person, body, soul, and spirit.]

13. **Hold to the true words.** This is the thing which was entrusted to Paul, and which he passed on to Timothy. These *true words* (the Christian System) are the example for him to follow (also for every Christian to follow). **Faith and love.** These are two strengths and weapons which false teachers cannot use!!! See note on *1 Tim. 1:14*.

14. **Keep the good things.** "Guard them, preserve them intact!" **Through the power of the Holy Spirit.** Paul's confidence in God (*verse 12*) is that He will supply the power (*verse 7*)! *This does not take away the human element, therefore Paul places this obligation on Timothy.*

15. **Deserted me.** *MacKnight* thinks only the teachers of the Circumcision Party are meant, possibly some who had followed him to Rome. Timothy is himself in the province of Asia, also Tychicus (*2 Tim. 4:12*). There was a real danger that the Jewish Christians would allow certain false teachers to turn them away from Christ, back to the Law of Moses (which had been superseded). **Phygelus and Hermogenes** are mentioned only here.

16. **Onesiphorus.** Paul prays for this brother's family in this *verse*, and for him in *verse 18*. Both *Johnson* and *MacKnight* think he was still living at this time. But he may also be in prison, waiting to be executed as was Paul. He had placed himself in danger by visiting Paul in prison and helping him.

17. **But as soon.** He came to Rome from Ephesus, and immediately searched through the different prisons to find Paul.

looking from me until he found me. ¹⁸May the Lord grant him to receive mercy from the Lord on that Day! And you know very well how much he did for me in Ephesus.

A Loyal Soldier of Christ Jesus

²As for you, my son, be strong through the grace that is ours in union with Christ Jesus.

²Take the words that you heard me preach in the presence of many witnesses, and give them into the keeping of men you can trust, men who will be able to teach others also.

³Take your part in suffering, as a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴A soldier in active service wants to please his commanding officer, and so does not get mixed up in the affairs of civilian life.

⁵An athlete who runs in a race cannot win the prize unless he obeys the rules. ⁶The farmer who has done the hard work should have the first

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²You then, my son, be
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hardship with us like a good
soldier of Christ Jesus. No
one serving as a soldier gets
involved in civilian affairs—
he wants to please his com-
manding officer. Similarly, 5
if anyone competes as an
athlete, he does not receive
the victor's crown unless he
competes according to the
rules. The hard-working 6
farmer should be the first to
receive a share of the crops.

18. **On that Day.** The Day of Judgment. Remember Paul was friendless and alone, surrounded by his enemies, when Onesiphorus came to him! Compare *Heb. 6:10*.

1. **As for you, my son.** The Circumcision Party in the province of Asia had all rejected Paul as apostle, therefore he will no longer be able to reason with them and oppose their false teaching. This *burden* must now *fall on the shoulders* of Timothy (and others like him). Paul is intensely anxious about how Timothy will act in the future. This does not mean that Paul expects him to fail, but he feels about this as a father would who sees his son go off to war.

2. **Take the words.** Paul sees *apostolic succession* as a matter of *teaching*, not of *administration*. What Paul preached was the Good News of God's act in Christ and all that formed part of this (*verse 8*). In other words, it is the entire New Testament. [Timothy died about the time the last Book was written, but he had been taught everything that would be in it.] Timothy is to pick those who can be trusted and *pass on* this message. *The seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11)*. [Note: *men* is *ANTRŌPOIS*, not *ANDRES*.]

3. **Take your part.** A soldier must suffer as well as fight. Timothy must set an example for others to follow.

4. **A soldier in active service.** Timothy's position is unusual, because as Paul's *spiritual son*, he would be the target of the opposition. But this principle applies to every servant of God. The ministry of the Word must supersede everything else!! [But Paul could be a *tent-maker* without violating this.] Compare *2 Cor. 6:14*.

5. **Unless he obeys the rules.** An example from the games. After the race, those who had disobeyed the rules were disqualified. Compare *1 Cor. 9:27* and note.

