

# **The Teachings of 2 Timothy**

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# **The Teachings of 2 Timothy**

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 8/2/2025

# 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!

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 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

4/29/2024

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## 2 Timothy 1

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

- This letter was written by Paul.
- Paul was an apostle of Jesus.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- The reason Paul became an apostle was because that was the will of God. It was God's decision, not Paul's.
- God is the one who made Paul an apostle.
- God has promised us life.
- We receive the gift of life through Jesus.
- Even though Paul wrote this letter when he was facing execution, he still believed in the promise of everlasting life that Jesus made to us. He was still looking to Jesus for the resurrection and everlasting life.

**2 Timothy 1:2:** "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Paul wrote this letter to Timothy.
- Paul referred to Timothy as his beloved son. Paul saw Timothy as his son in the faith.
- Paul referred to Timothy with great tenderness and affection. This wasn't seen as inappropriate.
- Paul wanted Timothy to receive grace.
- Paul wanted Timothy to receive mercy.

- Paul wanted Timothy to receive peace.
- God is the one who gives us grace.
- God is the one who gives us mercy.
- God is the one who gives us peace.
- God is our Father.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- Grace, mercy, and peace don't come from ourselves. Instead they're gifts from God.

**2 Timothy 1:3:** "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"

- Paul prayed for Timothy every day.
- Paul prayed for Timothy every night.
- Paul prayed for Timothy.
- Paul believed in prayer, and spent time praying for others.
- Paul thanked God that he was able to pray for Timothy.
- Paul believed that God was the one who gave him the power to constantly pray for Timothy.
- While Paul was in prison awaiting execution, he still prayed for others.
- Paul served God with a pure conscience.
- Paul believed it was possible to have a pure conscience.
- It's good to pray for others.
- We should be praying for others, even when we're in distress.



- Paul wanted Timothy to know that he was praying for him.

**2 Timothy 1:4:** "Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;"

- Paul greatly desired to see Timothy again.
- Paul thought it was meaningful and worthwhile to spend time with other Christians.
- Timothy had shed tears over Paul's afflictions.
- Paul wanted to see Timothy again in order to comfort him. Even though Paul was in prison awaiting execution, he still cared about others and he wanted to comfort them.
- Paul said that seeing Timothy again would fill him with joy.

**2 Timothy 1:5:** "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

- Timothy's faith was sincere.
- Timothy had a grandmother named Lois.
- The faith of Lois was sincere.
- Timothy had a mother named Eunice.
- The faith of Eunice was sincere.
- Timothy's mother and grandmother had sincere faith. However, Paul says nothing about Timothy's father and grandfather.

- Paul wanted Timothy to know that he was convinced Timothy's faith was real.
- It's important to have genuine faith.
- Timothy's grandmother and mother believed in the gospel before Timothy did.

**2 Timothy 1:6:** "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

- Timothy had been given a spiritual gift of some sort.
- Timothy's spiritual gift had been given to him by Paul when the apostle laid his hands on him.
- Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God that was in him.
- Timothy was the recipient of an apostolic gift.
- Apostolic gifts were given by God through the apostles. The apostles bestowed them by laying their hands on people.
- In order to receive an apostolic gift, you had to come into contact with an apostle.
- It's good to have a spiritual gift, but we need to stir it up.

**2 Timothy 1:7:** "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

- God hasn't given us a spirit of fear.
- Fear doesn't come from God.
- God has given us power.

- God has given us love.
- God has given us a sound mind.
- Love comes from God.
- The gift of a sound mind comes from God.
- Paul doesn't want Christians to be afraid.

**2 Timothy 1:8:** "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;"

- Christians must not be ashamed of Jesus.
- Christians must not be ashamed of the gospel.
- Christians must not be ashamed of the apostle Paul.
- The testimony of Jesus is good, and is something Christians should boldly proclaim.
- The teachings and writings of Paul are good, and are something Christians should boldly proclaim.
- It's a bad thing for Christians to distance themselves from the apostle Paul.
- Paul was a prisoner.
- The reason Paul was a prisoner was because of the gospel. He was suffering for the sake of Jesus.
- 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.
- God gives us the power to suffer, both for His sake and for the sake of the gospel.

- God is the one who gives Christians the grace to suffer persecution.
- Testifying of the gospel may bring afflictions in this world.
- God never promised that Christians wouldn't be afflicted for His sake.

**2 Timothy 1:9:** "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"

- God is the one who has saved us.
- God is the one who has called us.
- The calling that God has called us to is holy.
- We weren't saved by our works.
- We were saved by the purpose and grace of God.
- God chose to save us before the world began.
- God chose to give us grace before the world began.
- God uses Jesus the Messiah to save us and give us grace.
- We can only be saved through Jesus. We aren't saved by our works.
- Our salvation was the decision of God, who chose to save us before the world began.
- The decision to save us was made before the world began.
- The decision to save us was made by God, not by ourselves.
- Saving grace was given to us through Jesus before the

world began, and before we were even born.

- Our salvation was made sure before the world began, and before we were ever born.
- God has given grace to those He has purposed to save. God didn't promise that He would save everyone.
- Our salvation is purely a gift from God. It's not based on who we are or anything we've done, but was solely a decision made by God before He created the world.
- Our salvation is assured and can't be lost.

**2 Timothy 1:10:** "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"

- Although God made the decision to save us before the world began, our salvation was manifested when Jesus came into this world.
- Jesus is our Savior.
- Our salvation existed before Jesus came into this world, but Jesus manifested it.
- Jesus has abolished death.
- Jesus has brought life and immortality to light.
- God has promised everlasting life to Christians.
- God uses the gospel to give life and immortality to all those He has chosen to save.
- God works through the gospel to give everlasting life.
- As Paul was facing imminent execution, he taught that Jesus had abolished death and given us immortality.

**2 Timothy 1:11:** "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."

- God appointed Paul to be a preacher.
- God appointed Paul to be an apostle.
- God appointed Paul to be a teacher.
- God sent Paul to the Gentiles.
- Paul was a preacher, a teacher, and an apostle.
- The office of preacher, teacher, and apostle are different.
- It's possible to have more than one office in the church at a time.
- There's a difference between preaching and teaching.

**2 Timothy 1:12:** "For the which cause 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 that which I have committed unto him against that day."

- The reason Paul suffered so much during his lifetime was because of the gospel.
- The gospel brought persecution and pain into Paul's life.
- Even though Paul suffered greatly, he wasn't ashamed of the gospel.
- We must not be ashamed of the gospel.
- Persecution must not drive us away from the gospel or make us ashamed of it.
- Even though Paul was greatly persecuted, he didn't lose his faith. He still believed in the promises of God.

