

Insights From 2 Timothy

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Insights From 2 Timothy

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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2 Timothy

- The reason Paul became an apostle is because that was the will of God. It was God's decision, not Paul's (2 Timothy 1:1).
- We receive the gift of life through Jesus (2 Timothy 1:1).
- Even though Paul wrote this letter when he was facing execution, he still believed the promise of everlasting life that Jesus made to us (2 Timothy 1:1).
- Paul referred to Timothy as his beloved son. He saw Timothy as his son in the faith (2 Timothy 1:2)
- Grace, mercy, and peace don't come from ourselves. Instead they're gifts from God (2 Timothy 1:2).
- Paul believed in prayer and spent time praying for others (2 Timothy 1:3). In fact, Paul even prayed for others while he was in prison awaiting his execution.
- It's possible to have a pure conscience (2 Timothy 1:3).
- Paul wanted Timothy to know that he was praying for him (2 Timothy 1:3).
- Timothy's mother and grandmother had sincere faith (2 Timothy 1:5). However, Paul says nothing about Timothy's father and grandfather.
- Paul wanted Timothy to know that he was convinced Timothy's faith was real (2 Timothy 1:5).
- Timothy's spiritual gift had been given to him by Paul when the apostle laid his hands on him (2 Timothy 1:6).
- Apostolic gifts were given by God through the apostles, who bestowed them by laying their hands on people (2

Timothy 1:6).

- Fear doesn't come from God (2 Timothy 1:7). Christians shouldn't be afraid.
- Christians must not be ashamed of Jesus or the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8).
- It's wrong for Christians to distance themselves from the apostle Paul, or be ashamed of him (2 Timothy 1:8).
- Paul told Timothy to not be ashamed of the gospel, but instead to partake in the afflictions that come as a result of being associated with the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8).
- God is the one who gives Christians the grace to suffer persecution (2 Timothy 1:8).
- God chose to save us before the world began (2 Timothy 1:9). That means our salvation is purely a gift from God. It's not based on who we are or anything we've done, but is solely a decision made by God before He created the world.
- God uses Jesus the Messiah to save us and give us grace (2 Timothy 1:9).
- Although God made the decision to save us before the world began, our salvation was manifested when Jesus came into this world (2 Timothy 1:10).
- Jesus has abolished death (2 Timothy 1:10).
- God sent Paul to the Gentiles (2 Timothy 1:11).
- Paul was a preacher, a teacher, and an apostle (2 Timothy 1:11). The offices of preacher, teacher, and apostle are different, and it's possible to have more than one office at a time.

- There's a difference between preaching and teaching (2 Timothy 1:11).
- The gospel brought persecution and pain into Paul's life (2 Timothy 1:12).
- Even though Paul suffered greatly, he wasn't ashamed of the gospel (2 Timothy 1:12). Persecution must not drive us away from the gospel or make us ashamed of it.
- One of the reasons Paul was able to hold on to his faith was because of his belief that one day Jesus would resurrect him (2 Timothy 1:12).
- We need to hold on to our spiritual gifts and not let go of them (2 Timothy 1:14). The way we do this is through the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit dwells within Christians (2 Timothy 1:14).
- Everyone who was in Asia had abandoned Paul (2 Timothy 1:15).
- Paul called out the people who had abandoned him by name (2 Timothy 1:15). He didn't hide the fact that he had been abandoned.
- Paul wanted God to be merciful to Onesiphorous because he took care of Paul while the apostle was in prison, and wasn't ashamed of his status as prisoner (2 Timothy 1:16).
- God used Onesiphorous to take care of Paul while he was in prison even though Onesiphorous wasn't a believer (2 Timothy 1:16). This means when everyone in Asia abandoned Paul, God raised up an unbeliever to take care of him.