6. **First share of the harvest.** The farmer receives his share, no matter how poor the crop may be, because he has worked. "The soldier gives up civilian life; the athlete obeys the rules; the farmer works hard and waits for the harvest. You, Timothy, must put the Lord first, suffer when necessary, and work patiently, to receive your reward (*Rev. 22:12*)."

share of the harvest. ⁷Think about what I am saying, because the Lord will enable you to understand all things.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, who was raised from death, who was a descendant of David, as told in the Good News I preach. ⁹Because I preach the Good News I suffer, and I am even chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not in chains, ¹⁰and for this reason I endure everything for the sake of God's chosen people, in order that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. ¹¹This is a true saying:

"If we have died with him,
we shall also live with him.

¹²If we continue to endure,
we shall also rule with him.

If we deny him,
he also will deny us.

¹³If we are not faithful,
he remains faithful,
because he cannot be false to himself."

Reflect on what I am saying, ⁷for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Remember Jesus Christ, ⁸raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure ⁹everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹⁰

Here is a trustworthy ¹¹saying:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;

if we endure,
we will also reign with him. ¹²

If we disown him,
he will also disown us;
if we are faithless,
he will remain faithful, ¹³for he cannot disown himself.

7. **Think.** "Grasp the meaning of these examples. Ask the Lord for wisdom (*James 1:5*)."

8. **Remember Jesus Christ.** He is both the great example and the source of hope! Who was raised from death. Paul is thinking of the resurrection as a personal experience of Jesus Christ (*Heb. 2:9*). A descendant of David. He made what the prophets had said come true. In the Good News. The experience of Christ is the basis of the Good News of God's act in Christ to set men free (*1 Cor. 15:1-4*). The opposition fought against the idea that Christ had raised from death, and said it was only symbolic, and that our resurrection has already happened (*verses 17-18*).

9. **Because I preach.** "I have been put in this prison by the enemies of the Good News!" Is not in chains. Paul is in chains, but not the word of God!!! Even the Devil is not permitted to destroy the message of the Good News! [But see *Gal. 1:6-9* and notes.] Compare *2 Tim. 4:17; Phil. 1:12-14*.

10. **And for this reason.** "Since the work goes on!" I endure. Compare *1 Cor. 13:7*. For the sake of. MacKnight thinks Paul has in mind the Gentiles, who were his special responsibility. But see also *Rom. 9:3; Acts 21:13* and notes.

11. **This is a true saying.** This may be part of an ancient hymn. Paul uses it to reinforce what he has just said (in *verses 4-10*). If we have died with him. See *Rom. 6:4-8; Col. 2:12* and notes.

12. **If we continue to endure.** See *Rom. 8:17; Matt. 19:27-28* and notes. If we deny him. See *Matt. 10:32-33* and notes.

13. **He remains faithful.** Even if we turn away from him, he will be faithful to every promise, and every threat!!! See *Rom. 3:4* and note.

An Approved Worker

¹⁴Remind your people of this, and give them solemn warning in God's presence not to fight over words. It does no good, but only ruins the people who listen. ¹⁵Do your best to win full approval in God's sight, as a worker who is not ashamed of his work, one who correctly teaches the message of God's truth. ¹⁶Keep away from godless and foolish discussions, which only drive people farther away from God. ¹⁷What they teach will be like an open sore that eats away the flesh. Two of these teachers are Hymenaeus and Philetus. ¹⁸They have left the way of truth and are upsetting the faith of some believers by saying that our resurrection has already taken place. ¹⁹But the solid foundation that God has laid cannot be shaken; and these words are written on it: "The Lord knows those who are his"; and,

A Workman Approved by God

Keep reminding them of 14 these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present 15 yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid 16 godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will 17 spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered 18 away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's 19 solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and,

14. **Remind your people of this.** The issues of life and death set out in *verses 11-13*. **Not to fight over words.** See note on *1 Tim. 6:4*. *Lipscomb* says: "They had such a morbid fondness for questionings and disputings over untaught questions and words that it amounted to a disease. These men deal with subtle, useless, and unpractical questions, which have no practical bearing on ordinary life, and only tend to stir up strife and useless discussion, and to make men discontented and rebellious."

15. **Do your best.** This is required of every Christian! [In ancient English, *study* meant *to do your best*.] **To will full approval.** "It is God whom we must please, not the Circumcision party or anyone else!" **Who correctly teaches.** This means: (1) presenting the truth clearly and accurately; (2) giving *milk* to those who need it. (Heb. 5:11-14; 1 Cor. 3:1-2).

