

Bible Thoughts

with
P.H.A.Hopkins

First and Second letter of Paul to Timothy

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analyzed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

bible-thoughts.co.uk

study@bible-thoughts.co.uk

First letter of Paul to Timothy

This material is available free through SOON Ministries on completion of the SOON Leaders Bible Courses satisfactorily.

Introduction

WRITER. 1st Timothy was written by Paul

Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a devout Jewish mother named Eunice. He worked with Paul from the time of the second missionary journey [Acts 16:1-3](#); [2 Tim. 1:5](#).

It is thought that Paul wrote 1 Timothy while he was in Macedonia [1 Tim 1:3](#). Timothy had been left in charge of the work in Ephesus and Asia Minor.

Reason. Paul wrote the letter to encourage Timothy to take care of the church, he referred to it as the "house of the living God" [1 Tim 3:15](#). Paul sends instruction to Timothy to watch out and fight any false teachers who teach anything different from what the apostles had taught [1 Tim 1:3-20](#).

Paul also sent Timothy instruction in his duties as an evangelist at Ephesus, where he now was.

In addition Paul also sent instructions on worship and behaviour in church meetings, how to select elders and deacons and work of widows in church care and church service.

The letter is broken up as follows:

Opening Greetings [1 Tim 1:1-2](#)

Instruction and Doctrine [1 Tim 1:3-20](#)

- 1) Paul Warns Against False Doctrines [1 Tim 1:3-11](#)
- 2) Paul's Testimony and the Grace of God [1 Tim 1:12-17](#)
- 3) Paul's instruction to Timothy [1 Tim 1:18-20](#)

Instruction Concerning Worship [1 Tim 2:1-15](#)

- 1) Prayer in the Church [1 Tim 2:1-8](#)
- 2) Women in the Church [1 Tim 2:9-15](#)

Leadership [1 Tim 3:1-16](#)

1) Bishops [1 Tim 3:1-7](#)

2) Deacons [1 Tim 3:8-16](#)

Instruction on Dangers [1 Tim 4:1-16](#)

1) Description of Dangers [1 Tim 4:1-5](#)

2) Dangers [1 Tim 4:6-16](#)

Instruction on Various Duties [1 Tim 5:1-6:21](#)

1) Older and Younger [1 Tim 5:1-2](#)

2) Widows [1 Tim 5:3-16](#)

3) Elders [1 Tim 5:17-25](#)

4) Masters and Servants [1 Tim 6:1-2](#)

5) False Teachers [1 Tim 6:3-5](#)

6) Money and Godliness [1 Tim 6:6-19](#)

7) Trust and behaviour [1 Tim 6:20-21](#)

Chapter 1

Timothy seems to be having problems with church members and possible false teachers, Paul's letter to Timothy is to give encouragement and advice.

From the beginning Paul confirms his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ, to remind the church that Timothy was their pastor because he was put there by God.

v3 He uses a "battle" word, "charge" meaning ' following strict orders from a senior officer.' Paul often used this word in the two letters to Timothy. 1 Tim 1:3,5,18; 1 Tim 4:11; 1 Tim 5:7; 1 Tim 6:13,17; 2 Tim 4:1, giving the idea of a Christian soldier in charge of an army in his church.

v3-7 Why the battle? Some were teaching a doctrine not taught by Paul. [1 Tim 1:11](#). Paul calls the false teaching "fables and endless genealogies," the false teachers were using the Law and family history to produce numerous doctrines. They were raising questions that gave no glory to God, and not answering them, just causing divisions and problems in the church.

v7,8 These false teachers were misusing the Old Testament Law, leading the believer out of grace and its liberty back into the being a slave of [legalism](#).

It is sad that people prefer teaching which is wrong or lacks meaning.

v9,10 The Law is meant for those who do not want to obey way of life which is right. Paul now lists fourteen kinds of people who are condemned by the law. The Law can never save these people, just tell them what is wrong and the need for a Saviour. [Rom 3:20-31](#).

v12-17 Paul now shares his personal testimony. See also [Acts 9:1-22](#); [Acts 22:1-21](#); [Acts 26:9-18](#).

v13 Paul was a [blasphemer](#) - speaking against God, denying that Jesus was God.

A *Prosecutor* using physical power to destroy the believers.

He was injurious, meaning ' full of pride,' throwing his weight around like a bully.

Even though Saul of Tarsus was an highly educated man, religious, [Acts 22:3](#) but his mind was blind to the truth.

v14,15 Even this man, who was so against God's plan of salvation, who was so self righteous, was forgiven, what love and grace.

v13 What did Paul mean "I did it ignorantly in unbelief?" Is this an excuse? No, this refers to a special Jewish Law [Lev 5:14-17](#) If a person **sinned without realizing it was a sin** then he / she was allowed to make a special offering for forgiveness. Jesus accepted this when He used the words on the cross "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." This ignorance did not save them, just delayed the final punishment.

v14 Paul felt that the Grace of the Lord was "exceedingly abundant" or ' Hyper' to save him. By saying this he is saying that God can save anyone.

v15 The salvation is available for all, if it could save Paul it can save you. Note that Paul refers to himself as "I am chief of sinners," not "was."

v16 Paul has changed from a persecutor into a preacher because of the Grace of God. [1 Cor 15:9,10](#). Not only was Paul changed but God has also used him as an example, God can save anyone.

v18-20 Paul now reminds Timothy that as pastor he must lead the church into the war against the world, again Paul use the word "charge," urgent orders or instruction from a superior officer or position.

v19,20 Conscience and faith go together, conscience, the *inner voice which tells us to watch out*. A believer who "suffered shipwrecked" means they have ignored this conscience. It appears that Hymenaeus and Alexander have chosen to ignore their conscience and had sinned by *blaspheme*, [2 Tim 2:16-18](#) shows a false doctrine that the resurrection has already passed.

v20 "Delivered unto Satan," suggests that the church leadership must challenge the person(s), if he / they refuse to repent then the church should not have a fellowship with them, so opening them up to possible attack by Satan. Note that Satan has to ask for permission to attack a believer [Luke 22:31-34](#); Job 1 & 2.