- Paul knew Jesus, who he believed in. Even persecution and death couldn't shake his faith.
- Paul was able to hold on to his faith because he believed that one day Jesus would resurrect him.
- Paul had committed his life to Jesus, and he was looking forward to the day of the resurrection.
- Paul's faith rested in the person of Jesus. Paul was fully persuaded that Jesus would keep the promises He had made, including the promise of the resurrection and everlasting life.

**2 Timothy 1:13:** "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

- Paul commanded Timothy to hold fast to the sound doctrine he had been taught, and not become ashamed of it or distance himself from it.
- The things that Paul taught were sound words. We must hold fast to them and not be ashamed of them.
- We must hold fast to the sound words of the Bible.
- We must hold to the doctrines of the Bible in faith.
- We must hold to the doctrines of the Bible in love.
- We must put our faith in Jesus.
- We must give our love to Jesus.

**2 Timothy 1:14:** "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

- Paul commanded Timothy to hold on to the spiritual gift that Paul had given to him.
- We need to hold on to our spiritual gifts and not let go of them.
- The way that we hold on to our spiritual gifts is through the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit dwells within Christians.
- The spiritual gift that Timothy had been given was a good thing.
- Timothy had to take action in order to keep the spiritual gift he had been given.

**2 Timothy 1:15:** "This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes."

- Everyone who was in Asia had abandoned Paul.
- Phygellus had abandoned Paul.
- Hermogenes had abandoned Paul.
- When Paul was persecuted and put in prison, many people abandoned him and turned away from him.
- Timothy knew that many people had abandoned Paul.
- Paul called out by name the people who had abandoned him by name.
- Paul didn't hide the fact that other people had abandoned him.

**2 Timothy 1:16:** "The Lord give mercy unto the house of



Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:"

- Paul prayed that God would show mercy to the household of Onesiphorous.
- The reason Paul wanted God to be merciful to Onesiphorous was because Onesiphorous often took care of him while he was in prison, and wasn't ashamed of Paul's status as prisoner.
- God used Onesiphorous to take care of Paul while he was in prison, even though Onesiphorous wasn't a Christian.
- When everyone in Asia abandoned Paul, God raised up an unbeliever to take care of him.
- Onesiphorous took care of Paul while he was in prison, even though Onesiphorous wasn't a Christian.
- Onesiphorous wasn't ashamed of Paul's status as prisoner.
- Paul wanted God to reward Onesiphorous for the way he had taken care of Paul while the apostle was in prison.
- Paul wanted God to bless the household of Onesiphorous for the good that Onesiphorous had done for him.
- Paul prayed that God would show mercy to Onesiphorous, but short of asking God to save his soul.
- It's a good thing to take care of Christians who are suffering in prison for the sake of the gospel.
- 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 1:17:** "But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me."

- It seems that Onesiphorous did not live in Rome, but instead visited the city.
- When Onesiphorous visited Rome, he diligently looked for Paul until he found him.
- Onesiphorous put effort into finding Paul in prison so he could take care of him.
- Onesiphorous made a deliberate decision to look for Paul and find him.

**2 Timothy 1:18:** "The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well."

- Not only did Onesiphorous minister to Paul in Rome, but he also did many good things for Paul in Ephesus.
- Timothy knew all about the good things that Onesiphorous had done for Paul in Ephesus.
- Paul told Timothy about the good deeds that Onesiphorous had done.
- Paul prayed that God would show mercy to Onesiphorous on the day of judgment, and yet he didn't specifically ask God to save his soul or give him everlasting life. Instead he prayed that God would reward him with mercy for the way he had taken care of Paul.
- Onesiphorous had a pattern of taking care of Paul's needs.
- Onesiphorous, an unbeliever, took care of Paul's needs when the church abandoned him and turned away.

- God used an unbeliever to take care of Paul when the church failed to do so.

## 2 Timothy 2

**2 Timothy 2:1:** "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

- Paul once again referred to Timothy as his son in the faith.
- Paul commanded Timothy to be strong in the grace that's found in Jesus.
- There's grace to be found in Jesus.
- As Paul was facing imminent execution, he wrote a letter to Timothy to tell him to be strong and to continue in the faith.
- 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.
- Christ is our source of strength.
- We need to rely on the grace of Christ.
- People have a choice about whether they're going to rely on Christ (which is effective) or on something else (which is not effective).

**2 Timothy 2:2:** "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

- Timothy heard the doctrines of the gospel directly from the apostle Paul.
- Timothy heard the doctrines of the gospel from many eyewitnesses.
- Paul testified to other people the doctrines of the gospel.
- There were many eyewitnesses to the truths of the gospel, and they told other people what they had seen.
- The events recorded in the gospels were seen by many people, who told others what they had seen.
- Paul told Timothy to tell other people the things he had been told, so they could in turn tell others.
- Paul specifically wanted Timothy to find and teach faithful men, who would faithfully proclaim the truths of the gospel.
- Paul specifically wanted Timothy to teach people who had the ability to teach others.
- Paul wanted the message of the gospel spread, and the way he wanted to do that was by having people teach other people.
- It's important for those who teach the gospel to be faithful.
- It's important for us to teach the gospel to others.
- When Paul was in prison and facing execution for spreading the gospel of Jesus, he told Timothy to continue to spread the gospel of Jesus.
- The things that Paul taught weren't matters of private revelation. Instead he was teaching a gospel that had many eyewitnesses, who could testify that the things Paul was saying were true because they had also seen them.

- The gospel has a sure foundation. It doesn't rely on the testimony of a single person.
- In the days of the early church, there were many people who could testify to the truth of the things that Paul and the apostles were saying, for many people had seen them.

**2 Timothy 2:3:** "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

- Paul told Timothy to endure hard times.
- Christians need to be prepared to endure hard times and persecution.
- God never promised Christians that our life would be easy. Instead He said we should expect hard times.
- Paul compared the Christian walk to being a good soldier for Jesus.
- The path of Christianity isn't always an easy one, and we need to be prepared for that.
- We are to be servants of Jesus, and endure hardness for His sake.

**2 Timothy 2:4:** "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

- Christians must not become entangled in the affairs of this world and thereby become unprofitable. Instead we need to arrange our lives so we can please the Lord who bought us.

- It's possible for a Christian to become so entangled with the events of this life that they're derailed and become unprofitable for the Lord.
- God commands Christians to live lives that are focused on Him, and that are devoid of things that distract us from His service or prevent us from serving Him.
- Our lives are to be focused on serving the Lord, and we must remove things that distract us from that.
- God has chosen us to be His servants.
- We didn't choose God. Instead God chose us.
- We are called to serve God, not ourselves. The Lord must be our priority.
- 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.
- We are to please God, not ourselves.
- Paul compares the Christian walk to fighting in a war.
- We must live our lives in order to please God, for He has chosen us. Our lives must not be about ourselves.

