

A CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER STUDY ON 2 TIMOTHY



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OVERVIEW OF 2 TIMOTHY

2 Timothy is the second epistle Paul wrote to Timothy. Timothy was the leader of the church in Ephesus, and Paul would write to Timothy often to encourage him and point out things going on in the church. In this book of the Bible, Paul covers many topics, including loyalty to the gospel, false teachers, the end times, and a final charge to Timothy. Through this book of the Bible, we can learn many lessons and know how to better apply its teachings to our lives.

DAY 1

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1

Questions to Ask:

- What does this chapter mean?*
- What is the surrounding context?*
- How can I apply this to my daily life?*

2 Timothy 1 contains Paul's greetings to Timothy; he also talks about loyalty to the gospel (2 Timothy 1:1-14). Paul says he is grateful for Timothy and the work he has been doing for the Lord. It is important to mention that Paul shares with us the names of Timothy's mother and grandmother, who were both crucial in his Christian walk (2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy's mother was named Eunice, and his grandmother was named Lois. These two women encouraged Timothy in his walk with Christ and helped bring him up in the knowledge of the Scriptures.

Paul reminds Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God, which was given to Timothy by Paul (2 Timothy 1:6). While we are not told what this gift was, we can also be encouraged by Paul's following words. He tells Timothy, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7). This is true for us, too. God has given us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline.

Paul also discusses the importance of remaining loyal to the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8-14). He encourages Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel but to be joyful and proud of the message. We should be joyful in our knowledge of the gospel because it is true that the Lord died for our sins and has given us eternal life through his death, burial, and resurrection. This should not be taken lightly as this is a beautiful truth as the Lord has destroyed death and has brought immortality into light through His saving grace (2 Timothy 1:10).

1. WHAT DOES THE CHAPTER SAY?:

In 2 Timothy 2, Paul encourages Timothy in his faith and reminds him to fan into flame the gift God has given him. Timothy was known to be timid; however, Paul encouraged him by telling him that God had not given him a spirit of timidity. Rather, God has given him a Spirit of power, love, and self discipline. He also tells Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel but rather to rejoice in his sufferings for the cause of Christ. The Lord doesn't promise us an easy life, but He promises us a life of fulfillment and joy in the knowledge of the gospel and the promise of eternal life.

2. WHAT IS THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT?:

The surrounding context of 2 Timothy 1 is that Paul discusses how there has been disloyalty among believers. He informs Timothy that everyone in the province of Asia deserted him, including Phygelus and Hermogenes (2 Timothy 1:15). This was heartbreaking to Paul, yet he says Onesiphorus came to his side and supported him as a true believer and friend (2 Timothy 1:16-17). This shows us the contrast between disloyalty and loyalty.

3. HOW CAN I APPLY THIS IN MY LIFE?:

You can apply the teachings of 2 Timothy 1 by refreshing your heart and mind by knowing that God has also given you a Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. Life can be frightening at times, yet we don't have to be afraid or timid because God's Spirit lives in us. The Holy Spirit helps us in many ways and He encourages us every day of our life. You can also apply the lessons of 2 Timothy 1 by not being ashamed of the gospel. Rather than being ashamed, we should be proud of the gospel and of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean to you that God has given you a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline?
- How can you let go of fear and choose to follow the Spirit?
- We shouldn't be ashamed of sharing the gospel. Do you have any reservations about sharing the gospel? If so, what are they?

DAY 2

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2

Questions to Ask:

- What does this chapter mean?*
- What is the surrounding context?*
- How can I apply this to my daily life?*

2 Timothy 2 also is an encouragement to Timothy and it covers the topic of Paul's "trustworthy saying," as well as warns against false teachers. Suffering is a topic not many of us like to talk about or address; however, Paul tells Timothy to join him in his suffering as a good soldier of the Lord (2 Timothy 2:3). Paul tells Timothy the goal is to please his commanding officer, God (2 Timothy 2:4). He uses this way of speaking to connect it to the modern day. There were Roman soldiers during this time and just as they lived to serve their commanding officer, as Christians, we too are living to serve our Commanding Officer.

The gospel is once again shared when Paul says, "If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:11-13). As Paul says, if we die in the Lord, we will live with Him for all eternity. If we endure the trials of this life, we will also reign with Him. However, if we are faithless, the Lord remains faithful because He cannot disown His own children.

2 Timothy 2 covers the importance of being aware of false teachers (2 Timothy 2:16-21). He tells Timothy to avoid godless chatter and to avoid quarreling because it does no good for the gospel (2 Timothy 2:14-18). False teaching was common during the time this epistle was written, and Paul warns Timothy to stay away from false teaching because their teaching would spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus were two men who left the faith and were teaching that the resurrection of the dead had already happened, which discouraged many believers (2 Timothy 2:17-18).

