**A Study Outline of Second Timothy**

**Introduction**

Most believe that this was Paul’s final letter before being beheaded in Rome, somewhere between 66 and 68 AD.

Nero was the Emperor of Rome and it was a very difficult time for Christians. One Roman historian wrote, “Some [Christians] were nailed to crosses; others sown up on the skins of wild beasts, and exposed to the fury of dogs; others were smeared over with combustible materials and used as torches to illuminate the darkness of night. The gardens of Nero were destined for the melancholy spectacle, which was accompanied with a horse race and honored with the presence of the emperor.”

This is a very personal letter to Timothy about what was expected of him as a preacher.

**Chapter 1**

1:1-5 – Paul’s concern and thankfulness for Timothy.

* Timothy had a “genuine” faith (v. 5).
* Nothing is known of his father, except that he was a Greek (Acts 16:1).
* 3:15 mentions the training that he received from his childhood.

1:6 – Timothy’s gift.

* This was also mentioned in 1 Timothy 4:14. Here, it is said that this was given “by the putting on of my hands.” The preposition “by” here means through. 1 Timothy 4:14 says that the gift was given “with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” The preposition “with” means along with or accompanied by.
* Paul, as an apostle had the ability to pass on spiritual gifts (Rom. 1:11). We are not told what gift was given to Timothy.

1:7-14 – Do not be ashamed.

* “Fear” literally means timidity.
* There is no room for cowardice in the life of a Christian.
* Why he should not be ashamed:
  + Because of the testimony he was to present (8).
  + Because of salvation and the holy calling (9).
  + Because of God’s grace (9).
  + Because of the appearing of Jesus Christ in the flesh (10).
  + Because of Paul’s absolute faith in the faithfulness of God (12).
  + Because there is a pattern to be followed (13).
  + Because what had been given to him was good (14).

1:15-18 – Paul’s personal issues in Rome.

* Phygellus and Hermogenes were not the only people to ever have abandoned Paul (4:10, 14, 16).
* 16-18 – Paul’s appreciation for the work of Onesiphorus.

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**Chapter 2**

2:1-7 - Timothy’s need for strength and endurance.

* Christianity is a “taught” religion (Jn. 6:44-45).
* We must teach others to teach others to teach others.
* Christianity is compared to:
  + War (3-4).
  + Wrestling (5).
  + Farming (6).

2:8-13 – Suffering and reigning.

* The seed of David is mentioned many times in Scripture (2 Sam. 7:12-13; Acts 2:29-35; Rom. 1:3-4).
* Even though Paul was in prison, the gospel could not be chained (9).
* Salvation is in a particular place (10).
* Verses 11-12 – God will keep His promises.
* Verse 13 – God forces none to believe or obey Him, but He will always remain faithful.

2:14-18 – Don’t strive, study!

* This section is connected to verse 2.
* On verse 14 one man wrote, “Guard against becoming sidetracked into the by-ways of futile debates.”
* The word translated “study” (KJV) is a Greek word that means, “put forth every effort, give diligence.”
* God’s word must be handled correctly (2 Pet. 3:16)!
* False doctrine is compared to a deadly, spreading disease (16-18).

2:19-21 – Prepared for every good work.

* The faith of some had been overthrown, but God’s house will remain.
* Ephesians 2:20-22.
* It should be comforting to know that God knows His people.
* If we are going to claim to be Christians, we must get away from sin.
* Verse 20 teaches us that there are those “in the church” who are not what they ought to be.
* We are to purge ourselves from the dishonorable things in order to be useful to God (v. 21).

2:22-26 – The servant of the Lord.

* Paul does not specify the “youthful lusts,” but there are things that may be more enticing to young people than they are to older people.
* God’s servant does not want to generate strife over questions of no consequence (v. 23).
* Teachers of God’s word must not be contentious or ready to fight (strive).
* Patient = longsuffering (v. 24).
* Meekness (v. 25) is described as an inward grace of the soul. We are to be mild and forbearing with people.
* Matthew 9:10-13.
* If we teach people as Jesus taught people, perhaps God will grant them time to repent and come to the truth.

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**Chapter 3**

3:1-9, 13 - Stressful times are coming!

* The word “perilous” is a Greek word that means hard to bear or stressful.
  + Lovers of themselves – narcissism.
  + Covetous – lovers of money.
  + Boasters – a show out.
  + Proud – arrogant.
  + Blasphemers – one who reviles others.
  + Without natural affection – heartless, those who even despise family.
  + Trucebreakers – one who refuses to lay aside enmity, always in a state of war.
  + Incontinent – unable to govern one’s appetites.
  + Heady – careless, someone who rushes headlong into matters.
* Verse 5 reveals that these were people who were claiming to be Christians! Their lifestyle denied the power of the gospel.
* The people Paul described were able to lead away “silly” (NKJV – gullible) women who were already struggling with lust and sin (v. 6).
* “Ever learning” (v. 7). These are people who always come up with something new, but still do not have a knowledge of God’s truth.
* Janes and Jambres are thought to be the magicians who withstood Moses in front of Pharaoh (Ex. 7:11; 9:11). God’s power, through Moses, was eventually recognized by all of Egypt and Israel. The same is true with false teachers in the church. Their error will be known (v. 9).
* Verse 13 – Those who are bent on doing evil will continue down that path (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

3:10-12 – Paul instructs Timothy on what the godly will be and do.

3:14-15 – Continue in the Scriptures.

* Timothy has learned from his mom, grandma, and Paul.
* Timothy had been assured (convinced, deeply rooted) in God’s word.
* Verse 15 is important for parents to understand!

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3:16-17 – The inspired Scriptures.

* All Scripture is breathed out by God.
* Jesus understood inspiration – John 10:34-36.
* 2 Peter 3:15-16.
* Critics of the Bible speak to the inspiration of Scripture by all the time and effort they exert in trying to prove that the Bible is not inspired.
* The word of God prepares us to do all good works.

**Chapter 4**

4:1-5 – The preacher’s responsibilities.

* When Christ returns the Kingdom/church will be returned to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-26).
* Until then, Timothy was to preach the word.
  + What does it mean to preach Christ?
  + Acts 8:5, 12.
* Reprove – to correct.
* Rebuke – a sharp reprimand.
* Exhort – to persuade or entreat.
* Verses 3-4 show that people do not always like this kind of preaching. We live in a time when many people do not like sound doctrine on various issues.
* Regardless of the conditions in the world, Timothy was to discharge all of his duties as an evangelist (v. 5).

4:6-8 – Paul’s readiness.

* He was “being poured out” (passive voice) and was ready.
* Paul had been though some terrible battles, but his confidence never wavered! The only way we can win the fight is through reliance on God and His word.
* Paul had kept “the faith” (v. 7).

4:9-15, 19-22 – Some personal appeals by Paul.

* In his last days Paul wants to see his “son.”
* Mark is now profitable for the ministry (v. 12). Acts 15:36-41 records a dispute about Mark that Paul had years earlier.
* There is much speculation about the books and parchments (v. 13). Perhaps he wanted a copy of some OT Scriptures, but we do not know for sure.
* Even facing death, Paul leaves retribution to God (v. 14-15). However, he does warn Timothy of Alexander.

4:16-18 – Paul’s assurance of divine assistance.

* Nero was the emperor of Rome at this time and persecution against Christians was terrible!
* He had faith in God’s presence and aide during the most difficult times.