**2 Timothy 2:5:** "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."

- 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.
- There are some who have done many things for God, but since they disobeyed God in order to do them they'll receive no reward.

- If you have to break God's law in order to accomplish what you're trying to do, God is against it even if it's an act of service to Him. God won't recognize service that's done through disobedience or sin.
- There's a reward for those who serve God according to His commands.
- Paul warns us that those who don't strive lawfully will lose their reward.
- We must strive to serve the Lord, and to walk in His ways. Paul wants us to work for that reward, and to run the Christian walk the way a person runs a race.
- Paul expects Christians to put effort into their walk with the Lord and their service to Him.

**2 Timothy 2:6:** "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits."

- The examples that Paul gave of Christianity are examples of hard work, of following the rules, of striving, of suffering, and of persecution. Paul doesn't present Christianity as something that's easy or problem-free.
- Paul compares the Christian walk to a farmer who grows food and then partakes of the food that he grew.
- Paul said that those who work for the Lord will be the first ones to partake in the accompanying rewards.
- There's a principle that the person who works in a field to grow food must be the first person to partake of that food. They have a right to it because they worked to make the fruit grow and mature.

**2 Timothy 2:7:** "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

- Paul told Timothy to think about the principles that he put in this letter.
- When Paul faced imminent execution, he was still trying to give Timothy instruction.
- Paul prayed that God would give Timothy understanding of the things Paul had been teaching.
- In order to understand the teachings in the Bible, we need to be given understanding from God. He is the one who can give us the ability to understand it.
- We can pray that God would give other people understanding of the Bible.
- Paul wanted Timothy to have understanding of all things, not just some things and not just the most important things.
- Paul thought that everything in the Bible was worth understanding and learning.
- Although Paul prayed that God would give Timothy understanding of the Scriptures, Paul also told Timothy to think about them. Paul expected Timothy to put effort into learning them.

**2 Timothy 2:8:** "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:"

- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- Jesus is the seed (descendant) of David.
- David was a real person who actually lived.



- Jesus died and was then raised from the dead.
- The apostle Paul taught that Jesus was the seed of David, and Jesus died and then rose again. That's a key part of the message of the gospel.
- Paul wanted Timothy to remember the gospel.

**2 Timothy 2:9:** "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound."

- The reason Paul was in prison was because of the message of the gospel.
- Paul suffered as an evildoer even though he was only preaching the truth of the gospel of Jesus.
- Although Paul was in prison, the Word of God wasn't in prison.
- The gospel brought great hardship into Paul's life, and caused him to suffer things that he otherwise wouldn't have suffered. Yet Paul wasn't ashamed of it and was willing to sacrifice his life for Jesus.

**2 Timothy 2:10:** "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

- The reason Paul was willing to endure persecution was 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.
- Paul viewed himself as suffering so that other people might be saved.

- Paul referred to other Christians as the "elect", which is a reference to predestination. He taught that those who are saved are chosen by God to be saved.
- Paul believed that his suffering played a role in the salvation of the elect.
- Paul wanted to see other people saved, and was willing to suffer in order to preach the gospel to them.
- Salvation comes through Jesus the Messiah.
- Paul thought that it was worth suffering persecution and death in order to bring salvation to others.
- Paul was suffering for the sake of the elect.
- Salvation brings with it eternal glory.
- Paul thought that suffering for the sake of the gospel, and for the sake of Jesus, was necessary and played a role in the salvation of others.

**2 Timothy 2:11:** "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:"

- Paul said that just as Jesus died and was resurrected, so we will be resurrected if we die in Christ.
- Those who die in Christ will live again. Death isn't the end for them.
- The resurrection of Jesus is a foretaste of the future resurrection of all those who are dead in Christ. He was the firstfruits, but we will follow.
- As Paul faced imminent execution, he looked at the resurrection of Christ as an example of the resurrection that's in store for the saints.

**2 Timothy 2:12:** "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"

- Those who suffer for the sake of Jesus and the gospel will one day reign with Jesus over this world.
- Paul taught that one day Jesus would reign over this world, and when He does we will reign with him.
- The destiny of the suffering church is to reign with Christ.
- Those who are suffering in this life for the sake of Jesus can look forward to both the resurrection and to reigning with Jesus.
- Jesus will deny knowing all those who deny knowing Him.
- 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 we wouldn't suffer. Instead it said that those who suffered for Jesus would be rewarded with the right to reign with Him over this world.
- We must never deny Jesus.

**2 Timothy 2:13:** "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

- Jesus will fulfill all of His promises, regardless of whether people believe in them or not.
- When people doubt or disbelieve the promises of God, that unbelief doesn't invalidate those promises. It doesn't cancel them or make them go away.
- God will do *exactly* what He said He will do, for He is

always faithful.

- God will never break His Word, because He cannot deny Himself.

**2 Timothy 2:14:** "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers."

- Paul commanded Timothy to remind the church of the things he taught in this letter: the gospel, the resurrection of Jesus, the resurrection of the saints, the coming reign of the saints over the world, and to endure suffering and persecution.
- Paul didn't want the church to spend time striving over vain words that had no profit. Instead he wanted them to remember the doctrines of the Scriptures.
- Paul didn't want the church to spend time studying things that would subvert and deceive those who listened to them.
- The church must use discernment to tell the difference between the true doctrines of the Scriptures, and lies that are intended to subvert those who hear them.
- We shouldn't spend our time listening to lies.

**2 Timothy 2:15:** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

- We must study the Scriptures so that we know how to rightly divide (interpret) them, and don't need to be ashamed.

- It takes effort to learn the Scriptures to such an extent that we know how to rightly divide (interpret) them.
- If we don't spend time studying the Scriptures then we won't be able to interpret them correctly.
- It's a shameful thing to fail to study the Scriptures, or to fail to interpret it correctly.
- God commands His church to study His Word and know how to properly interpret it.
- Those who don't study the Bible, and those who don't correctly interpret it, will one day be ashamed.
- Paul compares us to workmen who need to become skilled at their work.
- There's a right way to interpret the Bible, and there are also wrong ways to interpret it.
- The Bible is true. It is the truth.

**2 Timothy 2:16:** "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

- We must actively shun things that are profane, for such things lead to ungodliness.
- We must actively shun things that are vain, for such things lead to ungodliness.
- It's bad to be profane.
- It's bad to be vain.
- Those who pay attention to things that are profane and vain will become increasingly ungodly.

