

## Second Timothy

### Author

1. The author of this epistle is Paul the apostle. (2 Tim. 1:1).
  - a. He is mentioned by name only once in both 1 and 2 Timothy.
  - b. In both epistles he refers to his authorship in the salutation. (1 Tim. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:1).
2. This was most likely the last of Paul's letters. **See notes on time of writing.**
3. 2 Timothy was written perhaps several years after 1 Timothy.
4. It is thought to have been written after A.D. 62 - after Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment.

### Place

1. It was written from prison in Rome. (2 Tim. 1:8, 17).

2TI 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

2TI 1:17 but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me, and found me--

2. Paul expresses the idea in this epistle that the end for him was near. (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

2TI 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2TI 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2TI 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

### Time of Writing

1. Paul had been in prison at Rome for 2 years from about A.D. 60 to 62. (Acts 28:16, 30-31).

- a. It is thought he was released during the Spring of A.D. 62.
- b. The Bible does not give any information on how he was able to gain his freedom from his house arrest after 2 years.

2. The second Roman imprisonment seems to have been in the summer or fall of A.D. 64.

3. 2 Timothy 4:13 points to the fact that the arrest may have occurred at Troas.

2TI 4:13 When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.

- a. We cannot be certain that he was arrested at Troas, but it does suggest that something sudden and unexpected occurred at Troas.

- b. This seems to have been where he was before his second imprisonment.
  - c. He did not have time to gather his belongings, and had left his “cloak” and his “books” [papyrus scrolls] and “parchments” [writings on animal skins].
  - d. Some or all of these may have been copies of his own scripture writings and perhaps copies of other scriptures written by others.
4. He will later bring up his circumstances at the time of the writing. (2 Tim. 4:9-18).
  5. In about July of A.D. 64 a large part of Rome was destroyed by fire.
  6. Nero blamed the burning on Christians and began to persecute them.
  7. This epistle was likely written about A.D. 64. It is possible it was written in A.D. 65.
    - a. As Paul was in prison and awaiting death he wrote this epistle to Timothy.
    - b. Paul indicates in this letter that he was mostly alone, and had a desire for Christian companionship.
    - c. Paul was a man very close to God and God’s children.
  8. It is thought that Paul was put to death in A.D. 65.
    - a. Some place his death as late as A.D. 68.
    - b. The Bible does not record his death, and the exact date or details of his death are unknown.

### **To Whom Written**

1. It was addressed to Timothy.
  - a. Timothy had often work with Paul.
  - b. Paul had the highest respect for him. (Rom. 16:21; 1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:19-23).

ROM 16:21 Timothy **my fellow worker** greets you, and so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

1CO 4:17 For this reason **I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord**, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

PHI 2:19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

PHI 2:20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

PHI 2:21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

PHI 2:22 But you know of his proven worth that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

PHI 2:23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;

2. A study of the epistle shows the epistle was written also for the benefit of others.
3. Preachers and all Christians can greatly benefit from a study of 2 Timothy.

4. We must hold fast to the truth, and proclaim it to the church and the lost world.
5. There is absolutely nothing that is a substitute for the soul-saving truth of God. (Jn. 8:32).

## **Purpose**

1. It was written to encourage and strengthen Timothy.
  - a. He is encouraged to be faithful in his convictions and calling. (2 Tim. 1:8; 2:1-7; 4:1-5).
  - b. He is warned he must be aware of false doctrines and fight against them. (2 Tim. 3:1-9).
  - c. He is exhorted to guard his own life. (2 Tim. 2:14-26).
2. Timothy may have been discouraged over Paul's imprisonment, but Paul's imprisonment or even death would not mean the end of Christianity.
  - a. Timothy and others would faithfully proclaim God's word to the lost world.
  - b. They would also train and inspire others to do the same.
3. He appeals to Timothy to come to see him.
  - a. He wants to see Timothy before his death. (2 Tim. 4:9).

2TI 4:9 Make every effort to come to me soon;

- b. He desires that Timothy bring Mark [John Mark] with him to Rome. (2 Tim. 4:11).

2TI 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

- c. Only Luke was with him. (2 Tim. 4:11).

4. It is not stated, but it appears there was no imminent threat to Timothy or Mark if they came to see Paul.
5. It was vital that Timothy and other faithful Christians keep on faithfully proclaiming the gospel and teach and encourage others to do the same.
  - a. Persecution should never stop evangelism. (Acts 8:1-3).

ACT 8:1 And Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. ¶ And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

ACT 8:2 And some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

ACT 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

- b. Paul did not want his imprisonment to stop or slow down the proclamation of the gospel.
- c. He knew whether his death came from his captors or came naturally from old age, but the proclamation of the gospel must go on to the end of Christian age.

## Salutation

1:1-2

**This salutation is very similar to the one Paul wrote in 1 Timothy.**

1TI 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope;  
1TI 1:2 to Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2TI 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,  
2TI 1:2 to Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2TI 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,**

- The words “Christ Jesus” appear 11 times in this epistle. (2 Tim. 1:1,2, 9, 10, 13; 2:1, 3, 10, 12, 15; 4:1).
- The words “Jesus Christ” appear once in this letter (2 Tim. 2:8), but appear many times in his writings. (Rom. 1:6, 7, 8; 5:1, 11, etc).
- There is no significance to the different word order.
- These differences certainly do not support the theory that a different author penned this epistle.