- We must not be ashamed of those who are suffering in prison on behalf of the gospel. Instead we must seek to refresh them and take care of them (2 Timothy 1:16).
- Paul didn't tell Timothy to be strong in himself. Instead he told Timothy to be strong in the grace of Jesus. Timothy was to look to the grace of Jesus for strength, and to stand in that grace (2 Timothy 2:1).
- The events which are recorded in the gospels were seen by many people, who told others about what they had seen (2 Timothy 2:2). This means the gospel has a sure foundation. It doesn't rely on the testimony of just a single person.
- Paul wanted Timothy to find and teach men who would faithfully proclaim the truths of the gospel (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul specifically wanted Timothy to teach people who had the ability to teach others.
- Christians need to be prepared to endure hard times and persecution (2 Timothy 2:3).
- It's possible for a Christian to become so entangled with the things of this life that they become unprofitable for the Lord (2 Timothy 2:4). God commands Christians to live lives that are focused on Him, and devoid of things that distract us from His service or prevent us from serving Him.
- Paul compared the Christian walk to a soldier who's completely focused on gaining victory on the battlefield, and has cast off everything that might distract him (2 Timothy 2:4).
- We must please God, not ourselves (2 Timothy 2:4).

- We will only receive a reward from God if we've kept His commands while achieving victory. If we cheated in some way then we will receive no reward (2 Timothy 2:5). This means there are some people who have done many things for God, but since they disobeyed Him in order to do those things they will receive no reward.
- If you have to break God's law to accomplish what you're trying to do then God is against it, even if it's an act of service to Him. God won't recognize service that was done through disobedience or sin (2 Timothy 2:5).
- Paul doesn't present the Christian life as something that's easy or problem-free. Instead the examples he gives are of hard work, of following the rules, of striving, of suffering, and of persecution (2 Timothy 2:6).
- Paul compares the Christian walk to a farmer who grows food and then partakes of the food that he grew (2 Timothy 2:6). Those who work for the Lord will be the first ones to partake in the accompanying rewards.
- In order to understand the teachings in the Bible, God must give us understanding. He's the one who can give us the ability to understand His Word (2 Timothy 2:7).
- It's possible for us to pray that God would give other people the ability to understand His Word (2 Timothy 2:7).
- Paul wanted Timothy to understand *all* things, not just the most important doctrines (2 Timothy 2:7). Everything in the Bible is worth understanding and learning.
- Although Paul prayed that God would give Timothy understanding of the Scriptures, he also told Timothy to think about them. Paul expected Timothy to put effort

into learning the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:7).

- Paul was willing to endure persecution for the sake of the church. He wanted to preach the gospel, no matter what it cost him, in order to save people and give them everlasting life (2 Timothy 2:10). Paul viewed himself as suffering so that other people might be saved.
- Those who die in Christ will live again. Death isn't the end for them (2 Timothy 2:11).
- Those who suffer for the sake of Jesus will one day reign with Him over this world (2 Timothy 2:12). The destiny of the suffering church is to reign with Christ.
- Jesus will deny all those who deny Him (2 Timothy 2:12). This means we must never deny Jesus! In order for Jesus to acknowledge us we must first acknowledge Him, and accept the suffering that this brings into our lives.
- The Bible never promised that Christians wouldn't suffer. Instead it teaches that those who suffer for Jesus will be rewarded with the right to reign with Him over this world (2 Timothy 2:12).
- When people don't believe God's promises, their unbelief doesn't invalidate those promises (2 Timothy 2:13). God is going to keep His Word regardless of whether anyone believes it.
- We must not spend our time listening to lies, or to things which draw us away from the truth (2 Timothy 2:14).
- We must study the Scriptures so we can learn how to rightly interpret them (2 Timothy 2:15). Those who don't study the Bible, or don't correctly interpret it, will one day be ashamed.

- We must actively shun things which are profane and vain, because such things lead to ungodliness (2 Timothy 2:16).
- Paul called out false teachers by name and warned against them (2 Timothy 2:17). No one in the Bible had anything positive to say about false teachers.
- The words of false teachers are dangerous and eat away at people like a disease (2 Timothy 2:17).
- The resurrection is in the future, not in the past (2 Timothy 2:18).
- People who teach error about end times prophecy can hurt people and destroy their faith (2 Timothy 2:18).
- Paul didn't think that it was fine if a teacher got a few things wrong, as long as they were correct about the core doctrines of the Bible. Instead he condemned those who erred from the truth and said they were dangerous (2 Timothy 2:18).
- The Lord knows all those who belong to Him (2 Timothy 2:19).
- Christians who have turned away from their sins and walk in God's ways are vessels of honor. However, those who are continuing to live in their sins and refuse to walk in God's ways are vessels of dishonor (2 Timothy 2:20-21). This means a Christian's status in the church has nothing to do with his ministry, or his wealth, or his fame, or his popularity. Instead it has everything to do with whether he is walking in God's ways and teaching the truth, or is walking in sin and teaching error.
- The life of a Christian involves pursuing righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. This must be an active effort,

and involves diligence and work (2 Timothy 2:22).