A church must not only preach the Gospel but also teach true doctrine so that believers can grow in Christ and stand against the lies and false doctrine of Satan.

Chapter 2

Timothy was having a problem in running the Ephesus churches in "a decently and ordered manner" [1 Cor 14:40](#). In this chapter Paul is sending Timothy instructions for the order of service in the church. However we must remember that each church is "a living" system, being led by the Holy Spirit, so a fixed order of service may not always be the right way. We must also remember that an organism (a living object like an animal) must operate in an organized manner, or it may die.

v1-8 Prayer

v1 "first of all" shows how important Paul considers prayer is. Unfortunately, often in the churches of today, pray consists of a "shopping list of wants," little praise of God and His blessings is offered.

Church members need to come in prayer with hearts and mind right with God and with each others. Prayer must not be just to please others but because we want to do it and please God.

Supplications is referring to a request for a felt need.

Intercession to draw near to a person and talk with confidence. Our prayer life allows us to draw nearer to God in fellowship.

The *giving of thanks* is to be part of our worship and prayer.

v3 It pleases God when we pray in the way He has commanded.

v4 This is the God that we can speak to in prayer, also wants all men to be saved. [2 Peter 3:9](#) Why are so many being lost then? Salvation depends upon "the knowledge of the truth." Prayer is a part of God's plan to reach these lost souls.

v5-7 The right to Pray

The right to our being able to pray is dependant upon our Saviour Jesus Christ, "one [mediator](#) between God and men. As the God-Man, Jesus is the perfect mediator between an Holy God and the weak children of God, in his perfect life and sacrificial death He was able to meet the standard set by the Holy God. His death paid the price demanded by God.

God has chosen to spread the message of salvation through Jesus using His children, Paul was one of these messengers.

v8 **The position or attitude to pray**

Paul tells us that God wants "all men" to pray. [1 Cor 11:4,5](#) tells us that both men and women prayed in the early church.

In the New Testament times it was normal for the Jew to pray with their arms held out and hands open to heaven, however, the Bible mentions many ways to place or position the body during [prayer](#), but it is the attitude of the persons heart which matters, not the persons position.

Paul mentions three important heart attitudes for prayer, "holy hands" meaning a *clean heart*. If we have a sin in our heart we should not expect God to reply to prayers.

"Without wrath" *no anger* between the brothers and sisters.

"Without doubting" shows that prayer must be with faith but the original Greek word used can also be translated *disputing* (argument or disagreement).

To have a powerful prayer life we must be in a correct relationship with God and other believers. [Mark 11:24-26](#)

v9-15 **Women in the church**

As we read the instructions given by Paul on the behaviour of Christian women we must remember that Paul's teachings came from God, if we disagree with them we are disagreeing with God if you accept this claim.

This passage puts emphasis (importance) upon the place and behaviour of believing women in the local church.

v9 **Dress** Paul does not refuse to allow the use of jewellery or expensive clothes, but the unnecessary use of them to cover up the true beauty of a believing woman. see [1 Peter 3:1-6](#). The words translated "modest" means *decent and good taste*, "shamefacedness" means *avoiding extreme or excessive*, "sober mindedness" means *good sense*.

v10 Ephesus was a wealthy commercial city, and it was normal for women to dress for attention or popularity. Paul tells them to show the "inner spiritual person" instead, let the beauty of Christ shine through.

The Gospel message was especially important to women believers because at the time women were considered just above a slave in the Roman world. The woman has taken a place of importance in the earthly ministry of Jesus. He was born of a woman, no earthly father. See also women's involvement.

John the Baptist, [Luke 1:13](#); His ministry [Luke 8:1-3](#); at the crucifixion [Luke 23:27](#); [Luke 23:49,55](#); resurrection [Luke 24:1-11](#).

In the early Church:- Dorcas [Acts 9:36ff](#); Lydia [Acts 16:14ff](#); Priscilla [Acts 18:1-3](#); Phoebe [Romans 16:1](#)

v11 "Learn in silence," a poor translation, in the next verse it appears that some women were taking their new freedom to disturb the worship 1 Cor 14:33-35.

v12-15 **Authority**

Paul does not say a woman cannot teach Titus 2:3-4 but must not "lord it over men" A woman can teach a man in private Acts 18:24-28 but should keep silent in church worship.

Paul uses creation as an argument, Adam was created first, Eve second, but both were created in the image of God, therefore there was no difference in superiority, just man was created first. Secondly, Satan deceived the woman [Genesis 3:1ff](#), then Adam was caused by Eve to sin, knowing it was sinning against God, Adam also disobeyed God. This does not mean that women can be mislead more than men, both are equally opened to the lies of Satan.

v15 Suggests that a woman believer is protected in child birth, history tells us this is not true. God has His plan in all situations. Perhaps Paul is referring to [Genesis 3:15,16](#) or the blessings for her as a believer in motherhood.