**2 Timothy 2:17:** "And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;"

- Paul said that Hymenaeus was a dangerous false teacher.
- Paul said that Philetus was a dangerous false teacher.
- Paul called out false teachers by name and warned against them. No one in the Bible had anything good to say about false teachers, or suggested that it was important to have dialog with them to resolve differences.
- Paul warned Timothy about specific false teachers and told him to be on guard against them.
- The words of false teachers are dangerous, and eat away at people like a disease.
- Paul compared the words of false teachers to a disease that eats away at people.

**2 Timothy 2:18:** "Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

- Paul said that Hymenaeus and Philetus were dangerous false teachers because they taught error regarding the resurrection.
- Paul strongly condemned people who got the doctrines of end-times prophecy incorrect, and said that such people are dangerous.
- The error that Hymenaeus and Philetus taught was that the resurrection had already happened. Paul strongly condemned this and said that it was a dangerous false teaching.

- The resurrection is in the future, not in the past.
- People who teach error about end-times prophecy can hurt people and destroy their faith.
- It's dangerous to teach error about end-times prophecy.
- Paul didn't think that it was fine if a teacher got a few things wrong, as long as they got the core doctrines correct. Instead he condemned those who erred from the truth and said they were dangerous.
- It's important to teach the truth about end-times prophecy and the resurrection.
- Paul taught that teaching error disqualified a person and turned them into a false teacher, even if they were sound in other areas. The error that they taught was a disease that harmed people's faith.

**2 Timothy 2:19:** "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

- Regardless of what false teachers teach, the doctrines of the Bible remain true and certain.
- The Lord knows all those who belong to Him.
- Those who belong to Him can't be lost, because they belong to Him. He chose them before the foundation of the world.
- All those who belong to God have been sealed. Their continued salvation doesn't depend on their works.
- Christians must depart from iniquity. Even though we're not saved by our works, it's wrong for Christians to

continue in sin.

- Departing from iniquity isn't optional for Christians. It's something God requires.

**2 Timothy 2:20:** "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour."

- Paul compared the church to a house, which has vessels of gold, silver, wood, and clay. Some of the vessels are valuable and filled with honor, while others are dishonorable and dirty.
- Some people in the church have more honor and glory than others. Not everyone is the same (because some Christians lead holy lives, while others do not).
- God puts a difference between people in the church. Some are honorable vessels of gold (those who lead holy lives), while others are dishonorable vessels of clay (those who are living in sin).
- Some people in the church have great honor while others do not.

**2 Timothy 2:21:** "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

- Christians who have turned away from their sins and walk in God's ways are vessels of honor.
- Christians who are continuing to live in their sins, and who are not walking in all of God's ways, are vessels of dishonor.



- In the sight of God, A Christian's status in the church has nothing to do with the size of his ministry, or his wealth, or his fame, or his popularity. Instead it has everything to do with whether that person is walking in God's ways and teaching the truth, or is walking in sin and teaching error.
- God commands us to purge ourselves from iniquity and stop walking in sin, so we can be vessels of honor.
- Those who are walking in God's ways are ready to perform every good work. Those people are prepared.
- Christians have a choice: we can turn away from sin and become vessels of honor, or we can continue in sin and be dishonorable vessels.

**2 Timothy 2:22:** "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

- Christians must flee the lusts of youth.
- Christians must follow after righteousness.
- Christians must follow after faith.
- Christians must follow after love.
- Christians must follow after peace.
- Christians must call on the Lord.
- Christians must have a pure heart.
- It's a good thing to pursue righteousness. In fact, we *must* make the choice to pursue righteousness.
- It's a good thing to have faith. We must choose to have faith in God, and not doubt or disbelieve Him.

- It's a good thing to have charity and show love to one another. We must choose to help others.
- It's a good thing to call out to the Lord, but we must do so with a pure heart.
- Some Christians won't follow after righteousness, faith, charity, or peace. Those people are dishonorable vessels.
- The life of a Christian involves actively pursuing righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. It's an active life, not a passive life, and involves diligence and work.
- We must make the choice to flee from lusts. God doesn't tell us to put ourselves into places of temptation, but instead to flee from temptation.

**2 Timothy 2:23:** "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes."

- There is such a thing as a foolish question.
- Not all questions are wise.
- There is such a thing as an ignorant question.
- We must avoid asking foolish questions.
- We must avoid asking ignorant questions.
- Foolish questions lead to strife.
- Ignorant questions lead to strife.
- We need to be careful about the kind of questions we ask and pursue, because if we pursue the wrong type of questions then the only thing we will find is strife.
- Christians need to learn discernment so they can tell the difference between a wise question and an ignorant one.

- Christians don't have to answer all questions. Ignorant and foolish questions only lead to fights.

**2 Timothy 2:24:** "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,"

- The servant of the Lord must not strive with other people. We should seek to be people of peace, not people who are argumentative, or hostile, or ready to get into fights.
- Christians must be gentle to everyone.
- Christians should be quick to teach others.
- God expects all Christians to be actively teaching others.
- Christians must be patient.
- Gentleness is a virtue, and something that God prizes. The world may not value it, but God does.
- Patience is a virtue, and something that God prizes.

**2 Timothy 2:25:** "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;"

- Meekness is a virtue, and something that God prizes. The world may not value it, but God does.
- God commands Christians to teach others with a spirit of meekness.
- Those who are in sin and error are actually opposing themselves. We should look for opportunities to instruct them in the Bible, for God may use that to save them.

- In order to be saved we must repent. There's no salvation apart from repentance.
- Repentance includes acknowledging the truth. Those who continue to reject the truth haven't repented.
- When we preach to the ungodly, our preaching will only benefit them if God chooses to give them repentance. God must act and make a change within them, or else nothing will happen.
- Even though we don't know if our preaching and teaching will have any benefit, we still must pursue opportunities to teach others because God may chose to work through us to bring others to repentance.
- Salvation comes when God works in a person to bring them to repentance. It doesn't come through our own efforts, or through clever tricks that manipulate people. It's an act of God, not an act of men.

**2 Timothy 2:26:** "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

- There are some people who have been ensnared by the devil and taken captive by him. This includes the lost, and may include some Christians who are still living in iniquity.
- The devil is still taking people captive and ensnaring them. He's still dangerous.
- God is the one who delivers people from the snare of the devil. He does this by granting them repentance.
- The only way to escape the snare of the devil is through repentance.

- It's possible to escape the snare of the devil.
- The devil is our enemy and is seeking to ensnare people and take them captive. He's dangerous and wicked.
- The way to fight against the devil is by preaching and teaching the lost, and by preaching and teaching those who are living in iniquity. God may use that to free people from the devil's snare by giving them the grace to repent.