16. **Keep away from.** See note on *1 Tim. 6:20*. *Lipscomb* says: "Everything not commanded by God in the Scriptures may safely be placed under this head." Nothing ought to be bound upon Christians as articles of faith, nor required as terms of communion and fellowship, *except* what is clearly taught and required in the Word of God. Human reasoning and opinion may be valid, but has no *authority*!

17. **What they teach.** The false teachings mentioned in *verse 16* will eat into men's souls like cancer! See notes on *1 Tim. 6:4-5*. **Hymenaeus and Philetus.** See note on *1 Tim. 1:20*. Nothing is known of Philetus. They may have denied that Jesus came as a human being, and that both his death and resurrection were not *real*. See *1 John 4:3* and note.

18. **By saying.** They said the only resurrection was a *moral resurrection of the soul*. Compare *1 Cor. 15:12* and note. These false teachers combined a believable but false spirituality (sentimentality) with an irresistible materialism.

19. **But the solid foundation.** "Even though the faith of some is upset, God's solid foundation cannot be shaken!" The church (messianic community) has an *absolute wholeness* unaffected by some who go AWOL from it!!! Compare *Rom. 9:8; 11:26*. **The Lord know those who are his.** This gives every true Christian confidence!!! *MacKnight* identifies the solid foundation as the apostles themselves (*Eph.*

"Whoever says that he belongs to the Lord must turn away from wrongdoing."

²⁰In a large house there are dishes and bowls of all kinds: some are made of silver and gold, others of wood and clay; some are for special occasions, others for ordinary use. ²¹If anyone makes himself clean from all these evil things, he will be used for special purposes, because he is dedicated and useful to his Master, ready to be used for every good work. ²²Avoid the passions of youth, and strive for righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who with a pure heart call for the Lord to help them. ²³But stay away from foolish and ignorant arguments; you know that they end up in quarrels. ²⁴The Lord's servant must not quarrel. He must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher, ²⁵who is gentle as he corrects his opponents. It may be that God will give them the opportunity to repent

"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

In a large house there are 20 not only articles of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself 21 from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Flee the evil desires of 22 youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything 23 to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must 24 not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he 25 must gently instruct, in the hope that God will give them a change of heart leading them to a knowledge of the

2:20) and thinks these words are quoted from *Num. 16:5 Septuagint* (the Hebrew has: "the Lord will show those who are his"). **Must turn away from wrongdoing.** This shows who are His! Those who belong to the Lord must turn away from the false teachers. Compare *Rev. 18:4* and note.

20. **In a large house.** "Do not think it strange that God permits wicked teachers in his church. The church is an IDEAL, so we can expect some disloyal members to be in it." Compare *1 Cor. 12:21-26* and notes.

21. **He will be used for special purposes.** "If a teacher will cleanse himself from false teachings, false loyalties, and sinful action, God will use him for special purposes." Christians must be holy (*1 Pet. 1:16*).

22. **Avoid the passions of youth.** Here Paul means, not so much sensual passions, but such things as grandiose ambition, pride, love of power, rashness, stubbornness, etc. Some teachers avoid the sensual passions, but *fall into* these other things. **And strive for.** You must purposely seize these things and practice a positive righteousness!!! Compare *Matt. 12:43-45* and notes.

23. **But stay away from.** See *Titus 3:9-11* and notes.

24. **Must not quarrel.** He must not waste valuable time in these useless discussions. **He must be kind.** He must be a gentle and patient teacher, demonstrating the kindness which he encourages others to develop.

25. **As he corrects.** He must not use violent methods with those whom he corrects, even though they are his opponents. **That God will give.** God gives the opportunity to repent by making people *aware* of their sins. But the knowledge of God's goodness must be combined with the sense of sin, to avoid discouragement. See *2 Cor. 7:10* and note.

and come to know the truth. ²⁶And then they will return to their senses and escape from the trap of the Devil, who had caught them and made them obey his will.

truth, and that they will ²⁶ come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

The Last Days

3 Remember this! There will be difficult times in the last days. ²Men will be selfish, greedy, boastful, and conceited; they will be insulting, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, and irreligious; ³they will be unkind, merciless, slanderers, violent, and fierce; they will hate the good; ⁴they will be treacherous, reckless, and swollen with pride; they will love pleasure rather than God; ⁵they will hold to the outward form of our religion, but reject its real power. Keep away

Godlessness in the Last Days

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

26. Will return to their senses. They have been *spiritually psychotic*!!! The servant of God is to attempt to rescue even the false teacher!!! See *Jude 22-23*.