Chapter 3

Leadership

Paul now describes position of the bishop, the deacon and the church they will be leading in this chapter.

According to the New Testament the titles "bishop," "pastor" and "elder" are basically the same title and position, they were responsible for the leadership and controlling the work of the church. [1 Peter 5:1-3](#); [Acts 20:17,28](#); [Titus 1:5-8](#).

If you compare the requirements given for a bishop in this chapter and those given for an elder in [Titus 1:5-8](#) it can be seen to be the same office and position.

Paul now lists sixteen requirements for a man to take up this office.

v2 *Blameless* The person must not have a life that Satan or an unbeliever can use to attack the person or church.

The husband of one wife Paul seems to assume that it will be a man who fulfils the conditions. The relationship between a husband and wife are very important, "one wife" shows that he cannot be divorced and remarried. Multiple wives would be out as the church would not have accepted anyone who was in a polygamy marriage (more than one wife). Neither does it showed that a pastor who had remarried following the death of his wife would not be allowed.

v4 A man must be able to control his marriage and family before leading a church.

v2 **Vigilant.** On your guard, alert, on the watch for danger, sensible judgement in all things.

v2 **Sober.** Does not mean having no sense of humour, but he does not use foolish behaviour in the ministry.

v2 **Of good behaviour.** The Greek word is translated *Orderly* or *Modest*. Suggesting his life is organized and also this is in his thinking, teaching and preaching.

v2 **Given to hospitality.** In the early church travelling believers would need accommodation, [Heb 13:2](#); [3 John 5-8](#). This is still required today.

v2 **Apt at teaching.** A pastor must be careful and enjoy studying the Word of God.

v3 **Not given to wine.** The water was usually unsafe to drink at the time, so often a watered down wine was used instead. Note [1 Tim 5:23](#). Unfortunately believers in [1 Cor 11:20-23](#) were getting drunk even during the Lord's Supper. A pastor must not hurt God or other believers by misuse of wine.

v3 **Not violent.** Not looking for a fight.

v3 **Not greedy for filthy lucre.** A ministry can be used to make considerable money,

this can harm the spread of the message. [1 Peter 5:2](#).

v3 **Patient** The pastor must be a willing listener and be able to take disagreements and criticism if necessary.

v3 **Not a brawler**. Live in peace, not making trouble as long as it does not affect their belief.

v3 **Not covetous**. Not desiring money, popularity, fame, position etc. because of the ministry.

v4,5 **Family control**. This condition does not indicate that all pastors must be married with children, however, if he cannot control and run his family successfully, with love, truth and respect, he will not be able to run a church family successfully. [1 Peter 5:3](#)

v6 **A Novice**. Meaning a new Christian, not referring to the age or maturity of the person.

v7 **Good reputation with outsiders**. The outside respects him, because he pays bills, has acceptable behaviour to non believers. Satan loves to destroy a pastor's work because of the pastors behaviour.

v8-13 **The Deacon**

The Greek word *diakonos* translated deacon simply means *servant*. [Acts 6](#) records the first deacons created, their task was to help the apostles in administration so that the apostles could concentrate on the spiritual ministry.

Paul now provides a list of qualifications for the position of deacon, not so severe as for a pastor but important.

v8 **Grave, serious**. Respected, taking the office and responsibility seriously.

v8 **Not double tongued**. Not a gossip, able to rely on what is said, does not lie.

v8 **Not given too much wine**. See v3 comments on the pastor.

v8 **Not greedy for filthy lucre**. The deacons are often dealing with the administration of the church money, they must not use the money for their own needs or use the money in a selfish manner.

v9 **Doctrine**. Understanding the truth of the Gospel once hidden (mystery), must be of good faith based upon the Word of God.

v10 **Passed a Test**. This verse suggests that the church fellowship had monitored (watched) the life of a person before appointment to a deacon.

v11,12 **Family**. As with the pastor the family is part of the post, faith and behaviour in the home show their ability to become a deacon. Again a person who has been divorced and remarried are rejected.

There is nothing to stop a woman becoming a deaconess, [Rom 16:1](#) shows that Phoebe was a deaconess.

v13 **Use the office.** A faithful deacon will be rewarded by Jesus. It is possible for deacons to become elders as they grow spiritually.

v14-16 **The church membership.** The "house of God" is a family and needs to have the right food, discipline and order to survive. The Word of God must be at the centre of the family, it must be built upon "the pillar and ground of the truth.". We must be the witnesses to person and work of the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ. Who came into the world as God-Man and now we preach to the world.

Chapter 4

v1-5 Paul now warns Timothy of the false teachers coming into the ministry. He had already given the Ephesus elders warnings [Acts 20:28-31](#), and these false teachers would come from within the church.