Paul ends this chapter by telling Timothy to flee the evil desires of youth and to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:22). He also informs Timothy to have no part in foolish arguments or to seek out discord (2 Timothy 2:23-24). If anyone opposes him or his teachings, Paul tells Timothy to instruct them in the truth of the gospel in the hopes that they will come to know Jesus (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

1. WHAT DOES THE CHAPTER SAY?:

This chapter of 2 Timothy talks about how Jesus remains faithful to you even if we are faithless, how we are to serve Him above everyone else as our commanding officer, how we need to be aware of false teachers, and the importance of striving after godliness rather than the evil desires of youth. There are many important lessons within this chapter, which can encourage us in our walk with the Lord. We need to avoid godless talk as well as fights. Neither of these things brings God glory. Instead, we need to follow after righteousness, faith, love, and peace in our daily lives. Being aware of false teachers and their teachings of how the resurrection has already occurred is also an important aspect of this chapter.

2. WHAT IS THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT?:

The surrounding context of this chapter is that there had been many individuals who had left the faith and become false teachers. Paul urges Timothy to be aware of these deceitful men and to stay away from them. If he was to have any communication with them, it was to oppose their false teaching and point them to Christ. God wants all men to come to know Him and Paul informs us that these false teachers are no exception. In everything, Timothy was to instruct these false teachers in the truth of the gospel with the hope that they would come to know Christ.

3. HOW CAN I APPLY THIS IN MY LIFE?:

You can apply the teachings of 2 Timothy 2 by knowing the importance of placing faith in Christ and remaining faithful to Him. We should never disown the Lord because He is our Savior. In addition, we need to know that our loyalty lies with Jesus and that we should seek out how to please Him in every way. We too can take part in Paul's commission for Timothy to abandon the way of youthful sinful pleasures and to instead pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. Through doing these things, we will grow in our relationship with God and increase the joy we bring to Him.



CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

- How can I stay faithful to Jesus in my daily life?
- Who does my loyalty lie with? Is it with Jesus or with the world?
- How can I turn away from the sinful pleasures of youth and choose to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace instead?

DAY 3

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3

Questions to Ask:

- What does this chapter mean?*
- What is the surrounding context?*
- How can I apply this to my daily life?*

2 Timothy 3 covers the topics of the end times and Paul's final charges to Timothy. Addressing the events of the end times, Paul tells Timothy that the people during this time will be "will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:2-5a). Paul tells Timothy to have nothing to do with these types of people. These people are the type of people who sneak into homes and try to gain control over women (2 Timothy 3:6-7).

Paul reminds Timothy of all of the things he endured in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, yet God always delivered him (2 Timothy 3:10-13). Paul also urges Timothy to follow after his teachings, his way of life, his purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings (2 Timothy 3:10-11). Just as Paul encountered suffering and persecution, Paul tells Timothy that everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:11). As believers continue to live lives of persecution, evil men will become more evil and worst deceivers (2 Timothy 3:13).

Paul ends this chapter with reminding Timothy of the Scriptures that he has known from infancy and how they will help him to be wise (2 Timothy 3:15). The final verses of this chapter tell us that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This truth would have encouraged Timothy greatly, and it can encourage us, too. The entire Bible contains everything we need to know to live a life in service to God.

1. WHAT DOES THE CHAPTER SAY?:

2 Timothy 3 talks about how people will be in the end times. These people will be self absorbed, haters, and boastful of themselves. In other words, these people will be extremely wicked. Paul tells Timothy to have no part in these people's lives and to instead continue to follow the Lord. In this chapter, Paul also talks about the persecutions that await Timothy, but also all believers. Everyone who wants to live life in service to the Lord will be persecuted, whereas evil men will continue to become more wicked and reject the truth of Jesus. This chapter lastly talks about how the Scriptures contain everything we need to live a holy life.

2. WHAT IS THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT?:

The surrounding context of 2 Timothy 3 is that evil was abounding around them. Despite there being wicked people at this time, Paul shares with Timothy that the people will only become worse as the end approaches. Within the context of this chapter, we also see Paul encouraging Timothy to continue to live in accordance with his knowledge of the Scriptures. Everything in the Bible helps to instruct and guide us.

3. HOW CAN I APPLY THIS IN MY LIFE?:

You can apply the lessons from 2 Timothy 3 by being on the look out for the description of the people who will be around in the end times.

Sadly, this description describes many of the people we are encountering today. We can also apply the lessons from this chapter of 2 Timothy by following Paul's teachings, his way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance.