1. **Remember this.** "I have told you before about the apostasy which is taking place (*Eph. 4:14; 2 Thess. 2:7*)." **There will be difficult times.** See note on *1 Tim. 4:1*. The entire Christian Age is called **the last days** in *Acts 2:16-17*. It does not mean *the last days of the world*, because Timothy was already fighting these things (*1 Tim. 6:3-5; etc.*). But Paul may also have in mind the prophecies of Christ (*Matt. 24:4-22* and notes).

2. **Men will be selfish.** Paul uses the word *ANTHROPOI* which means mankind in general (both men and women), but *verse 6* shows he is thinking especially of the false teachers. The sins mentioned in these verses have always been in the world. The new quality is that these things will be done openly and defended (as was being done right then). See *Rom. 1:28-32* and notes. All the other sins begin and end in selfishness!!! **Greedy Money-mad!** **Boastful** that he has God's approval. **Conceited** because he thinks God is obligated to him. **Insulting** in the things they say about God and his chosen people (the Christians). See *Jude 14-15*. **Disobedient.** Since the Jews called religious leaders and teachers *parents*, this could also mean rebellion against true teachers such as Timothy. **Ungrateful** to those who try to help them. **Irreligious.** The unholy. See *1 Tim. 1:9-10* and notes.

3. **Unkind, brutal, inhuman, heartless.** *MacKnight* ties this in with those who are forced to live a celibate life (*1 Tim. 4:3* and note), also those who force their children and others into such things. [But *voluntary* celibacy is an option. See *1 Cor. 7:1* and note.] **Merciless.** People who, when offended, will not be open to any agreement or reconciliation. **Slanderers** of those who speak out against their sins. **Violent** against any who dare oppose them. **Fierce** in their opposition to truth. **Hate the good.** They hate the good because they love the evil. See *Titus 1:8, 16* and notes.

4. **Treacherous,** even to their own relatives (*Matt. 10:34-36*). **Reckless.** Headstrong, irrational behavior caused by prejudice and hatred. **Swollen with pride,** so that no one can give them any advice. **Love pleasure.** See *2 Pet. 2:13*.

5. **To the outward form.** The context shows these people are members of the Lord's church (or at least they seem to be). In order to deceive their followers, they put on an outward show of godliness, and perhaps pretend to be "defenders of the Faith." Read what Jesus said in *Matt. 23:23-32*. **But reject.** Compare what Paul said in *1 Thess. 1:5; 1 Cor. 4:19-20*. The real power of our religion is truth and love at work in a holy life! The false teachers cut themselves off from these!!! *Lipscomb* says: "Anyone

from these men. ⁶Some of them go into homes and get control over weak women who are burdened by the guilt of their sins and driven by all kinds of desires, ⁷women who are always trying to learn but who never can come to know the truth. ⁸As Jannes and Jambres were opposed to Moses, so also these men are opposed to the truth—men whose minds do not function and who are failures in the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, because everyone will see how stupid they are, just as it happened to Jannes and Jambres.

Last Instructions

¹⁰But you have followed my teaching, my conduct, and my purpose in life; you have observed my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance,

They are the kind who ⁶
worm their way into homes
and gain control over weak-
willed women, who are load-
ed down with sins and are
swayed by all kinds of evil
desires, always learning but ⁷
never able to acknowledge
the truth. Just as Jannes and ⁸
Jambres opposed Moses, so
also these men oppose the
Truth—men of depraved
minds, who, as far as the
faith is concerned, are re-
jected. But they will not get ⁹
very far because, as in the
case of those men, their folly
will be clear to everyone.

Paul's Charge to Timothy

You, however, know all ¹⁰
about my teaching, my way
of life, my purpose, faith,
patience, love, endurance,

denies the power of godliness when he professes to honor God, but refuses to obey his commandments (*Matt. 7:21-23*).” **Keep away.** This means: (1) Avoid such people as this! (2) Do not allow such people to influence you. (3) *MacKnight* thinks it means they should be turned out of the church to protect the others, as you would remove a cancer.

6. **And get control.** These sneak into houses and seduce women into false religious practices. Paul does not mean that all women are like this, but those who have an unhealthy sense of guilt and are slaves to evil. They happily accept the false teachings which promise to allow them to sin and still be saved.