Paul lists what to watch for:

v1 **Controlled by Satan.** The only place where demonic powers are mentioned in the Pastoral letters. [2 Cor 11:13-15](#) tells us that Satan and his ministers can imitate (copy) God's ministers, but one thing they cannot do is give glory to Jesus Christ [1 John 4:1-6](#). Note that Satan was even able to use Peter to try to lead Jesus away from the path to the cross [Matt 16:21-23](#).

v1 **They lead people away from the truth.** They want to lead people away from the Christian faith, *apostasy*. Usually they may take people into a cult, but unfortunately the local church can also turn away the true doctrine and the Christian Faith.

v2 **Hypocrites** These false teachers preach one message but live another way, liars, pretending. [Matt 7:15-23](#). "Conscience seared with a hot iron." Their mind is *burnt* so it does not respond to the truth.

v3-5 **Deny or change the Word of God** The False teachers in Ephesus were mixing Jewish Teaching with Eastern teaching on self punishment. See [Col 2:8-23](#). They were teaching that an unmarried life was more spiritual, opposite to what God meant [Gen 2:18](#). Jesus said that not all will marry [Matt 19:10-12](#) but put His seal of approval on normal marriage [Matt 19:1-9](#).

v3-4 These teachers were also making what was eaten part of religion, Jesus said that all food is clean [Mark 7:14-23](#); [Acts 10:9-16](#). However, we must remember the comments made by Paul [Rom 14:13-23](#) on our freedom hurting weaker Christians.

v5,6 Paul reminds Timothy that all his actions are sanctified by following the Word of God and spending time in prayer. Very important for his ministry and leadership. He must reject anything which is false.

v7-12 **Practice what you teach.**

Using the athlete as an example Paul teaches that our spiritual attitude should be as if we are preparing for or running a race, eating the right food and doing the right exercises. Spiritual exercise is not easy, "we both labour and suffer reproach," v10, but we have our trust in a living God.

v10 "The Savior of all men," does not show that all will be saved, that God will save all, even though they have rejected Him. A person has to admit that they are sinners and then asked to be forgiven, through the death of Jesus on the cross, it is available to all, but many reject this gift of life.

v12 Timothy was encourage to be an example to believers, *youth* normally applies to 20-40 year olds. It is thought that Timothy was in his early 30's.

He tells Timothy to live by the Word, in love, spirit, faith and purity. *In faith* shows that he was to trust God in all he does. *In purity* was important as Ephesus was the centre of sexual impurity and this would put many temptations before the young Timothy.

v13-16 **Grow in your ministry**

The whole aim of these instructions was to help Timothy grow in the Lord, that "profiting may appear to all." or "all those in the church may see your progress" The original Greek actually was used to refer to *a soldier* whose job was to prepare the way before the main soldiers. A pastor must always prepare properly before teaching the church.

v13 Give yourself to: *exhortation* or encouragement and the studying of the Word of God, *doctrine*. It was normal in the synagogues and early church for the Word of God to be read out as part of the service worship, [Luke 4:16ff](#); [Acts 13:14,15](#). Unfortunately this is not now the normal in many churches, a few verses that the preacher wants to use is often all that is read.

v14 Spiritual gifts. Every Christian is given at least one gift by the Holy Spirit, note v11 in [1 Cor 12:1-11](#). Extra gifts are given to those called into special posts in the ministry. Here Paul is encouraging Timothy to use those gifts given to him by the Spirit when the elders appointed him as leader. God supplies the abilities for any work He calls us into.

v16 Always examine yourself and your heart against the Word of God. [1 Cor 10:12](#); [Acts 20:28-31](#). All our personal ministry, whatever God has called us to do, must be to His Glory alone. [Phil 2:13](#).

Chapter 5

Paul now moves onto giving instruction for the care of the different groups in the church. v21 Timothy was warned not to show any favour to any one group.

v1,2 **The older members**

Timothy was considered a 'young man' and this could have made him ignore the older members of the church so Paul now encourages Timothy to have the great love for the elder members, to treat them as your "mother and father" and the younger as your "brothers and sisters"

v3-10 Because the men tend to die earlier for various reasons, today and in the early church, there were many widows. The early church showed great concern for the widows [Acts 6:1-6](#); [Acts 9:39](#). Jesus also referred to widows being used for gain by the Jewish leadership [Luke 20:47](#); [Mark 12:38-40](#); [Matt 23:14](#).

However, Paul said "make sure that they really are in need," Unfortunately people do accept handouts and charity when they do not need it, so taking it away from those who do need help.

Paul now lists the required situations where a widow was to be helped or not.

1) If the widow has children or grandchildren, then they should look after the widow if they can. In those days there were no society care such as pensions or Government

help as available in some countries today.

v5 The church was not expected to care for all the widows in the city, the care should be for the believer widows in the church fellowship. [Gal 6:10](#)

v6,7 The widows the church helped must be worthy of the help given.

v8 Paul makes a judgement on those who refuse to care for their relatives.

v9 Paul suggests that only widows who were 60 plus years old are to be helped. Is not considered old today, but a widow of that age in the early church would not be expected to get married again. The "wife of one man" does not show that Paul was against widows remarrying but was showing that the widow was not a divorced woman, this requirement was given for bishops [1 Tim 3:2](#) and deacons [1 Tim 3:12](#). It could not apply to a woman who remarried after the death of her first husband.

v10 The widow should have faithfully served the Lord. "The children," if they were her children, they must have died or they would be caring for her, so it must be referring to helping orphans. She should have been full of hospitality for travellers, and the church fellowship, caring for their needs, even doing the job of a slave, "washed the saints' feet."

. v11-13 Reasons for refusal:

Younger widows are naturally open to remarry, though v12 may suggest that Paul was encouraging these to remain widows and serve the Lord. There was always the possibility that their marriage could be to an unbeliever.

v13 Paul is suggesting that the young widows, if supported by the church might have time to spare and get involved in wrong activities.

v14-16 What the young widows should do:

v14,15 To remarry and have children, living in the Lord. To manage the affairs of the household, a good witness for the Lord, unfortunately it seems that some had already allowed Satan access because they had failed in their testimony.

v16 Paul now reminds that the family should care for those widows in their family, they should not put the burden upon the church.

v17-25 Behaviour of church leaders:

These instructions seem to apply mainly to elders but the instructions can apply to deacons and pastors.

