

Sermon, May 20, 2012
“Teach the Word Directly and Correctly” – 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The 27 Books of the New Testament

- Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Early Church: Book of Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, **2 Timothy**, Titus, Philemon
- 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- Prophecy: Revelations

Overview of 2 Timothy:¹

- Paul wrote this letter to his disciple Timothy, whom he had left in Ephesus to oversee the work there.
- Second Timothy was written shortly before Paul’s martyrdom in about 67AD from Roman prison, the last of Paul’s writings.
- Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment for a short period of ministry during which he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. Second Timothy, however, finds execution, Paul wrote to Timothy, urging him to hasten to Rome for one last visit with the apostle (4:9,21).
- Whether Timothy made it to Rome before Paul’s execution is not known.
- According to tradition, Paul was not released from this second Roman imprisonment, but suffered the martyrdom he had foreseen (4:6).
- In this letter, Paul, aware the end was near, passed the non-apostolic mantle of ministry to Timothy (cf. 2:2) and exhorted him to continue faithful in his duties (1:6), hold on to sound doctrine (1:13,14), avoid error (2:15–18), accept persecution for the gospel (2:3,4; 3:10–12), put his confidence in the Scripture, and preach it relentlessly (3:15–4:5).

General Outline of 2 Timothy:

- I. Introduction (1:1-4)
- II. Paul’s concern for Timothy (1:5-14)
- III. Paul’s situation (1:15-18)
- IV. Special instructions to Timothy (2:1-26)
- V. Warning about the last days (3:1-17)
- VI. Paul’s departing remarks (4:1-8)
- VII. Final requests greetings and benediction (4:9-22)

Major Themes of 2 Timothy:²

- *Encouragement to persevere.* Paul encouraged Timothy to continue the mission of evangelism (4:2). He directed his young protégé to hold fast to the traditions he had received (1:3–14; 2:1–9; 3:14–15) and set himself up as a model for Timothy to emulate (1:8, 13; 2:3; 3:10–11; 4:6–8). This letter teaches that the truth is not just something to believe but a path to follow (cf. 2:18).
- *Reliance on the authority of Scripture.* Timothy had been trained from early childhood in the Scriptures (3:14), which helped him respond to the truth of Jesus Christ. Paul emphasized correct handling of Scripture (2:15), its authority (3:16) and its importance in developing disciples capable of serving others (3:16–17).
- *Warning against false teachers.* Paul warned Timothy about false teachers who stir up quarrels over senseless controversies (2:23) and seek to deceive (3:6). They indulge in “godless chatter” (2:16) and propagate muddy theology. In contrast, the Lord’s servants are to hold to sound doctrine and to avoid pointless quarrels. They are to be kind to everyone, promote sound doctrine and gently and patiently instruct opponents in the truth, rather than seeking to crush them (2:24–26).

The “duty” of a Pastor is to preach and teach the Word of God correctly and directly.

¹ MacArthur, John Jr: The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville : Word Pub., 1997, c1997, S. 2 Ti 1:1

²Kaiser Jr., Walter C.; Garrett, Duane (2010-10-19). NIV Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk Through Biblical History and Culture (Kindle Locations 111335-111350). Zondervan. Kindle Edition..

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1. Paul reminds Timothy where he learned Scripture and the importance of that knowledge. 2 Tim. 3:14-15

- The Christian life is one that continues through knowledge of Scripture which should translate in growing and strengthening your faith in God.
- Knowledge of the truth is imparted to others by other believers...
- **2 Timothy 1:5** Timothy was taught by his grandmother and mother who passed down a legacy of belief to their grandson and son.
- The primary knowledge of Scripture that you digest, the digestion that grows and strengthens you is the message of the gospel...salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. The gospel message is given to us by God in His word, the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Paul reminds Timothy of the divine veracity (truth) of all of Scripture, salvation through faith in Christ.
- Encourages Timothy to always be a true disciple willing to be taught and learn what is contained in the word of God and for him to encourage others to do the same.
- True understanding of Scripture is the textbook for you to teach others the truth of life, gives you the moral/ethical basis to be bold confronting sinful behavior, imparts wisdom to get back on your God centered track, helps you stop your bad behavior, corrects what is wrong, and enables you to do right.
- Why?... *“so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”*

3. So Paul urges (charges) Timothy to proclaim the message, preach the Word of truth, salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 4:1-2

- The primary charge given to Timothy is to “proclaim the message”.
- Paul is putting an exclamation point on the greatest duty of a pastor...preach the gospel of truth.
- Paul advises Timothy that this will not be easy;
- Nonetheless, the pastor is to push forward through unfavorable or favorable times.

4. The world will be antagonistic but preach and teach because some will hear. 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- You must know the word of God because there will come a time in your life when your congregation, family, friends, fellow workers, acquaintances...do not want to hear anything about the word of God.
- Sound doctrine, a spiritual understanding of Biblical truth, will not be what the fallen people will desire.
- Many rationalize truth to being what they want it to be so that they don't have to feel convicted of doing the wrong things; desert God's truth and wander off into myths, legends, only to justify themselves
- Their worldly nature will not permit them to turn an honest ear to the truth that you proclaim.

5. Nonetheless, Paul encourages Timothy in the face of such things. 2 Timothy 4:5

- Paul tells us to keep a clear mind when we proclaim the message of salvation,
- Endure what is before you, understand that you have the peace, knowledge and grace of God on your side.
- Spread the good news to this dark and dying world of fallen human beings who may or may not be receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Be embolden to carry out your God-given duty to the fullest measure...knowing that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!

Conclusion:

- **In Paul's expression of the primary duty of a Pasto (church leader), he is writing to a Pastor but the example put forth to leaders of the church are ones that you all should aspire to.**
- **God has called you and gifted you to fulfill His purpose**
- **2 Timothy 1:6-7** ⁶ *For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline..*
- You, Christian soldier, are enabled to spread the word of God through your life, demonstrate the change that has occurred in your life to others, be prepared when they ask you about your changed life to be bold and profess your salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Walk out those doors into your mission field.