7. **Always trying to learn.** This continues *verse 6*. These women are always looking for some new thing (compare *Acts 17:21*). They listen greedily to everyone that comes along, but they never learn anything (of the truth). If truth sets you free, error keeps you a slave (*John 8:32*).

8. **As Jannes and Jambres.** These are the traditional names of Pharaoh's chief sorcerers, who opposed Moses (*Exod. 7:11*). **Opposed to the truth.** Like Elymas (*Acts 13:8* and note). Paul must mean that some of these will even do counterfeit miracles and false outpourings of the Spirit to deceive people! See *Rev. 13:13* and note. These false teachers were very deep into the occult. **And who are failures.** Paul also uses this expression in *2 Cor. 13:5*. These people have reached the stage in their apostasy that they are amoral, having lost any sense of right or wrong, good or bad.

9. **But they will not get very far.** This covers what he has been saying all the way back to *2:14*. Jewish literature says this: “As for the illusions of art magic, they were put down, and their vaunting in wisdom was reprovved with disgrace” (*Wisdom 17:7*). *Adam Clarke* says: “False doctrine cannot prevail long where the sacred Scriptures are read and studied. Error prevails only where the book of God is withheld from the people.”

10. **But you have followed.** Paul is thinking here of the point in time when Timothy obeyed the truth and become a Christian. **Teaching.** See *1 Tim. 1:11; 2:7* and notes. **Conduct.** Especially the *motivation* which lies back of it. **Purpose.** The aim or goal of his life. In becoming a Christian, Timothy had made these things his own. **My faith.** Loyalty to Christ and the truth. **Patience.** Even when annoyed (*1 Thess. 5:14*). **Love.** Compare *1 Tim. 1:5* and notes. Christian love is to treat others as God has treated you in Christ! Paul did this! **Endurance.** One who does not give up in the race until he finishes.

¹¹my persecutions, and my sufferings. You know all the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, the terrible persecutions I endured! But the Lord rescued me from them all. ¹²All who want to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted; ¹³but evil men and impostors will keep on going from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in the truths that you were taught and firmly believe. You know who your teachers were, ¹⁵and you remember that ever since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching

persecutions, sufferings— 11
 what kinds of things happen
 to me in Antioch, Iconium
 and Lystra, the persecutions
 I endured. Yet the Lord
 rescued me from all of them.
 In fact, everyone who wants 12
 to live a godly life in Christ
 Jesus will be persecuted,
 while evil men and impostors 13
 will go from bad to worse,
 deceiving and being de-
 ceived. But as for you, con- 14
 tinue in what you have
 learned and have become
 convinced of, because you
 know those from whom you
 learned it, and how from in- 15
 fancy you have known the
 holy Scriptures, which are
 able to make you wise for sal-
 vation through faith in
 Christ Jesus. All Scripture is 16
 God-breathed and is useful
 for teaching, rebuking, cor-

11. **Persecutions.** See *verse 12*. **Sufferings.** "The misfortunes that have come my way." Compare *Rom. 8:18* and note. **You know.** Timothy was a native of Lystra and knew these things well. See the list in *2 Cor. 6:4-10*. **But the Lord.** He has not deserted His people!!! [We can paraphrase these verses: "I am not really uneasy about your strength. You joined me in Christ out of spiritual and moral motives. The persecutions and sufferings you saw me endure, you knew were part of a life that pleases God. Stand firm in the truth and in love! Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, on which your growing mind was fed, is never *out of date* or *obsolete* for equipping the servant of God!!!"]

12. **Will be persecuted.** We could almost say: "God does not want you unless you want him enough to fight for Him!" Persecution makes people evaluate their love for God. Compare *1 Thess. 3:3*; *John 16:33*.

13. **But evil men and impostors.** This will be true all during the Christian Age, until Christ returns!!! *Impostor* can mean sorcerer (see *verse 8*), and the Devil will COUNTERFEIT the power of God (*2 Thess. 2:9-12*). This is another reason why the WRITTEN WORD is so very important. God speaks to us through the written word! It is a yardstick by which we measure spiritual things. It should never be locked away in *archaic* language, but must be in a form easily understood (and very difficult to misunderstand) in the living language of ordinary people.