Ephesus was not an easy church to lead, it appears that the "youth" of Timothy was causing problems with some elders. It was also difficult for Timothy to follow on from the leadership of Paul.

v17,18 Indicates that there were elders who were working full time for the church ministry, with the church financially supporting them. They should be worthy of this situation, not misusing it.

v19-21 Church discipline has to be at the right level, not over strict or ignoring all problems. Church discipline is looked at in [Matt 18:15-18](#); [Romans 16:17,18](#); [1 Cor 5:1ff](#); [2 Cor 2:6-11](#); [2 Thess 3:6-16](#); [2 Tim 2:23-26](#); [Gal 6:1-3](#); [Titus 3:10](#).

In these verses Paul examines discipline of church leaders. The purpose of any church discipline is to restore the person, to save the person, not turn them away from the Lord.

v19 Timothy was told to make sure of all the facts, as many witnesses as possible. Make sure also that there are witnesses of any accusations made by someone. Make

any charges not in secret but before all other leaders, and possibly the fellowship.

v20 Any punishment for one proved guilty must be open to the other leaders, not done in secret.

v21 Make sure that the Word is the deciding factor, no personal feelings to be involved.

v22,24,25 Choosing Elders

Be careful in choosing leaders, some are able to hide their wrong life, examine all of the persons life carefully. To appoint a person in a position of leader or elder, who has a known sin and a life which is wrong with God, then you are becoming part of their wrong.

v23 It appears that Timothy had a medical problem, Paul recommends that Timothy avoids water, which was known not to be very pure in New Testament times, and use a diluted wine, the alcohol destroying any infections in the water.

Chapter 6

We continue to examine the way Timothy was to deal with the various groups and situations in the church at Ephesus.

v1,2 **Slaves.**

In the Roman Empire, probably half the population were classed as slaves, some were due to the various battles the Romans had been involved in as they had conquered the countries but many were due to financial problems, they had to sell themselves as slaves to pay debts.

Often slaves were well educated but under the Roman system they were not considered as a person, just an object to use and cast away when not wanted. The Christian faith and the Gospel was opposite to this situation and so attracted slaves. [Gal 3:28](#) However, neither Paul nor Peter preached against slavery as that would have immediately brought the faith into opposition and a threat to the Roman Empire and would have been resisted by the Government, the name of God being blasphemed. Paul points this out to the Jew misusing their relationship with God [Rom 2:24](#). The Gospel message would eventually remove slavery.

Some slaves were using their new freedom in Christ to disobey their masters, they had to learn that spiritual freedom does not alter their position socially.

v1 **Unbelieving Masters:** Believing slaves, who revolted against unbelieving masters, were dishonouring the message of the Gospel

v2 **Believing Master:** These Masters treated their slaves with love [Col 4:1](#); [Philemon v16](#). The gospel message made all equal, a slave may feel that as we are *brothers* I am equal with my master. Paul tells them that a believer should not take advantage of another believer, to despise them. They are *beloved*, love does not misuse its position. Finally there is a *benefit* for both.

These thoughts still apply to the system we use today of employer and employee.

v3-10 **False teachers:**

v3 The false teachers will not teach the words of Jesus and God.

v4 The false teacher is proud but often knows nothing. They may often argue about minor matters instead of the *wholesome words* of Jesus, causing many problems in the

church.

v5 Because of this, the truth was not being taught, spending so much of the time in these arguments, thinking they were gaining faith but not getting it from the Holy Spirit. Paul tells Timothy and us to avoid these situations.

v6-10 **Dealing with money.**

v6 "contentment" happy with your situation Phil [4:11](#). True contentment comes from Christ not position, riches or material things.

v7 When we were born we brought nothing into the world, when we die we cannot take anything with us. The world is pushing "you need it.", whatever wealth or materials we obtain during our life, they are of no use to us when we die.

Often when a person dies people ask "What were they worth?, How much did they leave?" the answer is NOTHING.

v8 Many of us do not know the difference between **needs** and **wants**.

v9,10 The desire for wealth leads to a wrong life: We see a person who has to have more and more material things so that they are happy. But riches are a trap, people are caught by the desires (lusts) and these need to be satisfied. All that happens is the person gets hurt and possibly ill. Paul said it is like a person drowning.

We must not use religion as a source of riches. God's labourers will be rewarded in heaven but here on earth we must work to be worthy of His hire, a true shepherd [John 10:11-14](#). Our question for any situation should be "How much can I give my Lord, not what is in it for me?"

v11-16 **The Pastor:**

Paul now turns to Timothy personally. "But thou, O man of God," shows the difference between the false teachers and Timothy. Paul gives Timothy four instructions.

1) v11 *Flee*, run away, separate yourself from these things: v5 "From such withdraw"
 2) *Follow* things which are right with God with *faith, love, patience* or staying power, finally *meekness*, not a weakness perhaps *gentleness* would be a better translation.
 3) v12-16 **Fighting**. Not between believers but between the world and believers. To help us in this battle we have the promise of eternal life, an unfailing promise from God through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus who stood before Pilate and did not give in to the enemy.

v14,15 Paul reminds Timothy that we will all have to stand before Jesus at His coming so "keep this commandment without or failure. [1 John 2:28](#)

v15,16 "King of kings and Lord of Lords," what a description, no one greater, immortal, God who is not subject to any one else or death. The Giver of Life. And we are His. [1 Cor 15:50-58](#)

Why did Paul emphasize the glory of God? Possible as a warning about the coming emperor worship which was about to appear in the Roman Empire.