This can be challenging, yet just as Paul received his strength from God, so can we. Lastly, we can apply 2 Timothy 3 into our lives by recognizing the power of the Bible and its authority in our lives.



CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

- Do you think we are in the end times now? Why or why not?
- How can I follow Paul's example in his life's purpose, faith, patience, and love?
- How can I recognize the power and authority of the Bible in my life?

DAY 4

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4

Questions
to Ask:

- What does this chapter mean?*
- What is the surrounding context?*
- How can I apply this to my daily life?*

2 Timothy 4 covers the important topic of being prepared in and out of season to preach the gospel. Paul tells Timothy, "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). Through this, Paul was encouraging Timothy to be ready to share the gospel and biblical teachings at all times. There will be a time in the future when people were not going to listen to the Gospel and Paul wanted Timothy to be prepared (2 Timothy 4:3-4). These individuals will turn away from the gospel and the truth; however, Timothy was to continue to discharge all the responsibilities of his ministry (2 Timothy 4:4-5).

This chapter also includes the moving concept of Paul's final days being played out. Paul says he has finished the race and is ready for the crown of righteousness that would be awarded to him by the Lord (2 Timothy 4:6-8). He had kept the faith and followed the Lord faithfully. Paul wasn't afraid of death, but rather welcomed it because he knew he would be going to be with His Savior.

On the personal side of this letter, Paul tells Timothy to come to him quickly because many of his fellow workers had deserted him (2 Timothy 4:9-10). Only Luke was with Paul at this time, and he needed more workers with him (2 Timothy 4:11). He asked Timothy to send Mark, the writer of the Gospel of Mark, to come to him also because he would be helpful to the ministry (2 Timothy 4:11b). Paul and Mark are believed to have some discord in their relationship; however, through this passage, we can see all negative feelings have been forgiven.

The metalworker Alexander had caused Paul much harm, yet Paul doesn't dwell on it. Rather, he says that the Lord will repay him for the evil he has done (2 Timothy 4:14). Paul warns Timothy that he should also be on his guard because Alexander might also try to harm Timothy (2 Timothy 4:15). Paul says that everyone deserted him, yet the Lord stood by his side and gave him strength (2 Timothy 4:16-17).

Confident in Jesus' faithfulness, Paul tells Timothy that Jesus would protect him from every evil attack and bring him safely to His Kingdom (2 Timothy 4:18).

1. WHAT DOES THE CHAPTER SAY?:

This final chapter of Timothy has many things to say, including the truth that Timothy needs to be ready to preach the gospel in every season. In the same way, we also need to be ready at any time to share the gospel and the teachings of the Bible as we never know when the opportunity might be presented to us. Within this chapter, Paul also shares that he has finished the race and kept the faith. He is ready to go to be with the Lord. Everyone had deserted Paul, but Paul knew that the Lord was still with him. He was confident for his entire life from the time he became a believer that the Lord would protect him from every evil attack and the Lord did.

2. WHAT IS THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT?:

The surrounding context of this epistle is that 2 Timothy is the final epistle Paul wrote before his death. When we read this book of the Bible through this lens, we can see how moving of an epistle it is. Paul encourages Timothy in his ministry and reminds him to stand strong in the faith. Aware of his impending death, Paul is not afraid, but rather is ready to die. He kept the faith and was confident the Lord would welcome Him in Heaven with open arms.

3. HOW CAN I APPLY THIS IN MY LIFE?:

You can apply the teachings of 2 Timothy 4 by being prepared to share the gospel and the truths of the Bible at all times. This means being knowledgeable about the Bible, which can only happen if you are reading the Bible daily and studying it. The lesson from this epistle that you can also apply into your life is by following Paul's example of trying to complete the race the Lord has placed before you. Run it well, and keep the faith. If you are a believer and have placed faith in Jesus, you can rest in the promise that you, too, will be received into the Kingdom of Heaven by the Lord Himself.



CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

- How can I be ready to preach the gospel in every season?
- How can I run the race the Lord has placed before me in a holy and godly way?
- This Bible study is not the end of our Christian growth. How can I faithfully follow Jesus in my daily life going further?



WE HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN UPLIFTED
AND CHALLENGED DURING THIS
STUDY SPENT IN GOD'S WORD.

ABOUT THE
AUTHOR:



Vivian Bricker loves Jesus, studying the Word of God, and helping others in their walk with Christ. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Christian Ministry with a deep academic emphasis in theology. Her favorite things to do are spending time with her family and friends, reading, and spending time outside. When she is not writing, she is embarking on other adventures.