14. **But as for you.** "Don't act like these evil men and impostors!" **Who your teachers were.** "Such as me, an inspired apostle of Christ!"

15. **Ever since you were a child.** See note on *2 Tim. 1:5*. **The Holy Scriptures.** Since Timothy's parents were Christians, he would have available the Old Testament (the Septuagint in Greek) plus those Christian writings that were already in circulation (*Luke 1:1-4*). [Matthew may have been written as early as 35 A.D.]

16. **All Scripture.** The whole Sacred Scriptures. This statement will cover both the Old and New Testaments. Remember that some of the *gifts from the Spirit* made it possible to identify those writings that were inspired from those that were not inspired. So there would be no doubt on the CANON (those which make up the Old and New Testaments). **For teaching the truth.** The Good News about God's

the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, ¹⁷so that the man who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good work.

4 I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge all men, living and dead: because of his coming and of his Kingdom, I command you ²to preach the message, to insist upon telling it, whether the time is right or not; to convince, reproach, and encourage, teaching with all patience. ³The time will come when men will not listen to the true teaching, but will follow their own desires, and will collect for themselves more and more teachers who will tell them what they are itching to hear. ⁴They will turn away from listening to the

recting and training in righteousness, so that the man of 17 God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and

act in Christ to set men free! In other words, the whole *Christian System*. **Rebuking error.** To show what is *in error*. See *1 Tim. 5:20* and note. **Correcting faults.** To point people in the right direction by showing them how they ought to live. **Giving instruction.** So people will know both what God expects from them and what they must expect to meet along the way. This certainly includes making people aware of God's promises and blessings!!! Compare *Heb. 12:5-14* and notes.

17. **So that the man.** [ANTHROPOS.] This is the same idea as the Lord's servant (*2 Tim. 2:22-25*). The Holy Spirit *continually inspires* the Scriptures, not in the sense of giving a new revelation, but in the sense of making the revealed truth a living, vital thing!

1. **I solemnly urge you.** How impressive this message from the aged Paul, as he stands *at the edge of the grave*. "I have fully instructed you in all that you must do, and you already know the Jewish Scriptures and the things that will make up the Christian Scriptures, in which the Good News is both explained and verified. I solemnly urge you (as in *1 Tim. 5:21*) to actively carry out your mission while the opportunity lasts. Stand firm in the Faith! Fill the place which my death will leave vacant. My crown is waiting for me, and there is one for you, too, and for all who wait with love for Him to appear!" **Because of.** See *1 Thess. 5:4; Matt. 25:31*.

2. **To preach the message.** Timothy is to "shout it from the housetops!" **To insist.** "Not take no for an answer!" **Whether the time.** "Time is so short that you must use each opportunity as it comes along, and not wait for a better one." **To convince.** Especially convince false teachers of what is true. **Reproach** all who sin. **Encourage** all to live a holy life. **Teaching.** This tells how: *will all patience!* Compare *Gal. 6:1*.

3. **The time will come.** It was already there! See note on *1 Tim. 4:1*. **And will collect.** They will run from teacher to teacher until they find one who says what they are itching to hear! [They wanted some one to tell them that they could go on living in sin and still be saved!]

4. **They will.** Because they really do not want *truth*, they will turn to the legends, etc., of the false teachers. See *1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 3:7* and notes.

truth and give their attention to legends. ⁵But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances; endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the Good News, and perform your whole duty as a servant of God.

⁶As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed; the time is here for me to leave this life. ⁷I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, I have kept the faith. ⁸And now the prize of victory is waiting for me, the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day—and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear.

Personal Words

⁹Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰Demas fell in love with this present world and has deserted me; he has gone off to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

turn aside to myths. But ⁵ you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

For I am already being ⁶ poured out as a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have ⁷ fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is ⁸ in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Personal Remarks

Do your best to come to ⁹ me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only ¹⁰

5. **But you.** "You must neither fail to act nor overreact. You must calmly evaluate these things and put a stop to trouble before it begins." **Endure suffering.** "The enemies of the Good News will make you suffer!" **Do the work.** Christian leadership is based upon service (see notes on *John 13:4-5*). **Preacher** = evangelist (see note on *Eph. 4:11*). He is to preach the Good News and look after the churches. [There is some overlap between the work of the church leader (elder) and the evangelist (preacher).] **Perform.** See *verse 17*.