## 2 Timothy 3

**2 Timothy 3:1:** "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

- As Paul was awaiting execution for his faith in Jesus, he warned that in the last days (the end-times) perilous times would come.
- As bad as things were in Paul's day, he believed that the period of the end-times would be even worse.
- Paul didn't think that things would continually improve in this dispensation. Instead he believed that perilous times were coming.
- Paul wanted the church to know that the end of the church age would be perilous, not peaceful and happy.
- The end of the church age wouldn't experience a great revival. Instead it would be a perilous time.
- Paul believed that knowledge of the doctrines of the end-times was very important.

**2 Timothy 3:2:** "For men shall be lovers of their own selves,

covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"

- One of the reasons the end-times would be perilous is because mankind would become incredibly evil.
- In the end-times, people would love themselves.
- Although the world teaches that we need to love ourselves, the Bible teaches that it's a bad thing to love ourselves.
- In the end-times, people would be covetous.
- It's a bad thing to be covetous. Christians must not covet.
- In the end-times, people would be boasters.
- It's a bad thing to boast. Christians must give all of the glory to God.
- In the end-times, people would be proud.
- It's a bad thing to be proud. Christians must be humble.
- In the end-times, people would blaspheme the name of the Lord.
- It's a very wicked thing to be blasphemous.
- In the end-times, children would disobey their parents.
- It's a bad thing for children to disobey their parents. God commands children to obey their parents.
- In the end-times, people would be unthankful.
- It's a bad thing to be unthankful. Christians must be grateful and thankful.
- In the end-times, people would be unholy.
- It's a bad thing to be unholy. Christians must pursue holiness.

- The people of the end-times would be very depraved and utterly evil. This would manifest itself by the fact that in those days people would love themselves, be covetous, be boasters, be proud, be blasphemers of the holy name of God, be disobedient to parents, be unthankful, and be holy.
- It's dangerous for Christians to be around people who love themselves, who are covetous, who boast, who are proud, who blaspheme, who are disobedient to parents, who are unthankful, or who are unholy.

**2 Timothy 3:3:** "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,"

- In the end-times, people would no longer have natural affection for one another. Affection would be gone.
- Affection is a good and natural thing. It's terrible when affection is gone.
- Christians should have a natural affection for one another.
- In the end-times, people would be trucebreakers.
- It is a bad thing for people to break their word, and the agreements they have made. Christians must keep their promises and do what they said they would do.
- In the end-times, people would falsely accuse one another.
- It's a bad thing to hurl false accusations at other people. Christians must not bear false witness.
- In the end-times, people would lack self-control.
- It's a bad thing to lack self control. The Bible teaches that

self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit, and is something Christians must produce in their life.

- In the end-times, people would be fierce.
- It's a bad thing to be fierce. God commands Christians to be meek and gentle.
- In the end-times, people would despise things that are good.
- It's a bad thing to despise things that are good. Christians should love good and hate evil, not hate good and love evil.
- In the end-times, people would become very depraved. Their depravity would be made manifest by the fact that people no longer had natural affection for one another, no longer kept their word, falsely accused one another, lacked self control, were fierce, and hated that which was good.
- It's dangerous for Christians to be around people who lack affection for others, or break their promises, or falsely accuse others, or have no self control, or are fierce, or despise things that are good.

**2 Timothy 3:4:** "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"

- In the end-times, people would be traitors.
- It's a bad thing to be a traitor.
- In the end-times, people would be reckless.
- It's a bad thing to be reckless.
- In the end-times, people would be filled with pride.



- It's a bad thing to be filled with pride. Christians must be humble.
- In the end-times, people would love pleasure more than they loved God.
- We must love God more than we love the pleasures of this world.
- In the end-times, people would become very depraved. Their depravity would be made manifest by the fact that people would be traitors, would be reckless, would be filled with pride, and would love pleasure more than they love God.
- It's a dangerous thing for Christians to be around people who are traitors, who are reckless, who are filled with pride, and who love pleasure more than they love God.

**2 Timothy 3:5:** "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

- In the end-times, people would have an outward appearance of godliness, but would actually be very depraved.
- In the end-times, people would have an outward appearance of godliness, but would deny the gospel's power to overcome sin and iniquity.
- Christians are commanded to turn away from people who are wicked and depraved, and avoid them. This is especially true if there are people within the church who have these depraved qualities.
- Paul said to turn away from those who deny the power of the gospel. He didn't say to dialog with them, or build bridges to them, or make friends with them, or come to

some common understanding with them.

- Paul painted a very bleak picture of what people would be like at the end of the church age, in the end-times. He warned what people would be like, and told Christians to avoid such terrible and depraved individuals.

**2 Timothy 3:6:** "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"

- In the end-times, evil people will creep into homes and lead women astray.
- Evil people will specifically target women.
- The women who evil people will target are women whose lives are filled with sins.
- The women who evil people will target are women who have been led astray through lust.
- Women whose lives are filled with sins, and who are ensnared by their own lusts, are in danger of being led astray by evildoers.
- It's important to be on guard against evildoers.
- It's important to protect ourselves against evildoers who seek to enter our homes.
- It's important for women to be on guard against those who seek to lead them astray.
- We must not lead lives that are full of sin.
- We must not lead lives that are full of lust.
- If our lives are full of sin, or if we're ensnared by lust, then we're in danger of being led astray by evildoers and

false teachers.

- Leading a life that's full of sin makes us more vulnerable to false teachers and false teachings.

**2 Timothy 3:7:** "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

- Paul describes some evildoers as people who are always learning, but never arrive at the truth. Their learning is in vain.
- The purpose of learning is to arrive at the truth.
- There's a set of truth (the gospel) that we need to learn and finally reach.
- Some people are never able to reach the truth.

**2 Timothy 3:8:** "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

- At some point, Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses.
- The reason some people are never able to reach the truth is because they actively resist the truth and fight against it.
- The reason some people are never able to reach the truth is because they have corrupt minds.
- The reason some people are never able to reach the truth is because they're reprobate.
- It's a terrible thing to have a corrupt mind.
- It's a terrible thing to resist the truth.

- It's a terrible mind to be reprobate.
- Paul puts those who resist the truth in the same category as the men who once fought against Moses himself.
- Those who are reprobate and have corrupt minds are actually resisting the truth. They're actively fighting against it.
- Paul depicts false teachers and evildoers as people who are actively fighting against the truth.
- Some people resist the truth.
- Some people have corrupt minds.
- Some people are reprobate.
- Moses was a real person who actually existed.

**2 Timothy 3:9:** "But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was."

- There's a limit to what evildoers and false teachers can do, how far they can go, and who they can deceive.
- Evildoers and false teachers aren't all powerful and can't deceive everyone.
- The folly of false teachers and evildoers will one day be made manifest and obvious.
- The folly of Jannes and Jambres, who once withstood Moses, was eventually made manifest to everyone.
- God will make manifest the foolishness of evildoers and false teachers.