- There is such a thing as a foolish question (2 Timothy 2:23). We must avoid foolish and ignorant questions because they lead to strife.
- The servants of the Lord must be people of peace, not people who are argumentative, hostile, and ready to get into fights (2 Timothy 2:24).
- Those who are living in sin are opposing themselves. We should look for opportunities to instruct such people in the Bible because God may use that to save them (2 Timothy 2:24-25).
- In order to be saved we must repent. There's no salvation apart from repentance (2 Timothy 2:25).
- The only way to escape the snare of the devil is through repentance (2 Timothy 2:26).
- The way to fight against the devil is by preaching and teaching those who are in iniquity (whether they're Christians or not). God may use that to free them from the devil's snare by moving them to repent (2 Timothy 2:26).
- As Paul was awaiting execution for his faith in Jesus, he warned that in the end times perilous times would come (2 Timothy 3:1). As bad as things were in Paul's day, he believed that the end times would be worse. This means Paul didn't believe that things would improve in the church age. Instead he warned that the end of the church age would be perilous, not a time of great revival.
- Knowledge of the doctrines of the end times is important, and something Christians should know (2 Timothy 3:1).

- The people of the end times would be depraved and evil. This would manifest itself by the fact that in those days people would love themselves, would be covetous, would be boasters, would be proud, would be blasphemers of the holy name of God, would be disobedient to parents, would be unthankful, and would be unholy (2 Timothy 3:2). It's dangerous for Christians to be around such people.
- In the end times, people would no longer have natural affection for one another (2 Timothy 3:3).
- In the end times, people would have an outward appearance of godliness but would deny the gospel's power to overcome sin and iniquity (2 Timothy 3:5).
- Christians are commanded to turn away from people who are wicked and depraved, and avoid them (2 Timothy 3:5). Paul didn't teach that we must try to make friends with them, or come to some common understanding with them.
- If our lives are full of sin, or if we're ensnared by our desires, then we're in danger of being led astray by evildoers and false teachers (2 Timothy 3:6). Leading a life of sin makes us more vulnerable to false teachers and false teachings.
- The purpose of learning is to arrive at the truth (2 Timothy 3:7).
- The reason some people are never able to reach the truth is because they have corrupt minds, and are actively resisting the truth and fighting against it (2 Timothy 3:8).
- Paul puts those who resist the truth in the same category as the men who once fought against Moses (2 Timothy

3:8).

- There's a limit to what evildoers and false teachers can do, and who they can deceive (2 Timothy 3:9).
- One day God will make manifest the foolishness of evildoers and false teachers (2 Timothy 3:9).
- At the end of Paul's life, when he was facing execution, he gave God glory for the past times when God had delivered him from persecution. Yet he didn't complain that God wasn't delivering him this time (2 Timothy 3:11).
- There are times when God delivers people from persecution, and there are other times when He doesn't (2 Timothy 3:11).
- All Christians who live a godly life in Christ will experience persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).
- People who are evil will become more evil over time (2 Timothy 3:13).
- The origins of the gospel aren't shrouded in mystery, but come from eyewitnesses who saw those things themselves (and died for them) (2 Timothy 3:14).
- Timothy was taught the Scriptures from his childhood (2 Timothy 3:15).
- Christians need to be instructed in doctrine, in reproof, in correction, and in the path of righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).
- There are no parts of the Scriptures which can be ignored, or aren't profitable. All of it is important and useful (2 Timothy 3:16).
- The material that's given to us in the Scriptures is enough

to give us everything we need to perform all good works (2 Timothy 3:17). This means we don't need any material that's *outside* of the Scriptures to fulfill all good works! The material in Bible is sufficient.