4) v20,21 **Be Faithful** God had given Paul the Gospel truth, he had passed it to Timothy. It was now up to Timothy to guard this message and pass it on to others. He must avoid any false teaching. Possible Paul is referring to a group called "Gnostics." Paul's letter to the Colossians is referring to this group.

Timothy do not leave the faith. [Matt 6:33](#)

Second letter of Paul to Timothy

Introduction

WRITER. 2 Timothy was written by Paul

Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a devout Jewish mother named Eunice. He worked with Paul from the time of the second missionary journey [Acts 16:1-3](#); [2 Tim. 1:5](#).

Reason: Paul's situation has changed since he wrote [1 Timothy](#). He is now a prisoner in Rome, probably facing the death sentence very soon. [2 Tim 4:6](#). Most of Paul's working team had departed, only Luke had remained [2 Tim 4:11](#).

Even during this low time Paul is only concerned for the ministry of the Gospel and to encourage Timothy in the work. Tychicus has been sent to Ephesus to release Timothy to come to Paul. [2 Tim 4:12](#); [2 Tim 4:9](#)

The letter Outline: **Salutation and introduction** [2 Tim 1:1-18](#)

Salutations [2 Tim 1:1,2](#)

Timothy's faith [2 Tim 1:3-5](#)

Suffering for the faith [2 Tim 1:8-12](#)

Spiritual Loyalty [2 Tim 1:13-18](#)

The Gospel Ministry [2 Tim 2:1-26](#)

For others [2 Tim 2:1-2](#)

As a soldier [2 Tim 2:3-4](#)

As an Athlete [2 Tim 2:5](#)

As a Farmer [2 Tim 2:6,7](#)

As a workman [2 Tim 2:14-18](#)

As the vessel or container [2 Tim 2:19-22](#)

The servant [2 Tim 2:23-26](#) **Further encouragement** [2 Tim 3:1-17](#)

Turn away from the false teachers [2 Tim 3:1-9](#)

Follow the truth [2 Tim 3:10-12](#)

Centre on the Word of God [2 Tim 3:13-17](#) **Paul appeals to Timothy** [2 Tim 4:1-22](#)

Preach the Word [2 Tim 4:1-4](#)

Complete your ministry [2 Tim 4:5-8](#)

Final notes and greetings [2 Tim 4:9-22](#)

Chapter 1

Timothy appears to have been slightly shy and timid, this letter is to encourage Timothy to step forward with the message of salvation with great courage.

v1-7 Courage and commitment

v1,2 The love of Paul for Timothy, as Paul's life and work draws to a close he is showing how dear Timothy was to him. "my dearly beloved Though Paul's future was very uncertain he still knows that he is "an apostle of Jesus Christ," he knew that he was under control and protection of his Master, God would take care of him, he had "the promise of life."

v3,4 Prayers. Paul is anxious that Timothy would come to him as soon as possible. He remembers that at one time he was out to destroy the Christian faith, at the time he thought he was doing the right thing. His ancestors had shown him the Jewish faith, but Christ showed him the true faith, he now served God "with pure conscience"

v5 Paul thinks of faith. Though Timothy was having problems Paul knew that Timothy's faith was an "unfeigned (sincere, unfailing) faith" just as Timothy's mother and grandmother, his relations.

v6,7 Paul reminds Timothy that when God called him into service that the Holy Spirit gave him gifts through the laying of Paul's hands. This act of laying of hands upon a person as part of the ordination was common in the early church, [1 Tim 4:14](#); [Acts 6:6](#); [Acts 13:3](#).

God can give the power to overcome any fear v7 [Rom 5:1-5](#). God had already given Timothy all the power he needed in the ministry, Paul is telling Timothy to "stir up" or "wake" it up" [1 Tim 4:14](#).

The Holy Spirit will never leave God's children, John 14:16, but we can stop Him working Eph 4:24-32, "grieve not the holy Spirit of God," or "Quench not the Spirit." [1 Thess 5:19](#) v8-12 Not ashamed. To not be ashamed of our Lord is an important message in this letter.

Because Timothy was naturally quite and withdrawn, timid, it might make Timothy avoid witnessing.

v8 Witnessing and working for the Lord may bring suffering, Paul was in prison for his witnessing, but God will give all the power we need.

v9 We are part of God's plan, "in accordance with His own purpose" A plan which has existed since the "world began." We have become part of His saving grace because of the work of God and not because of our own life and works.

v10 Death has been defeated, there is nothing to be afraid of. [1 Cor 15:55](#). Jesus brought "life and immortality" an eternal resurrected body. [1 Cor 15:49-58](#)

v11,12 Though he was a prisoner Paul was still witnessing the Gospel, sadly it appears that many of the Christians had deserted Paul, v15, It appears that some were ashamed of being with the apostle.