**2 Timothy 3:10:** "But thou hast fully known my doctrine,

manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,"

- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's doctrine. Nothing that Paul taught seems to have been hidden from Timothy.
- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's manner of life.
- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's purpose.
- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's faith.
- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's longsuffering.
- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's charity.
- Timothy had a full knowledge of Paul's patience.
- Paul did more than just teach Timothy his doctrine. He also showed Timothy how he lived his life, and what his purpose in life was. He shared with Timothy his faith, and he publicly demonstrated his charity, patience, and longsuffering.
- Paul didn't hide his life from Timothy. Timothy knew who Paul was, what he taught, and how he lived his life, and knew that he wasn't a false teacher or evildoer.

**2 Timothy 3:11:** "Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me."

- Timothy had a full knowledge of how Paul was persecuted.
- Paul was persecuted for his faith in Christ, and for the gospel.
- Paul was persecuted in Antioch.

- Paul was persecuted in Iconium.
- Paul was persecuted at Lystra.
- The cities of Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra existed in Paul's time.
- God delivered Paul from the persecution that he experienced in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.
- At the end of his life, when Paul was facing execution, he gave God the glory for the past times when God had delivered him from persecution. Yet Paul didn't complain that this time God wasn't delivering him, or express any bitterness about it.
- There are times when God delivers people from persecution, and there are other times when He doesn't.
- If we're ever delivered from persecution, it's because God has delivered us.
- There are times when we must endure persecution.
- Paul had to endure much persecution.

**2 Timothy 3:12:** "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

- All Christians who live a godly life in Christ will experience persecution.
- Christians can expect to suffer persecution. God didn't promise us an easy and happy life.
- We should expect persecution. It's a normal and expected part of life, in this world, for Christians who seek to live a godly life.

**2 Timothy 3:13:** "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

- People who are evil will become more evil over time.
- People who seduce others to do evil will become more evil over time.
- Evil doesn't stay in one place. Instead it grows worse as time goes on.
- Some people are evil.
- Some people seduce others to do evil.
- Evil people who deceive others are themselves deceived. They're not immune to deception.
- As time goes on, bad men will become even worse.
- As time goes on, bad men will themselves become deceived.
- Paul doesn't give a free pass to evildoers just because they've been deceived.
- Some people deceive others.
- Some people are deceived.

**2 Timothy 3:14:** "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"

- Paul told Timothy to not be led astray by evil men and seducers, but instead to continue in the doctrines that Paul had taught him.
- Timothy had been assured that the doctrines that Paul had taught him were true.

- Timothy could be assured that the doctrines of the gospel were true because of the person who taught them to him. Paul's testimony could be trusted.
- We know who has taught us the doctrines of the gospel. The origins of the gospel aren't shrouded in mystery, but come from firsthand eyewitnesses who saw these things themselves (and who died for testifying about them).

**2 Timothy 3:15:** "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

- Timothy was taught the Scriptures from his childhood.
- Timothy knew the Scriptures when he was still a child.
- It's possible to teach the Scriptures to children.
- It's possible for children to know the Scriptures.
- The Scriptures are holy.
- The Scriptures are full of wisdom.
- The Scriptures can make us wise.
- The Scriptures show us the way of salvation.
- We are saved by faith in Jesus.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- The Scriptures testify of Jesus.
- The Scriptures teach us that we're saved by faith in Jesus.
- Paul believed that the Scriptures were faithful and could be fully trusted. He never cast any doubt on them.



**2 Timothy 3:16:** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Scriptures come from God, not from men.
- All of Scripture is good and holy. None of it is bad or unholy or worthless.
- All of Scripture can be trusted.
- All Scripture is profitable.
- All Scripture is profitable for doctrine.
- Doctrine is important.
- We learn doctrine from the Scriptures. That's our sure and certain source of doctrine. We haven't been given any other source of doctrine.
- All Scripture is profitable for reproof (rebuke).
- Reproof (rebuke) is important.
- All Scripture is profitable for correction.
- Correction is important.
- The Scriptures correct us and show us the right path. That's the only source of correction that God has given to us.
- All Scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness.
- The Scriptures instruct us in the path of righteousness. It's the only source of that information which God has given to us.
- We need to be instructed in doctrine, in reproof, in correction, and in the path of righteousness.

- Paul expects Christians to use the Scriptures for their source of doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. The Scriptures must be our guide, not something else.
- There are no parts of the Scriptures that can be ignored, or that aren't profitable. All of it is important and useful.

**2 Timothy 3:17:** "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

- The material contained within the Scriptures is enough to give us *everything* we need to perform *all* good works.
- We don't need any material outside of the Scriptures in order to fulfill all good works. The material in the Scriptures is sufficient.
- The Scriptures are complete. They're not missing anything that we need in order to walk in God's will in this life.
- Nothing has been left out of the Scriptures that we need in order to walk in God's will.
- In order to carry out God's will in this life, 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 be perfect, to walk in God's will, and to perform all good works.
- The Scriptures are enough. No other revelation needs to be added to it.

## 2 Timothy 4

**2 Timothy 4:1:** "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;"

- Jesus will judge both the living and the dead when He appears. (This seems to be a reference to His coming at the end of the tribulation.)
- One day the dead will be judged.
- When Jesus returns, He will judge those who are living at that time.
- The kingdom of Jesus was still in the future at the time Paul wrote this letter.
- Jesus will judge both the living and the dead after He returns, when His (millennial) kingdom begins.
- There is a day of judgment coming.
- Jesus is the one who will be our judge.
- One day Jesus will judge us. Even though we're Christians we're not immune from judgment. Jesus will hold us accountable for the way we've lived our lives.
- Paul wanted Timothy to know that one day Jesus would hold him accountable for the things that he did in this life. There's a day of judgment coming when he will have to stand before the Lord Jesus.
- One day Jesus is going to return.
- One day the kingdom of Jesus will come into this world.
- One day Jesus will reign.

**2 Timothy 4:2:** "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

- Paul charged Timothy, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, to preach the Word.
- The Word of God must be preached.
- Even though Paul was in prison and facing execution for preaching the gospel, Paul commanded Timothy to keep preaching the gospel.
- Even though preaching the gospel cost Paul his life, he wasn't sorry for preaching it and he wanted to see it preached still further.
- Paul believed that even death wasn't too high a price to pay for preaching the gospel. It was that important.
- The Bible must be preached when it's in season and people will accept it.
- The Bible must be also preached when it's out of season and people won't accept it. Even if people won't accept the teachings of the Bible, it must still be preached regardless.
- There are no times when it's acceptable to stop preaching the Bible.
- Our culture's reaction to the Bible must not impact our preaching. We must still preach the whole counsel of God regardless.
- We must reprove those who need reproof.
- We must rebuke those who need rebuke.