6. **As for me.** "I have done my best! Now my King is calling me from the field of action. You will no longer have me to depend upon." **To be sacrificed.** Paul uses a word which points out his own death as a sacrifice to God. Compare what he says in *Phil. 2:17* with *Num. 15:1-10; 28:4-8*. See also notes on *Acts 21:10-14*. See *2 Cor. 5:8* for Paul's thoughts on death.

7. **I have done my best.** The TEV translates this correctly. See note on *1 Tim. 6:12*. Paul used symbolism from the Games. **The full distance.** He did not *drop out*, but went the full distance in the race of Christian life. **I have kept the faith.** This is Paul's climax!!! This does not contradict *Phil. 3:12-16*. The life that he has lived has been "by faith in the Son of God" (*Gal. 2:20*). False modesty would be ingratitude. With the Lord's help, he has spent all his Christian life preserving intact **THE FAITH!**

8. **And now.** "All fears of death vanish when I think of the reward which God has for me!" **The crown of righteousness.** This also is from the Games where the winners received a crown of leaves as the symbol of their victory! The gold fillet worn by the High Priest was called a *crown of righteousness*. **And not only to me.** Everyone can have the same hope, if they follow Paul's example!!!

9. **To come to me.** He wants Timothy to be with him during these last days on earth.

10. **Demas.** Demas *ran out* on Paul. Demas had been much help (*Col. 4:14; Phile. 24*), and he may have been the one who "wrote down" the Letter to the Colossians. He may have been ashamed of Paul's suffering. Compare *2 Tim. 1:8*. **Crescens.** Paul does not say the Crescens or Titus *deserted* him. They were sent by Paul. Compare *Titus 3:12*.

¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he can help me in the work. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring my coat that I left in Troas with Carpus; bring the books too, and especially the ones made of parchment.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me great harm; the Lord will reward him according to what he has done. ¹⁵Be on your guard against him yourself, because he was violently opposed to our message.

¹⁶No one stood by me the first time I defended myself; all deserted me. May God not count it against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stayed with me and gave me strength, so that I was able to proclaim

Luke is with me. Get Mark ¹¹ and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus ¹² to Ephesus. When you come, ¹³ bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

Alexander the metalworker ¹⁴ did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your ¹⁵ guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defense, ¹⁶ no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at ¹⁷ my side and gave me strength, so that through me

11. **Only Luke.** There would be thousands of Christians in Rome at this time. Paul says "only Luke," meaning that his fellow workers and associates had all left Rome. Compare *verse 21*. **Get Mark.** This is John Mark, and he seems to be at Ephesus just now. See the introduction to Mark's Gospel. **He can help me.** Note that Paul has not quit yet!!!

12. **I sent Tychicus.** He may have taken this letter to Timothy, and replaced him at Ephesus.

13. **Bring my coat.** He will need this warm winter coat in the dungeon. This was a circular cape which would come below the knees, with a hole in the center for the head to go through. **Bring the books.** We do not know what these books were. We would expect him to have copies of the Old Testament in Greek (the Septuagint) and possibly Hebrew as well. **Parchment.** This was made from animal skins. *Benson* thinks these were letters Paul had received from the churches, and copies of his own Letters (and perhaps copies of the writings of other apostles, since Peter had certainly seen some of Paul's writings, *2 Pet. 3:15*).

14. **Alexander the metalworker.** *MacKnight* identifies him as the one who was in the riot at Ephesus (*Acts 19:33*). **Did me great harm.** If this took place at Ephesus, Timothy would already know about it. *MacKnight* thinks he must have stirred up the Gentile and Jewish unbelievers in Rome, and perhaps caused Paul's second imprisonment. **The Lord.** Paul is willing to place vengeance in the Lord's hands. Every Christian must do the same!

15. **Be on your guard.** Alexander might soon return to Ephesus. Timothy is to be on his guard wherever he meets such as this man.

16. **No one stood by me.** Paul must be speaking about his preliminary trial, which would take place when he was brought to Rome after his arrest the second time. He is writing to Timothy before his second and final trial, but he is certain what the verdict will be. This is the last year of the reign of Emperor Nero, and both Paul and Peter will die at Rome.

