



Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

Getting Started

To Timothy, My Dear Son

II Timothy 1:1, 2

Lesson One

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Getting Started—II Timothy 1:1, 2

In this first lesson on the letter called Second Timothy, we will look at some information which should help us understand it a little better.

First, we need to understand that not all of Paul's letters to people and churches have been kept for us. He probably wrote many letters. Only some of them were saved in those early years as guidance and encouragement for the churches. We have thirteen of his letters in the New Testament of our Bibles.

Second, we need to remember who Timothy was to Paul. Paul met Timothy in Lystra on his second missionary journey. The date was about AD 51 and Paul was probably about 46 years old. Timothy became one of Paul's most trusted helpers. The first letter to Timothy was written after Paul was released from his first stay in Roman prison around AD 64. This was a little more than thirty years after Jesus was crucified. He had been to Ephesus and left Timothy there to pastor the church. Paul went on to Macedonia and from there wrote the first letter to Timothy. So we can assume that Paul had a lot of faith in Timothy.

Third, we need to know that Timothy was not only a co-worker with Paul, but was like a son to him. In chapter one he calls Timothy his "beloved son." He prays for Timothy constantly. He invites Timothy to "join with me in suffering." In chapter two he challenges Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." And, he challenges Timothy to be "diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed." He talks to Timothy like he would a son, in the twenty-second verse of that chapter and what follows. In chapter four, he urges Timothy to come to him in prison. He wanted to see his "son."

Fourth, we need to be aware that Paul was arrested again in AD 67, he was about 62 years old, and again found himself in a Roman prison. From that prison cell, he wrote what we know as Second Timothy, the very last of his letters that have been saved for us.

Today, let's look at the first two verses of Second Timothy. Read II Timothy 1:1, 2.

This beginning is a lot like his first words in First Timothy. There is one major difference. In First Timothy, he called Timothy "my true son in the faith." Paul had been responsible for leading Timothy in his spiritual growth. Some even speculate that Timothy's mother and/or grandmother had become Christians when Paul came through Lystra on his first missionary journey. So, Paul had history with this "son in the faith."

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Now, in Second Timothy, Paul calls him, “my dear son.” It is obvious in the three or so years that have passed since his first letter to Timothy, the relationship between the two men has become much deeper, and with greater affection. This should be an encouragement to people who look to one another for spiritual encouragement.

We should see in this relationship *affection*. Paul understood what it was like to have a father who loved him. He said that he was an “apostle, (messenger) of Christ Jesus by the will of God. Paul knew that he was where he was because God had called him to be there. You can't read Paul's words about God, anywhere, without knowing that He believed that he served a great and powerful God. Paul loved God the Father with a great personal love.

We should see in this relationship *responsibility*. Paul felt that he should offer Timothy guidance and encouragement as Timothy ministered in his world. Paul understood that with the honor of being called to serve God came responsibility to do it well. Timothy needed to learn, or continue to learn, that not only was he responsible to Paul for doing a good job, but also to God.

We can just imagine Paul sitting in the Roman prison cell, in chains, thinking about his son in the ministry and being proud of what was being done for the Kingdom by Timothy. We can just imagine Timothy reading this letter feeling so grateful that the Apostle trusted him and needed this relationship.

For us today, we are responsible to God to follow His will, but also to lead others to Jesus and be good stewards of what God has given us. God has given us salvation, if we are Christians, and has provided not only Paul's writings and the rest of Scripture, but Christian friends and mentors. That should make us want to do the best that we can for Jesus.

Scripture Memory: “Grace mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” II Timothy 1:2b

Lesson Goal: To acquaint students with the background of Second Timothy and Paul's understanding of God's will for his life.

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Student Worksheet

Getting Started—II Timothy 1:1, 2

How many of Paul's letters are contained in the Bible?

When and where did Paul meet Timothy?

About how old was Paul when he was arrested the second time, and from where did Paul write Second Timothy?

What did Paul call Timothy at the beginning of First Timothy?

What did Paul call Timothy at the beginning of Second Timothy?

You can't read Paul's words about _____, anywhere, without knowing that He believed that he served a _____ and _____ God.

For us today, we are responsible to God to follow His _____, but also to lead others to _____ and be good stewards of what God has _____ us.

Scripture Memory: "Grace mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." II Timothy 1:2b

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.