- It's important to rebuke those who are in error. Rebukes are an important part of Christianity.
- We must give necessary exhortations.
- We must teach all of the doctrines of the Bible. Paul didn't think that any of them were unimportant or could be skipped over.
- We must continually proclaim the doctrines of the Bible with all longsuffering. This is true even if the doctrines of the Bible are "out of season" and not accepted.
- We must preach the Word even when it's out of season. We must teach *all* doctrine. This is because one day Jesus will judge us and hold us accountable for what we've done.

**2 Timothy 4:3:** "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

- We must teach all the doctrines of the Bible even in times when people hate sound doctrine and won't accept it.
- Paul didn't believe that doctrines could be ignored if people rejected them.
- In the end-times, people will reject sound doctrine.
- In the end-times, people will seek after false teachers who tell them what they want to hear, and who don't teach the sound doctrines of the Scriptures.
- The reason people won't endure sound doctrine is because of their lusts (their desires).
- The reason people go after false teachers is because of their sinful lusts (their desires).

- In the end-times, people will seek false teachers because they want their sinful lusts (their desires) to be validated.
- False teachers are popular because they validate people's sinful desires.
- People who teach sound doctrine aren't popular because they rebuke people's sins and offer correction, and people want their sins to be praised.
- It's a terrible thing to reject sound doctrine.
- It's a terrible thing to seek after false teachers.
- We should expect people to reject sound doctrine and seek after lies. Paul warned us that would happen.
- We must choose faithfulness to the Scriptures over popularity, even if that costs us our audience.
- We should expect that people who teach sound doctrine will have a much smaller audience than false teachers.

**2 Timothy 4:4:** "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

- In the end-times, people will deliberately turn away from the truth.
- In the end-times, people will deliberately choose to believe fables.
- It's a terrible thing to turn away from the truth.
- It's a terrible thing to believe fables.
- We must not turn away from the truth to fables.

**2 Timothy 4:5:** "But watch thou in all things, endure

afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

- We must exercise discernment so that we don't turn away from the truth and believe fables.
- We must believe and proclaim *all* the doctrines of the Bible, and not turn away from any of them.
- We must endure afflictions. Afflictions shouldn't discourage us.
- Christians will face afflictions. Afflictions shouldn't come as a surprise, because they're a normal part of life for Christians. The apostles were also greatly afflicted.
- Paul commanded Timothy to do the work of an evangelist, even though doing so might cost him his life. The work of an evangelist was worth dying for.
- The way an evangelist makes full proof of his ministry is by preaching the whole word, even when it's out of season. It's also by enduring afflictions and being faithful unto death.

**2 Timothy 4:6:** "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

- Paul wrote this letter to Timothy at the end of his life, when he was facing execution.
- Paul knew that he was about to die. He knew that God wasn't going to deliver him out of this trial.
- Paul was ready to lay down his life for the sake of Jesus, and for the sake of the gospel.
- Paul viewed his upcoming execution as an offering. His life was being sacrificed for Jesus.

- Paul viewed his death as a departure from this world. He didn't view it as the end of his life.
- Paul wasn't discouraged or bitter about his upcoming execution. He didn't think it was unfair to suffer such things after having labored so hard for the kingdom of God.

**2 Timothy 4:7:** "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

- Paul fought the good fight and kept the faith, even when it cost him his life.
- We must fight the good fight. We must finish the race that has been set before us and keep the faith, even if it means many afflictions or even death.
- Paul believed that Jesus was worth dying for.

**2 Timothy 4:8:** "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

- Paul believed that because he kept the faith even unto death, the Lord Jesus would give him a reward.
- Paul believed that the reward which Jesus would one day give him was worth dying for.
- Jesus will give a crown of righteousness to all those who love His appearing. (This seems to be a reference to those who long for the return of Christ and earnestly desire it.)
- Jesus will reward those who long for His return and who earnestly desire it.



- Jesus is our judge. One day He will judge us.
- Jesus is a righteous judge.
- Jesus will give Paul the crown of righteousness.
- There's a specific day in the future when Jesus will give us the rewards that we've earned.
- Rewards will only be given to those who earned them. Some will receive them but others won't.
- Christians who didn't desire the return of Jesus won't receive the crown of righteousness.
- One of the rewards that Jesus gives people are crowns.
- One of the things that will happen in the judgment is that people will be given rewards (or will be denied them).
- The rewards that Jesus gives aren't worthless. They're worth having.

**2 Timothy 4:9:** "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:"

- Paul wanted Timothy to come and visit him.
- Paul wanted to see Timothy again before he was executed.
- Paul wanted Timothy to come soon.

**2 Timothy 4:10:** "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."

- Demas didn't finish the course or keep the faith. Instead he forsook Paul because he loved this present world.
- At the end of Paul's life, Demas abandoned him.

- Demas left Paul and went to Thessalonica.
- Crescens went to Galatia.
- Titus went to Dalmatia.
- Thessalonica existed in the days of Paul.
- Galatia existed in the days of Paul.
- Dalmatia existed in the days of Paul.
- Paul wanted Timothy to visit him because Demas, Crescens, and Titus had all left and gone to other places.
- It's an evil thing to forsake the faith.
- The love of this present world is a dangerous thing and can lead us astray.

**2 Timothy 4:11:** "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

- Paul wasn't alone. Luke was with him.
- Luke was with Paul at the very end of his life.
- Luke didn't forsake Paul.
- Luke was the only person who was with Paul when he wrote this letter.
- Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark with him.
- Even though Paul rejected Mark at the beginning of his ministry (because Mark abandoned Paul), at the end of Paul's life things had changed. He believed that Mark was profitable for the ministry.
- Paul wanted Mark's help.
- Paul was still trying to conduct ministry work at the very

end of his life, when he was facing execution. Even at that point he hadn't given up or stopped trying to work.

**2 Timothy 4:12:** "And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus."

- The reason Tychicus wasn't with Paul was because the apostle had sent him to Ephesus.
- At the end of Paul's life he was still sending people to cities, and still asking people to come to him to help him minister. He was still trying to work on behalf of the churches, and on behalf of the gospel.
- As Paul faced execution, he was still thinking of others and of the welfare of the churches.

**2 Timothy 4:13:** "The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments."

- Paul had left behind a cloak with Carpus at Troas.
- Paul wanted his cloak back, which he had left behind.
- Paul had been in Troas before he wrote this letter.
- Paul had spent time with Carpus before he wrote this letter.
- Troas existed in the time of Paul.
- Paul wanted Timothy to bring him his cloak.
- Paul wanted Timothy to bring him some books.
- Even when Paul was facing execution, he still wanted Timothy to bring books to him. Paul was still engaged in studying and work, and didn't stop even though he knew

he was about to die.

