

Introduction to 2nd Timothy

“Paul’s Last Will and Testament”

New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

7 Churches

Pastoral

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3 John

Jude

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

"Prison Epistles"

Major Doctrinal Epistles

Events in Paul's Life

- Held coats while Stephen stoned
- Converted on road to Damascus
- In Arabian desert during next 3 years
- Forced to flee Damascus in a basket
- Spends 10 years in Tarsus
- Barnabas brings him to Antioch
- 1st Missionary Journey

Events in Paul's Life

- The Council in Jerusalem
- 2nd Missionary Journey
- Timothy joins Paul
- 3rd Missionary Journey
- Arrested in Judea (58 AD)
- Imprisoned in Caesarea for 2 years
- Appealed to Caesar
- Shipwrecked enroute to Rome

Events in Paul's Life

- On Malta for 3 months
- House arrest in Rome *Acts 28:30-31*
 - (The Book of Acts breaks off at the beginning of this imprisonment)
 - Wrote the “Prison epistles”
 - *Ephesians, Philippians, & Colossians*
- Acquitted of charges and released
 - Wrote *1st Timothy* and *Titus* from Macedonia
- Arrested and put in a dungeon
 - Wrote *2nd Timothy* (apparently his final one)

Occasion of 2nd Timothy

- 67 A.D.: Paul was arrested again
 - This time he was in chains 1:16
 - and treated as a criminal 2:9
 - with little light to read by, no sanitation, facing death
 - Paul knew his end was near 4:6
- He was deserted by all his associates in Asia Minor 1:5; 4:16
 - He freely forgave the defectors, “May it not be counted against them,” but cowardly ingratitude always brings pain and disappointment 4:16

Time of Writing

- Paul was beheaded in Rome ~68 AD
 - Before his death he wrote 2 Timothy
 - This epistle is his final communication.
Deathbed statements have an importance not attached to other comments

Loyalty

- This epistle seems to emphasize one word above others: Loyalty
 - Loyalty in suffering Chap. 1
 - Loyalty in service Chap. 2
 - Loyalty in apostasy Chap 3 -4:5
 - The Lord's loyalty to His servants in desertion Chap. 4:6-22

Triumph

- Yet this epistle has the overtone of *triumph*:
It is Paul who is encouraging Timothy!
- Paul was passing the mantle to his son in the faith, urging him to persevere in strength and faithfulness 2:1
- It is intensely personal: it contains about 25 references to specific individuals.

The Church

- **Holy nation**

- emphasising believer's common citizenship in heaven

1 Pet 2:9

- **Kingdom**

- emphasizing believer's common submission to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Rev 5:10

- **Priesthood**

- emphasizing the privilege that all believers have of direct access to God

1 Pet 2:5, 9

- **Vine**

- emphasizing believers' common connection to the life of God to bear fruit

John 15:5

The Church

- **Temple**

- emphasizing being built upon the solid foundation of the apostle's doctrine, with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone **Eph 2:20-22**

- **A Body**

- emphasizing believers' common life and dependence on their Head, the Lord Jesus Christ **1 Cor 12:12**

- **An Assembly**

- emphasizing believers' common calling to be gathered into the eternal presence of God **Heb 12:23**

The Church

- **A Flock**

- emphasizing believers' common need to be led and fed by the Great Shepherd **1 Pet 5:2-3**

- **A Family**

- emphasizing the intimacy, care, openness, and love **1 Timothy**

The Coming Apostasy

- An ominous cloud is on the horizon
—both in this epistle and *on our own!*
- Apostasy is not due to ignorance; it is deliberate error and heresy. It is intentional.
 - An apostate is one who knows the truths of the gospel and the doctrines of faith and has repudiated them.
- “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”
Luke 18:8

The 2 “Departures”

- 1) The *Harpazo*, or “Rapture” 1 Thes 4:16-17
- 2) The departure from the faith
 - This is not a popular view today: there are those that are committed to a view that the goal of the church is to transform the world by tinkering with its social, political and economic systems
 - These vain optimists have not patience with the doleful words of 2 Timothy.
 - *The present times would seem to demonstrate the accuracy of Paul.*

- With the cloud of apostasy on the horizon, both Paul and Peter emphasised the Word of God in their respective “swan songs”

2 Timothy & 2 Peter

- Paul emphasizes the Word of God here more than in any other of his epistles

The Social Gospel

- “A sermonette preached by the preacherette to Christianettes”
J. Vernon McGee
- “Good is better than evil because its nicer and gets you into less trouble.”
- A church made up of a mild-mannered man standing before a group of mild mannered people, urging them to be more mild-mannered.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15,16

- *[This seems, indeed, to describe the church in these days:]*

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 3:17,18

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:19,20

This 20th verse—so often used in an altar call—is actually a most disturbing indictment of all: Jesus is *outside* trying to get in! (In contrast to the other 6 churches profiled in His seven letters...)

To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:21,22

Seven *conditional* promises in the Letters to the Seven Churches

Rev 2 & 3

The Psychological Gospel

- Popular psychology;
 - “How to overcome...”
 - “How to think creatively...”
 - “How to think affirmatively or positively”
 - ..we’re on our way upward and onward forever
- The desperate decay of our society speaks for itself

Christian Socialism

- The modern church preaches more on social relations, pacifism, social justice, et al., and is really an instrument leading to Christian socialism.
- In contrast, when the true gospel is preached, men come to Christ and become members of God's family forever.
- The real solution to man's problems can come only through the grace of God.

Organization of the Epistles

1st Timothy:

- 1) Faith of the church; doctrine
- 2) Order of the church
- 3) Officers of the church
- 4) Apostasy that was coming
- 5-6) Duties of the officers

2nd Timothy:

- 1) Afflictions of the church
- 2) Activity of the church
- 3-4) Allegiance of the church

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of
God, according to the promise of life which is in
Christ Jesus,

2 Timothy 1:1

- The Will of God: there are 4:
 - His Sovereign Will –
“The Mystery of His Will”
 - His Revealed Will - The Word of God
 - His Will for mankind - Salvation
 - His Will for the Believer - Sanctification

To Timothy, *my* dearly beloved son: Grace,
mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and
Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2

- Paul's "spiritual son" . . .
 - It is interesting that Paul added "mercy" to his greeting when he wrote to pastors
1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4
 - Paul knew that pastors earned the need for mercy!

“God creates out of nothing.
Until man is nothing,
God can make nothing out of him.”

—Martin Luther



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