

2 Timothy

Do Your Best

By Timothy Sparks

TimothySparks.com

Purpose of 2 Timothy

- The purpose is in connection with Paul's circumstances and passionate concern about the teaching of the gospel
 - Many defections and Paul's last days spent imprisoned on earth
- Paul writes for Timothy to come to his side (4:9, 21)
 - His final request before death
 - To “pass the torch” for Timothy to continue proclaiming the gospel after Paul's death

Paul's Altered Circumstances

- Recognizing how Paul's circumstances have changed is a key to understanding 2 Timothy
 - He can no longer travel in spreading the gospel
 - Paul is imprisoned in Rome (1:8, 16-17; 2:9)
 - Likely arrested in Troas where he left his cloak and scrolls (4:13) and where it appears Alexander the metalworker greatly harmed Paul perhaps by informing against him to have Paul arrested (4:14-15)
 - The word translated “did” (4:14) was often used with the legal sense of “inform against”

Paul's Altered Circumstances

- Paul had already gone through a preliminary hearing (4:16-17)
 - He is awaiting his final trial with death as the inevitable outcome (4:6-8)
- Although some assisted Paul (1:16-17) and some were engaged in evangelism (4:10, 12), the situation in Ephesus and elsewhere deteriorated
 - Some deserted Paul (1:15)
 - Some strayed from the truth (2:17-18)
 - At least one abandoned him (4:10)

“Passing of the Torch”

- Paul sends this second letter to Timothy in the midst of his altered circumstances
 - 2 Timothy is like a last will and testament
 - It is very personal
 - Recalling their days together (1:3-5)
 - Appealing to Timothy's faithfulness
 - To the gospel (1:5)
 - To Paul himself (3:10-11)
- Timothy is to entrust the responsibility of teaching God's Word to faithful people in Ephesus (2:2)
- He is to leave Ephesus and go to Paul (4:9, 11, 21)

“Passing of the Torch”

- Paul urges Timothy with passionate concern about the gospel and its proclamation:
 - “Fan into flame the gift of God” (1:6-7)
 - “Do not be ashamed” (1:8 [12, 16])
 - “Share in suffering” (1:8; 2:3 [3:12; 4:5]; Phil. 3:10)
 - “Hold to the pattern of healthy words” (1:13)
 - “Guard the good deposit” (1:14)
 - 1 Tim. 6:20; “healthy words” (1:13)
 - “Preach the word/Proclaim the message” (4:2)
- Every Timothy needs a Paul and even a Paul needs a Timothy

Paul's Confidence

- In Timothy (1:5)
- In God's Word (2:9)
- In the salvation in Christ Jesus (2:10)
- In the triumph of those who endure and belong to God (2:11-12, 19; 4:8)

Key Words & Phrases

- **Faith/faithful/trustworthy** (root: *pistos*, 11 times)
 - faithful(ness), trustworthy, reliable, believing
 - 1:5, 13; 2:2, 11, 13, 18, 22; 3:8, 10, 15; 4:7
- **Teach/teacher/teaching/doctrine** (root: *didasko*, 8 times)
 - to teach, instruct, to provide information in a manner intended to produce understanding, either in a formal or informal setting
 - 1:11; 2:2, 24; 3:10, 16; 4:2, 3

Things to Remember

- 1:5—we must be careful examples

A careful man I ought to be;

A little fellow follows me.

I do not dare to go astray

For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,

Whatever he sees me do, he tries.

Like me he says he's going to be;

The little fellow who follows me.

Things to Remember

He thinks that I am good and fine,

Believes in every word of mine.

The shame in me he must not see;

The little fellow who follows me.

I must remember as I go

Through summer's sun and winter's snow,

I'm building for the years to be

That little fellow who follows me.

(unknown author)

Things to Remember

- 3:16-17—The God-breathed Scripture

The Anvil of God's Word

(Attributed to John Clifford)

“Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith’s
door,

And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;

Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,

Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

Things to Remember

“How many anvils have you had,’ said I,
‘To wear and batter all these hammers so?’
‘Just one,’ said he, and then with twinkling eye,
‘The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.’

“And so, I thought, the Anvil of God’s Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was
heard,

The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.”

Verses to Remember

- 1:7, 9, 12
- 2:2, 3
 - 3:12
- 2:11-13, 19, 24
- 3:14-17
- 4:1-8—“The Final Charge”

The Final Charge

- In 2 Timothy Paul makes four appeals to Timothy:
 - The Apostolic Appeal (chapter 1)
 - The Practical Appeal (chapter 2)
 - The Prophetic Appeal (chapter 3)
 - The Personal Appeal (chapter 4)
- In his “Personal Appeal,” Paul gives Timothy *The Final Charge*

The Final Charge

- PREACH THE MESSAGE (4:1-4)
 - A Personal Charge (v. 1)
 - In the Presence of God
 - In the Presence of Christ Jesus
 - The Judge
 - The King
 - A Passionate Charge (v. 2)
 - Be Prepared
 - Be Patient

The Final Charge

- A Proper Charge (vv. 3-4)
 - Needed to Combat Demonic Desires (v. 3)
 - Going from “what God wants” to “what we want”
 - Going from “what we need to hear” to “what we want to hear”
 - Needed to Combat Devastating Departure (v. 4)
 - From “turning the ears” to “turning the feet”
 - From truth to tales

The Final Charge

- PERSEVERE IN THE MINISTRY (4:5-8)
 - A Permanent Charge (v. 5)
 - Be Serious (be sober)
 - Be a Soldier (cf. 1:8; 2:3) (endure evil treatment)
 - Be a Soul-winner (do the work of an evangelist)
 - Be a Servant (fulfill your ministry)
 - A Parting Charge (v. 6)
 - Sacrifice (cf. Phil. 2:17)
 - Selfless
 - Submissive

The Final Charge

- Separation
 - Death is not an enemy to God's faithful children—death is like an angel and carries us near to the heart of God
 - Ps. 116:15
 - Rev. 14:13
 - Death is not defeat—death is victory!
 - I'm a winner either way, if I die or if I stay (Phil. 1:21)!
 - To depart and be with Christ is far better (Phil. 1:23)

The Final Charge

- A Persuasive Charge (v. 7)
 - Fought—the only good fight
 - Finished—the hardest course
 - Kept—the greatest thing to guard/protect
- A Productive Charge (v. 8)
 - The coming Lord (cf. 4:1)
 - The future reward

The Bible

Though the cover is worn,
And the pages are torn,
And though places bear traces of tears
Yet more precious than gold
Is the Book worn and old,
That can shatter and scatter my fears.

The Bible

When I prayerfully look
In the precious old Book,
As my eyes scan the pages I see
Many tokens of love
From the Father above,
Who is nearest and dearest to me.

The Bible

This old Book is my guide,
‘Tis a friend by my side,
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise I find
Soothes and gladdens my mind
As I read it and heed it today.

Memory Verse Review (Philippians—1 Timothy)

- Phil. 1:27—“Only let...”
- Col. 1:18a—“He is...”
- 1 Thess. 1:8—“For from you...”
- 2 Thess. 3:1—“Finally, brothers...”
- 1 Tim. 3:14-15—“These things...”

Memory Verse for 2 Timothy

2:15

“Do your best to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”