- Paul thought that it made sense to continue to diligently study the Scriptures even though he knew he was about to die. He didn't think it was a waste of time, or would accomplish nothing since his life was quickly coming to an end.
- Paul diligently studied the Scriptures even when he was facing death.
- Paul wanted Timothy to bring him some parchments.
- Paul didn't think that imminent death was an excuse to stop working, or stop reading, or stop studying, or stop writing. He wanted to make good use of every moment that he had left.
- Books and parchments existed in the time of Paul.

**2 Timothy 4:14:** "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:"

- Alexander the coppersmith did great evil to the apostle Paul.
- Alexander was a coppersmith.
- The profession of coppersmith existed in the time of Paul.
- When Alexander did great evil to Paul, the apostle didn't take vengeance himself. Instead he asked God to avenge him.
- As Paul was facing execution, he didn't forgive Alexander. Instead he prayed to God for vengeance. (Although God has required us to forgive those who repent, we don't have a responsibility to forgive people who aren't sorry and who haven't repented.)

- There's nothing wrong with asking God to take vengeance on people who've done us wrong, and who haven't repented.
- One day God will punish evildoers in accordance with the evil things that they've done. There will be a day of vengeance.
- There were people who did great evil to the apostle Paul.

**2 Timothy 4:15:** "Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words."

- Alexander hadn't repented of his evil deeds and was still actively fighting against the gospel.
- Paul told Timothy to beware of Alexander, for he was still doing evil.
- Alexander greatly fought against the gospel.
- Paul warned Timothy about a dangerous enemy of the gospel, and he called out that person by name. He didn't hide that person's identity.
- We need to warn others about the threat that's posed by the enemies of the gospel, so Christians can protect themselves from them.
- We need to call out the enemies of the gospel by name, so people will know who is dangerous.
- Those who fight against the gospel and don't repent will one day be punished by God for what they've done.

**2 Timothy 4:16:** "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to

their charge."

- When Paul was attacked, no one stood by him. Instead everyone fled.
- Even though everyone originally fled from Paul, when he wrote this letter Luke was with him. He had been alone at one point but he wasn't alone anymore.
- Paul asked God to forgive those who fled from him when he was attacked. However, he asked God to punish those who fought against the gospel and tried to stop it.
- Since everyone fled when the apostle Paul was attacked, it's possible that no one will stand with us when we're attacked. Sometimes we may have to suffer alone.
- When Paul was attacked, the church of his day was unwilling to stand with him and help him. Instead people fled from him.
- The church may not stand with us when we're persecuted.
- Paul prayed that God would forgive those who fled from him when he was attacked. This indicates that abandoning Paul was a sin that needed forgiveness.
- It's not good to abandon our friends when they're persecuted and need our help.

**2 Timothy 4:17:** "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

- When Paul was attacked, God was with him. The Lord strengthened him when everyone else fled.

- God saved Paul so that all the Gentiles might hear the gospel.
- God delivered Paul out of the mouth of the lion. (This should probably be interpreted literally, as Christians were fed to lions in those days.)
- God spared Paul's life in the past, and yet Paul was still facing execution (and this time God wasn't going to save him)
- Paul praised God for saving him previously, and had nothing bad to say about the fact that God wasn't going to save him out of his current trial.
- God has the power to save us from our trials.
- Sometimes God saves us from death, and sometimes He doesn't.
- God will be there with us even when everyone else has abandoned us.
- God can give us the strength we need to endure trials.
- God can use our trials to further the gospel.
- Paul was willing to endure persecution to spread the gospel.

**2 Timothy 4:18:** "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

- The Lord will deliver us from every evil work. However, this doesn't mean that we'll never face persecution or martyrdom.
- The Lord will preserve us and make sure that we enter His

heavenly kingdom. Our salvation is assured because God is the one who's preserving us.

- God is preserving our salvation. That's not something we're doing by our own efforts.
- Christians don't have to worry about somehow falling short and not being able to enter the heavenly kingdom of God.
- God's kingdom is a heavenly kingdom.
- We can be assured of our salvation. There's no danger that any Christians will be lost.
- Our salvation doesn't depend on our own actions, for God is the one who's preserving us.
- All of the glory belongs to God, forever and ever.
- We should give glory to God.
- We should have confidence in our salvation. There's no need to have any doubts.
- One day God will put an end to evil. Evil doers and wickedness will be defeated in the end.
- Our confidence should rest in God, not ourselves.

**2 Timothy 4:19:** "Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus."

- Paul told Timothy to salute Prisca.
- Paul told Timothy to salute Aquila.
- Paul told Timothy to salute the household of Onesiphorus.
- Paul believed it was important to send his greetings to



people in letters.

- Even though Paul was facing imminent execution, he still took the time to give his greetings to other people in his letters.
- Prisca and Aquila were still alive when Paul wrote this letter.

**2 Timothy 4:20:** "Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick."

- When Paul wrote this letter, Erastus was still at Corinth.
- Erastus was alive when Paul wrote this letter.
- Paul knew Erastus.
- The city of Corinth existed when Paul wrote this letter.
- When Paul wrote this letter, Trophimus was at Miletum.
- Paul knew Trophimus.
- The city of Miletum existed when Paul wrote this letter.
- When Paul left Miletum, Trophimus was still sick.
- Paul was unable to heal Trophimus, even though Paul had the gift of healing at the beginning of his ministry. This means that by the time Paul reached the end of his life, the gift of healing was gone. The gift of healing was temporary and was removed once it served its purpose in establishing the church.

**2 Timothy 4:21:** "Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren."

- Paul wanted Timothy to come and visit him before winter.
- Paul wrote this letter to Timothy before winter.
- Paul thought there was still time for Timothy to come and see him before he was executed.
- Paul knew Eubulus.
- Paul knew Pudens.
- Paul knew Linus.
- Paul knew Claudia.
- Eubulus sent greetings to Timothy.
- Pudens sent greetings to Timothy.
- Linus sent greetings to Timothy.
- Claudia sent greetings to Timothy.
- All of the brethren that Paul was with sent their greetings to Timothy.
- Eubulus was alive when Paul wrote this letter.
- Pudens was alive when Paul wrote this letter.
- Linus was alive when Paul wrote this letter.
- Claudia was alive when Paul wrote this letter.

**2 Timothy 4:22:** "The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen."

- Jesus is Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- People have a spirit.
- Paul prayed that Jesus would be with Timothy's spirit.

- It's possible for Jesus to be with our spirit'
- Paul prayed that God's grace would be with Timothy.
- Paul ended this letter with "Amen" (let it be).