

2 Timothy: Paul's Final Letter: Preach the Word!

2 Timothy: Introduction

- The book of Acts records three missionary journeys of the apostle Paul. Four if you count his trip to Rome after his arrest.
- It ends with Paul in Roman custody, but living in his own rented house.
 - See **Acts 28:30-31**.
- After that he was probably released and continued to preach and teach.

- The year is roughly A.D. 67.
- Paul is in Rome again, this time a prisoner in a dungeon.
- Luke was his only visitor.
- Shortly hereafter, the story goes, he was beheaded under Nero.
- These are his last recorded words.

- Timothy was still in Ephesus, serving as a pastor in the same community Paul had served earlier.
- In his letter Paul expresses a desire to see Timothy one last time.
- He also gives Timothy some final warnings, instructions and encouragements.

- Here is Paul's last will and testament – the final letter from a man on death row – placed there for the crime of having an effective ministry.
- This epistle is Paul's philosophy of life and service in a nutshell, as he passed it on to Timothy, his protégé and dearest son in the faith.

2 Timothy: Trivia

- 2 Timothy has only 83 verses, but in it Paul mentions some 23 different names. Unique among them are:
- Jannes and Jambres, the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses.
- Timothy's mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.

2 Timothy: Key Themes

- Suffering for the Gospel
- The Need for Perseverance
- The Danger of False Teaching
- The Importance of the Scriptures

2 Timothy: Outline

- Chapter 1 Challenge from a Faithful Servant
- Chapter 2 Encouragement to a Faithful Son
- Chapter 3 Rejecting Falsehood
- Chapter 4 Holding on to the Truth

2 Timothy: Study

- As we read the letter, less than 15 minutes in length, think about:
- Which verses most clearly express what was most important to Paul?
- How would you sum up what Paul hoped to leave behind with Timothy?
- What legacy do you hope to leave behind for others?

2 Timothy: Key Verses

- 1:7
- 1:12
- 2:2
- 2:15
- 2:19
- 2:22
- 2:24-25
- 3:1
- 3:12
- 3:16-17
- 4:2
- 4:7-8

2 Timothy: Conclusions

- Which of these do you need to pay attention to the most?
 - Suffering for the Gospel
 - The Need for Perseverance
 - The Danger of False Teaching
 - The Importance of the Scriptures
- What legacy do you hope to leave behind for others?
- How about this for one possible legacy?
 - You were willing to put up with generic hassles in life and/or hassles from others for the sake of the Gospel.
 - You persevered in your faith to the end.
 - You successfully avoided getting sucked in by false teaching.
 - You remained a diligent student of the Bible, God's Holy Word.