

2 TIMOTHY

If you knew you were going to die in the near future, what information would you want to pass on, and who would you want to pass it on to? That's Paul's situation as he writes 2 Timothy. This letter has been called his "last _____[a] and _____[b]" because he knew that the time of his departure was near (2 Tim 4:6). He knew he was sitting on "death row." He knew he was soon to be _____[c] for preaching the gospel. Scripture doesn't tell us exactly how Paul died after he finished 2 Timothy. Tradition says he was beheaded in accord with Roman law for citizens. That may sound like an awful fate to us, but that was a quick, painless, merciful death compared to the brutal humiliation and suffering that most Christians in and around Rome endured at the hand of Emperor _____[d] (more on that in just a moment).

PLACE AND DATE OF WRITING

In 2 Timothy Paul is back in _____[e]. I say "*back* in prison" because it seems that Paul experienced _____[f] imprisonments in Rome. In the first, he was under house arrest and enjoyed a measure of freedom to have _____[g] and preach and teach (Acts 28:30-31). The events recorded by Luke in the book of _____[h] ends during this _____[i] imprisonment of Paul. As we discussed in the last lesson, based on snippets of information in 1 Timothy and Titus, most scholars believe Paul was released from that first imprisonment and was involved in further missionary activities, and it was during that period of mission work that he wrote both 1 Timothy and Titus.

But as Paul writes 2 Timothy, he's clearly no longer _____[j]. Paul states that Onesiphorus had to search for him and finally found Paul in Rome (2 Tim 1:16-17). Paul also instructed Timothy to get _____[k] (i.e., John Mark) and bring him when he comes to see Paul (2 Tim 4:11). This indicates a time in Rome other than the imprisonment at the end of Acts since both Timothy and Mark were with Paul when he wrote Colossians during that imprisonment (Col 1:1; 4:10; Phlm 24).

Paul's execution was probably in AD 67, which means Paul was back in a Roman prison and writing 2 Timothy in AD 66 or 67. A few years earlier (in July of AD 64), _____[l] had ordered that his own capital city of Rome be put to the _____[m]. Actually, there's no conclusive evidence that he started the fire that raged for a week and devastated nearly _____[n] of Rome, but rumor was that he did it to clear space for his new palace. The Roman historian Tacitus wrote, "*But all human*

efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor and the propitiations of the gods did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration was the result of an order by Nero. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace.” The demented tyrant rounded up _____[o] and _____[p] confessions out of them, and then began a horrific _____[q] against the church. Tacitus describes it this way: “To their death and torture were added the aggravations of cruel derision and sport; for, either they were disguised in the skins of savage beasts, and exposed to expire by the teeth of devouring dogs; or were hoisted up alive, and nailed to crosses; or wrapped in combustible vestments, and set up as torches, that, when the day set, they might be kindled to illuminate the night.”

As I said earlier, during Paul’s first incarceration at Rome, he was under _____[r] arrest. Fortunately, that particular confinement wasn’t terribly confining as he enjoyed a measure of _____[s] and freedom (Acts 28:30-31). But his second confinement in Rome—some four or five years later—was different. The language of 2 Timothy is dungeon-talk. This time he was in _____[t] (2 Tim 1:16), he was being treated as a criminal (2 Tim 2:9), and he had no prospect of relief. However, that wasn’t the worst part. The worst part was that he had essentially been _____[u] by everyone in Asia Minor (2 Tim 1:15; 4:16). Only Onesiphorus searched for Paul and found him (2 Tim 1:16-18), and only _____[v] was with him at the time he wrote 2 Timothy (2 Tim 4:11). Of course, Paul freely _____[w] the friends who had abandoned him (2 Tim 4:16), but their failure to stick close to him in these dark days surely inflicted him with great emotional pain. Surely this made Paul long to see Timothy that much more, hence his imploring Timothy _____[x] to “make every effort to come” and see him soon (2 Tim 4:9, 21). We don’t know whether Timothy and John Mark reached Paul before he was executed.

PURPOSE OF WRITING

Of all the people Paul has known over the years, he chooses to write one last letter to his spiritual son in the faith, Timothy. Instead of trying to drum up sympathy for himself, Paul writes to comfort, encourage, and _____[y] Timothy. The madman Nero’s reign of terror could have demoralized Paul, but it didn’t. Paul saw his life and work from a divine perspective, and he knew that it was time to pass the torch and mantle of _____[z] to Timothy, and it was time to give Timothy the encouragement and _____[aa] to withstand the hardships he is bound to face. Perhaps concerned that Timothy may be in danger of spiritual burnout, Paul urges Timothy to devote himself all the more to his task of serving _____[bb], the _____[cc], and the _____[dd]:

- “Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (2 Tim 1:8).
- “Guard . . . the treasure which has been entrusted to you” (2 Tim 1:14).
- “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim 2:1).
- “Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come” (2 Tim 3:1).
- “Continue in the things you have learned” (2 Tim 3:14).
- “Preach the word” (2 Tim 4:2).
- “Be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Tim 4:5).

THE CONTENT OF 2 TIMOTHY

Like 1 Timothy, while 2 Timothy is full of intensely _____[ee] notes written for Timothy, Paul wants it _____[ff] by the whole church. That’s probably why Paul begins with a formal declaration of his _____[gg]. If he were writing only for Timothy, it’s unlikely that he would feel the need to assert his apostolic _____[hh].