Paul tells Timothy of two reasons he should not be ashamed of his imprisonment.

v11 Paul was called by God to be a preacher and apostle, to reject those called by God is to also reject God. God had chosen Paul to be teacher to the Gentiles, it was because of this he was now in prison. Now instead of supporting him the Gentiles were turning

away in embarrassment.

v12 Paul was not ashamed of his position, he knew, believed that his Lord Jesus was faithful in His promises and was able to keep him, whatever happened.

v13-14 Make sure you follow the teaching of God's Word. God had given Paul the message and now Paul was telling Timothy to make sure that he avoided any changes in this teaching. It was the Holy Spirit which gave the truth to Timothy, and He would help Timothy guard it. [John 16:13](#).

v15 We do not know who were Phygellus and Hermogenes except they had turned away from supporting Paul.

v16-18 Paul still had one who supported him, Onesiphorus. v17 suggests that he may have had a problem in finding Paul. Paul was not under house arrest as before but held in a Roman prison cell. Possibly those who were ashamed of Paul refused to tell Onesiphorus where Paul was, a sad situation for Christians.

Paul prays for Onesiphorus, they had obviously worked together when Paul was in Ephesus.

Chapter 2

Paul now gives Timothy a number of pictures of what is involved in being a minister.

v1,2 Responsibility

The people of God have been given the spiritual treasures of God to care for and distribute to the lost souls. Teaching others who will then take and share the Word and message with others. It is important that the message comes from the Word of God and not from man made additions. [1 Cor 3:10-23](#); [1 Cor 15:10,11](#); [1 Tim 1:3,4](#); [1 Tim 3:2](#). Note: To be able to teach the Word properly, you must first be a good learner.

v3,4. As God's soldier

Paul here shows that a minister is a soldier for God, a position which is not easy, "hardship as a good soldier" [Eph 6:10-18](#).

As a soldier we must be fully committed to our commanding officer, Jesus. The things and attractions of the world are to be put aside to please the Master.

v5 All our actions must be according to the rules, just like an athlete, [1 Tim 4:7,8](#). To win the crown the athlete must obey the rules.

v6 The Farmer

Paul tells us that a minister is like a farmer, consider [1 Cor 3:5-9](#). Note that the farmer has to work "who labours" to produce any harvest and he needs patience [James 5:7](#), and he gets his reward "first partaker of the fruits." This also reminds us that a church must make sure that faithful pastor(s) are rewarded and supported by the church [1 Tim 5:18](#)

v7-18 Paul tells Timothy to "think over what I have said, let the Lord help you understand." Remember what we have taught, Jesus is the Messiah, by His family links, and prophecy, and now He lives. Complete proof of whom you are following.

v9,10 The Word of God is not in prison like Paul, the message is still going out by his letters and other messengers. "Timothy you must be prepared to suffer for our Lord like me" continues Paul, why? so that others may receive salvation. v11 These "sayings" may be from a hymn or saying of the time. The passage "if we be dead" is

talking about a past event in the Greek, it may be referring to salvation or baptism and not to a coming death.

v12 "If we suffer" and "If we deny Him," are all future, then the effect of these events is also in the future Compare [Matt 10:33](#). Men's failure to confess Him will affect their future.

v13 Develops this point, if we do not trust Him then that does not change the fact that He will never fail us, He is God and He cannot be false in any way.

v14-26 Rules of behaviour

This passage contains a warning of having your attention taken away from the real teaching. Paul mentions two men who are teaching the false doctrine about resurrection. Some felt that the body was evil and could not accept the idea of a physical resurrected body, these were therefore teaching that it had already happened as a spiritual resurrection. See [1 Cor 15:1ff](#)

Paul instructs Timothy to make sure that only the truth is taught and that he and the other messengers are not involved in false teaching. v14 Avoid Godless talk, this will lead you away from God, this time wasting talk can spread through a church like an illness. v17

Paul reminds Timothy that the truth is from God and cannot be false. He must work so as not to dishonour the Word of God. The message is built upon the truth of God's Word and the Church is built on this truth, it will not fail because God knows those who are His and their work. God sets aside those who are His vessels and moulds them to become "vessels of honour" for Him.

As His vessels we must give up and avoid anything which is wrong, give up sin. God knows who are truly His people, and this involves us being willing to give the Name of Jesus the glory it deserves.

v20 Paul reminds us that in any "house" there are vessels or containers of various standards, some are of little or no value, this reminds us that in a church there may be "Christian's" of various standards.

v23-26 The Servant

A slave or servant has no will of his own, they must obey the instructions of their master. Once we were slaves of sin now we are slaves of God [Rom 6:16ff](#). The life of God's servant is not easy as Satan will try to capture them again v26. Some people are difficult to teach. v23,24. Even though the work is difficult we must work patiently with those who are opposing or rejecting the message in the hope that they will find salvation. v25 The word "recover" in v26 suggests someone who was drunk or drugged, Satan's lies have this effect and as "slaves" of God we must try to rescue them out of the trap of Satan.

As servants of God we must help the faithful pastor in his ministry and labour together for the Lord.

Chapter 3

Paul now gives Timothy a warning of the future, "the last days" began with the birth of Jesus, His ministry, crucifixion and resurrection and will continue until He returns. During this period there will be "times" of change but as the "time" comes to a close they will be come more dangerous to the believer.

v2-9 List the mind and attitude of the non believers, [1 Tim 4:1](#) indicates that these will be demonic controlled, evil appears to be increasing and the people are open to the leading of the demons.

Paul warns Timothy and us to v5 "turn away from such," A faithful believer should not get involved with anything listed in these verses. It is important to note v5a "having a form of godliness," they may appear very religious, but they deny God.