17. **But the Lord.** Here was the source of Paul's confidence. The Lord was with him!!! **So that I was able.** *MacKnight* thinks this means he preached the Good News to Nero himself, or at least one of his

the full message for all the Gentiles to hear; and I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸And the Lord will rescue me from all evil, and take me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

Final Greetings

¹⁹I send greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, and to the family Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus in Miletus, because he was sick. ²¹Do your best to come before winter.

Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia send their greetings, and so do all the other brothers.

²²The Lord be with your spirit.

God's grace be with you all.

the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

Greet Priscilla and Aquila ¹⁹ and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in ²⁰ Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. Do your ²¹ best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

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

representatives. The *Expositor's Greek Testament* says: "We annex a territory by the mere act of planting our country's flag on a small portion of its soil; so in St. Paul's thought a single proclamation of the gospel might have a spiritual, almost a prophetic, significance, immeasurably greater than could be imagined by one who heard it." **The lion's mouth.** *Chrysostom* understands the lion to be Nero himself. Roman citizens were not thrown to the lions. Paul was able to speak before many Gentiles at his first trial, and the word of this would spread throughout the whole Roman Empire, especially to Gentile Christians!

18. And the Lord. Evidently not *from* death, but *in* death. Compare *verse 6. Into his heavenly Kingdom.* This sounds a lot like *Rev. 11:11-12*. See note on *Luke 16:31*.

19. To Priscilla and Aquila. Long time friends and co-workers. Some see meaning in the fact that her name is mentioned first. **Onesiphorus.** See note on *2 Tim. 1:16*. **SOME THINK THIS FORM IMPLIES THE death of Onesiphorus.** *MacKnight* says: "But Onesiphorus at this time was with the apostle in Rome, *2 Tim. 1:16-17*; or if he was gone from Rome, he might not be in Ephesus."

20. Erastus. Probably his home town (*Rom. 16:23*). **I left Trophimus.** These personal details were better understood by Timothy than by us. This verse proves that this Letter does not belong to the time of Paul's first imprisonment at Rome, since years had passed since his last visit to Miletus, and the first Roman imprisonment. See *Acts 20:4; 21:29*.

21. Come before winter. In was too dangerous to sail during the winter. Compare *Acts 27:9-20*. The four names mentioned here are all of Roman character. These were all friends who lived at Rome.

22. The Lord be with your spirit. This is directed to Timothy. It takes on deep meaning when compared with *2 Tim. 1:7,8,14; 2:1-3,7; 3:5*. **God's grace be with you all.** Paul uses the plural form of "you" to include all who are with Timothy (the whole church), or at least those who stood firmly in the truth. *Johnson* adds: "Shortly after this Letter was written, within a few months at most, Paul had his second hearing, was sentenced to death by execution, was led out of the city at the Ostian Gate to a place called the Three Fountains, and was there beheaded. At least all early tradition [traditional history], and the Fathers, among them Clement, one of his companions, support this view."

INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER TO TITUS

This letter was written by Paul after his first imprisonment at Rome and before his second. It was written before Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, but after First Timothy. The summer or fall of 66 or 67 A.D. is probably the time of writing.

Titus was a Greek, a Gentile. He was with Paul at the Jerusalem Meeting (*Acts 15*), although not mentioned by name. Unlike the case of Timothy,

Paul refused to permit Titus to be circumcised (*Gal. 2:1-5*). Titus is often mentioned in Paul's Letters, and took the First Letter to the Corinthians. Chrysostom identifies him with the Titus Justus of *Acts 18:7*, although there is not much evidence. In this Letter, he is left at Crete to *put things in order*. Crete is a large island, 150 miles long and about 35 miles wide. *2 Tim. 4:10* later places him at Dalmatia when Paul was imprisoned at Rome the second time. In this Letter, we have Paul asking him to come to Nicopolis, which is on the coast of Dalmatia (which is part of Illyricum).

Andreas Cretensis, who lived on Crete in the seventh century, wrote this about Titus. "Titus is related to the proconsul of the island: among his ancestors are Minos and Rhadamanthus. Early in life he obtained a copy of the Jewish Scriptures, and learned Hebrew in a short time. He went to Judea and was present at the Meeting mentioned in *Acts 15*. He became a Christian before Paul did, but afterward became his constant companion." [I have paraphrased this.]

There were Jews from Crete at Jerusalem on Pentecost (*Acts 2:11*), and some of these brought Christianity back to the island. So the church on