- The Scriptures are complete. They aren't missing anything we need to walk in God's will in this life (2 Timothy 3:17). That means we don't need additional prophecies, or revelations, or dreams, or visions, or messages from angels, or personal words from God. The only thing we need is the Scriptures because they contain *all* the material we need to walk in God's will, and perform *all* good works.
- When Jesus returns He will judge both the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1).
- Paul believed that even death wasn't too high a price to pay for preaching the gospel. It was that important (2 Timothy 4:2).
- It's important to rebuke those who are in error. Rebukes are an important part of Christianity (2 Timothy 4:2).
- We must preach the Word even when it's out of season, and we must teach *all* doctrine. This is because one day Jesus will hold us accountable for what we've done (2 Timothy 4:2). We're not at liberty to set aside the doctrines that people don't like.
- In the end times, people will reject sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3).
- The reason people won't endure sound doctrine is because of their desires (2 Timothy 4:3). This is also why people seek false teachers: they validate people's sinful desires.

- We should expect people to reject sound doctrine and seek after lies. Paul warned us that would happen (2 Timothy 4:3).
- We must choose faithfulness to the Scriptures over popularity, even if that costs us our audience (2 Timothy 4:1-3). In fact, we should expect that people who teach sound doctrine will have a smaller audience than false teachers who teach lies.
- The way an evangelist makes full proof of his ministry is by preaching the whole word, even when it's out of season; by enduring afflictions; and by being faithful even unto death (2 Timothy 4:5). It has nothing to do with the size or impact of his ministry.
- Paul wrote this letter to Timothy at the end of his life, when he was facing execution (2 Timothy 4:6).
- Paul knew that God wasn't going to deliver him out of this trial (2 Timothy 4:6). He was ready to lay down his life for the sake of Jesus.
- Paul viewed his upcoming execution as an offering. His life was being sacrificed for Jesus (2 Timothy 4:6).
- Paul viewed his death as a departure from this world, but he didn't view it as the end of his life (2 Timothy 4:6).
- Paul believed that Jesus was worth dying for (2 Timothy 4:7).
- Paul believed that because he kept the faith even unto death, the Lord Jesus would give him a reward – and that reward was worth dying for (2 Timothy 4:8).
- Jesus will give a crown of righteousness to all those who long for His return and earnestly desire it (2 Timothy 4:8).

- Paul wanted to see Timothy again before he was executed (2 Timothy 4:9).
- The love of this present world is a dangerous thing and can lead us astray (2 Timothy 4:10).
- Paul wasn't alone; Luke was with him (2 Timothy 4:11). This means Luke was with Paul at the end of his life.
- Even though Paul rejected Mark at the beginning of his ministry (because Mark abandoned Paul – see Acts 15:37-40), at the end of his life things had changed. Paul believed that Mark was profitable for the ministry (2 Timothy 4:11).
- Paul was still trying to spread the gospel and help the churches at the very end of his life. Even at that point he hadn't given up or stopped trying to work (2 Timothy 4:11).
- As Paul faced execution he was still thinking of others, and the welfare of the churches (2 Timothy 4:12)
- Even when Paul was facing execution he wanted Timothy to bring him books. Paul was still studying and working, and didn't stop even though he knew he was about to die (2 Timothy 4:13). Paul believed it made sense for him to continue to diligently study the Scriptures. He didn't think that it would accomplish nothing since his life was quickly coming to an end (2 Timothy 4:13).
- Paul didn't believe that imminent death was a reason to stop working, or stop reading, or stop studying, or stop writing. He wanted to make good use of every moment he had left (2 Timothy 4:13).
- There's nothing wrong with asking God to take vengeance

on people who have done us wrong, and who haven't repented for it (2 Timothy 4:14).

- Paul warned Timothy about a dangerous enemy of the gospel, and called out that person by name. He didn't hide that person's identity (2 Timothy 4:15). We need to call out the enemies of the gospel by name so people will know who is dangerous and should be avoided.
- Paul asked God to forgive those who fled from him when he was attacked, but he asked God to punish those who fought against the gospel and tried to stop it (2 Timothy 4:16).
- The church may not stand with us when we're persecuted (2 Timothy 4:16).
- Our salvation doesn't depend on our actions. God is the one who's preserving us (2 Timothy 4:18).
- Paul was unable to heal Trophimus, even though at the beginning of his ministry he had the gift of healing (2 Timothy 4:20). This means by the time Paul reached the end of his life, the gift of healing was gone. The apostolic gift of healing was a temporary gift which was given to the church while it was being founded. That gift was removed once it served its purpose.
- Paul wrote this letter to Timothy before winter (2 Timothy 4:21).