Paul lists at least 18 different forms of the characteristics that will be shown by these people, "love" is very common, "love self, love pleasure," and the result of this love in pride, desires, unnatural affection and so on, any thing which does not involve loving God. Compare Gen 3:5, "you will be as gods;" Rom 1:18-27; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Heb 11:25.

v8,9 In Exodus Chapters 7-9 we find a record of the contest between Moses and the Egyptian magicians. Jannes and Jambres were traditional names for two of these magicians. These men were able to imitate (copy) most of the acts of Moses. Satan was given power by God before he fell into sin, so Satan is able to imitate many of the acts of God, to act against the Word of God. Today Satan's workers will deny the fact of sin and the need of salvation, "reprobate" means tested and failed. The magicians were eventually exposed and the judgement of God came upon the Egyptians. We must detect and avoid Satan's "religious" leaders.

V10,11 Paul reminds Timothy of the life of a faithful servant of God, "I hid nothing" said Paul, "we have only taught the true doctrine, the Word of God." Today we have many "preachers" who are pretend Christian, mainly teaching "money seeking, world success, personalities, often cult aimed, with a little bit of the Bible."

The life of Paul backed up his message, they "practiced what they preached" but ultimately he trusted and serving the Lord Jesus who helped Paul finish the work God had given him. [Acts 20:24](#); [Phil 1:21](#).

v11,12 Believers must be willing to suffer, Paul was willing to suffer for others and he taught that suffering and godliness would go together.

v13-17 Though things will get worse, evil men and deceivers will get worse and worse, but just live by the Word of God, and you will win. The Word of God will allow a believer to tell false from truth. Paul reminds Timothy that his teaching started when he was a child, and now you are an adult you need it even more, we never outgrow God's Word.

All Scripture comes from God, this was one way that Satan tries to disprove, "Has God indeed said," [Gen 3:1](#) It reveals our sinful nature, it leads us to salvation, [John 3:16-18](#); [1 John 5:9-13](#); [John 17:17](#)

Scripture is a profit to a believer, it tells us what is right, *doctrine*, what is not right, *reproof*, makes us right, *correction*, for instruction. If we want to grow in God we need to study His Word.

v17 The Word of God will make us fit for the work that God has given us, perfect, equipped. We will please God as we live according to His will and desire.
Be prepared for *the last days*.

Chapter 4

To Paul this was a serious moment, he did not know how much longer he was to be permitted to live, These could be the last words Paul would have for Timothy and the church. Paul now give final instructions for Timothy.

v1,2 "I charge thee" reads "Take my witness," Paul is saying:- "Timothy this is important, before God and Jesus, who will judge my action, We are to preach the message, come what may." This reminds us that we must serve Jesus carefully and faithfully as one day we will be judged, not by man, but by God.

"Preach the Word," is Paul's command. The word used is saying "preach like an herald" An herald was a messenger from the king, he was giving the words of the king and should be listened too and not be ignored. The herald did not have any powers to discuss and possibly change the message he had for the listeners.

v3,4 Keeping to the true teaching is very important because in the "end times" people will look for teaching which pleases them, even if it is opposite to the true teaching from God, they will prefer "religious novelties" to the Word of God. Many Bible students believe that we are in the end times right now.

Because of the desires by the people we must note that a large church does not always show that the teaching is from God, the preacher may just be satisfying their "itchy ears."

v5-8 Complete your ministry.

Winning souls for Christ should be the main aim of any ministry. However, this may not involve large evangelical meetings every week. Paul knew that he was about to move off the scene, Timothy was one of the "heralds" to take his place.

Paul briefly looks back, death did not worry him, he was "ready to be offered." Rome was not taking his life, Paul was giving it for his Lord Jesus. The Greek word translated "Departure" was used when a boat pulled up the anchor and set sail, Paul was about to "sail off" into eternity with his Lord.

Paul looked at his life as a soldier, he had "fought a good fight," as an athlete, "finished my course." Never failing in trusting his Lord.

v8 Paul now looks ahead, He was about to get his reward, "a crown of righteousness" for a faithful life. That crown is also available for any who have taken Jesus as their Saviour.

v9-22 Final thoughts for fellow workers, some sadly given.

Paul wants Timothy with him in Rome, only Luke was with him, v11.

The local church had deserted Paul v16.

Demas had turned back to the world.

v10 Crescens had been sent to the Galatians, Titus to Dalmatia, modern day Yugoslavia. Tychicus to Ephesus to release Timothy.

v13 Carpus had looked after Paul when he was preaching in Troas, Paul must have been forced to leave in an hurry and is asking Timothy to bring a cloak and books.

v14 Who is "Alexander the coppersmith?" We are not told but he is a servant of Satan. Paul does not pray for punishment, he asks the Lord "to reward him" with what he deserves.

v19 Prisca and Aquila, an husband and wife team who had worked with Paul many times. [Acts 18:1-3](#); [Acts 18:24-28](#); [Rom 16:3-4](#); [1 Cor 16:19](#)

v19 Onesiphorus:- see [2 Tim 1:16](#)

v20 Erastus:- possibly Corinth treasurer [Rom 16:23](#) and [Acts 19:22](#)

Trophimus:- See [Acts 20:4](#). He was sick and for some reason Paul had not healed him. It shows that not all sick people are meant to be healed by a miracle healing.

For the other names listed there are no other references.

v17-18 Who, what was Paul delivered from? "the mouth of the lion." This could not be The Emperor Nero as Paul was still in prison. In [1 Peter 5:8](#) Peter said "the devil walks about as a roaring lion," Paul is therefore referring to Satan.

Though others had deserted him, Paul knows that the Lord Jesus Christ will not let him down.