After Paul asserts his apostolic authority, Chapter 1 opens with tenderness and deep love and affection. Paul addresses it to “Timothy, my beloved _____[ii]” (2 Tim 1:2). He reminds Timothy of how God has equipped him for ministry with a robust, authentic, genuine _____[jj] that stretched back to his childhood when his mom and grandma were teaching him God’s _____[kk] and were modeling for him what godly faithfulness and resolve looked like (2 Tim 1:5). Paul reminds Timothy that he was constantly in the apostle’s _____[ll] (2 Tim 1:3), that he longed to see Timothy (2 Tim 1:4), and that he had full confidence in Timothy’s faith. He also reminded Timothy of his giftedness for ministry that he was to “fan into _____[mm]” (2 Tim 1:6).

After Paul affirms Timothy’s assets for ministry in Chapter 1, in Chapter 2 he challenges Timothy to prepare others to follow him in ministry (2 Tim 2:2). Timothy is to discipline himself like a _____[nn], an _____[oo], and a _____[pp], and to follow Paul’s example of endurance (2 Tim 3-13). In his dealings with others, Timothy must not get entangled in useless controversies (2 Tim 2:14-19). In dealing with himself, he must flee youthful _____[qq] and keep his life pure (2 Tim 2:20-26).

In Chapter 3 Paul, the ever-vigilant leader, anticipates perilous times of growing apostasy and wickedness, during which men and women will be increasingly susceptible to _____[rr] teaching (2 Tim 3:1-9). So, Paul exhorts Timothy to never waver in his use of the _____[ss] to combat this growing problem. In fact, it was these same Scriptures

that God had used even in Timothy’s childhood to make him “wise for salvation” (2 Tim 3:15). These Scriptures are “God-breathed” (2 Tim 3:16) and will equip Timothy to combat error and heresy.

In Chapter 4 Paul gives Timothy a final exhortation. He reminds Timothy that a man of God must be ready to _____[tt] the Word of God “in season and out of season” (i.e., at any time) (2 Tim 4:1-2). This is the only way to reach deceived people. Paul then closes this very personal letter with an update on his situation in Rome. As noted earlier, he tells Timothy how much he wants to see him before the end, and he asks Timothy to come to _____[uu] and bring certain articles with him, particularly what he calls “the _____[vv]” (2 Tim 4:13), which were probably portions of the Old Testament.

LESSONS FROM 2 TIMOTHY

- We see an example of how to face the _____[ww] of life:
 1. Paul was _____[xx].
 2. He has a clear _____[yy].
 3. He was _____[zz].
- We see the importance of nurturing our _____[aaa] in the faith (2 Tim 1:5; 3:15).
- The temptation to succumb to _____[bbb] and embarrassment for Christ is very real (2 Tim 1:8).
- _____[ccc] is part of the gospel; be ready (2 Tim 1:8-12; 2:3).
- _____[ddd] will help us hang on the midst of suffering.
 1. Remain connected to other _____[eee] (2 Tim 1:8).
 2. Remember God is giving us divine _____[fff] (2 Tim 1:12-14).
- We see the characteristics of a spiritually strong person:

1. Willing to suffer _____[ggg] (2 Tim 2:3).
 2. Single-minded desire to _____[hhh] God (2 Tim 2:4)
 3. Wholehearted _____[iii] to kingdom (2 Tim 2:4)
 4. Seeks to faithfully _____[jjj] God's will (2 Tim 2:5)
 5. _____[kkk] in the task (2 Tim 2:6).
- Our _____[lll] must match our _____[mmm] (2 Tim 2:20-26).
 - Stay focused on the _____[nnn]; it is the instrument that brings people to salvation (2 Tim 3:14-17).
 - Don't forget the _____[ooo] of Scripture.
 1. God is the _____[ppp] (2 Tim 3:16).
 2. _____[qqq] of it is from God (2 Tim 3:16).
 3. It's all we _____[rrr] (2 Tim 3:17).
 - Don't ever lose sight of two great realities:
 1. Jesus is going to _____[sss] again (2 Tim 4:1).
 2. Jesus is going to _____[ttt] the world (2 Tim 4:1).
 - Don't ever lose sight of our _____[uuu] home (2 Tim 4:6-8).

KEY PASSAGES FROM 2 TIMOTHY

- 2 Timothy 1:8
- 2 Timothy 2:2, 3-6, 15
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- 2 Timothy 4:16-18

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK ANSWER KEY

[a] will	[ss] Scriptures
[b] testament	[tt] preach
[c] execution	[uu] Rome
[d] Nero	[vv] parchments
[e] prison	[ww] end
[f] two	[xx] thankful
[g] visitors	[yy] conscience
[h] Acts	[zz] prayerful
[i] first	[aaa] family
[j] free	[bbb] shame
[k] Mark	[ccc] suffering
[l] Nero	[ddd] God
[m] torch	[eee] Christians
[n] half	[fff] aid
[o] Christians	[ggg] hardship
[p] tortured	[hhh] please
[q] persecution	[iii] committment
[r] house	[jjj] follows
[s] comfort	[kkk] perseveres
[t] chains	[lll] lifestyle
[u] deserted	[mmm] teaching
[v] Luke	[nnn] Scriptures
[w] forgave	[ooo] nature
[x] twice	[ppp] author
[y] motivate	[qqq] ALL
[z] ministry	[rrr] need
[aa] stamina	[sss] appear
[bb] God	[ttt] judge
[cc] gospel	[uuu] eternal
[dd] church	
[ee] personal	
[ff] read	
[gg] apostleship	
[hh] authority	
[ii] son	
[jj] faith	
[kk] word	
[ll] prayers	
[mm] flame	
[nn] soldier	
[oo] athlete	
[pp] farmer	
[qq] lusts	
[rr] false	