1. “Paul” - This is the only mention of his name in this epistle.

- a. His Hebrew name was “Saul.” “Paul” was his Latin name, and his Greek name was “Paulos.”
- b. After his conversion he is primarily known as Paul.
- c. The name “Saul” is not used after the book of Acts.
- d. Luke tells us that Saul was also know as “Paul.” (Acts 13:9).

ACT 13:9 But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him,

2. “an apostle of Christ Jesus” - Paul makes it clear that he was “an apostle of Christ Jesus.”

- a. He was not a messenger of men, but a messenger of Christ Jesus.
- b. The word “apostle” means “one sent forth, a messenger.”
- c. He was an apostle of Christ in an official sense, and had been selected, to this office, by the Lord Jesus Himself. (Acts 9:1-6).

3. “by the will of God” - Paul is quick to point out he did not choose to be an apostle, but his selection was “by the will of God.”

- a. He had been chosen before his birth. (Gal. 1:15).

GAL 1:15 But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased

- b. His selection was not a guarantee of his salvation (1 Cor. 9:27), but it was “by the will of God.” (1 Cor. 1:1; 2:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1).
- c. God selected him to preach the gospel primarily to the Gentiles. (Gal. 1:15, 16).

GAL 1:15 But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased

GAL 1:16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

- 4. “according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus”
  - a. The idea is that this was “in accordance to the promise of life in Christ Jesus.”
  - b. This life come through union with Christ.
  - c. “The promise of life” speaks of the abundant life and everlasting life “in Christ Jesus.” (Jn. 3:16, 36; 6:47; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6).

**2TI 1:2 to Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- 1. “to Timothy”
  - a. “Timothy” is from the Greek “timotheos” [tee mah theh ahs] meaning “honoring God.”
  - b. Timothy was a man who lived up to the meaning of his name.
- 2. “my beloved son” - 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:1.
  - a. Timothy was not his actual son, but a spiritual son of Paul. He and Paul had a very close relationship, and Timothy had grown into an outstanding evangelist and Christian through the influence of Paul.
  - b. There is no record of Paul converting Timothy, but it is possible he did.
    - 1) One thing is sure and that is Paul had had a tremendous impart on Timothy.
    - 2) Through the teaching and influence of Paul Timothy was an outstanding servant of the Lord.
  - c. Timothy had a Greek father. (Acts 16:1).
    - 1) There is no evidence his father ever became a Christian.
    - 2) We do not know how long his father lived or if he was alive at the time Paul wrote 1 & 2 Timothy.
- 3. “Grace, mercy and peace” - Paul desires that favor, mercy, and spiritual peace come upon Timothy.
- 4. “from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord” - The source of these blessings is God and His Son.

**2TI 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,**

- 1. “I thank God” - Paul was a grateful man, and always encouraged others to be thankful.

2. “whom I serve with a clear conscience”
  - a. “katharos” [kah thah **rahs**] means “pure, clean, unstained by the guilt of anything.”
  - b. Paul had always served God with a clear conscience (Acts 23:1), but conscience can be wrong.
  - c. Paul later realized that “a good conscience” did not mean he was sinless.
  - d. No accountable person is sinless. (Rom. 3:23).
  - e. No Christian is sinless. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
  - f. Paul called himself “the chief of sinners.” (1 Tim. 1:13-15).
  - g. He was sinner before he persecuted Christians, and was not sinless after he stopped persecuting Christians. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
3. “the way my forefathers did” - This is not perfectly clear, but seems to have this meaning “whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear...” TCNT
  - a. Paul expressed a similar thought in Acts 24:14,15.

ACT 24:14 "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets;

ACT 24:15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

- b. Paul believed in what Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, etc. believed.
  - 1) He believed in what the pious ancestors believed.
  - 2) They believed on “one God,” and so did Paul.
  - 3) They had great reverence for God and His commandments, and so did Paul.
  - 4) They believed in the resurrection of all the dead, and so this Paul.
  - 5) They believed in the coming of the Messiah, and Paul now believed in that Messiah.
4. “as I constantly [always, ceaselessly] remember you in my prayers night and day”
  - a. Though Paul was in prison and facing death, he was constantly praying for Timothy.
  - b. Timothy was a marvelous young man and evangelist, but he and all Christians need the prayers of others.

### **Timothy Encouraged To Be Faithful And To Guard His Trust**

1:4-5

**2TI 1:4 longing to see you, even as I recall your [parting] tears, so that I may be filled with joy.**

1. “longing to see you” - He had an intense yearning to see Timothy.

2. “even as I recall your tears”

- a. Paul had a clear recollection of the tears Timothy had shed at their parting.
- b. One is reminded of the parting of Paul from the elders of Ephesus. (Acts 20:17, 37).

ACT 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

ACT 20:37 And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,

3. “so I may be filled with joy” - Having Timothy with him again would give full and great joy.

**2TI 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.**

- “I am sure” is from “peitho” [pay thoh] meaning “to persuade.”
1. “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you” - He had been taught the Scriptures from his babyhood. (2 Tim. 3:15).
    - a. Timothy was a man of “sincere [genuine] faith.” The word “sincere” is from “anupokritos” [ah noo pah kree tahs] meaning “unfeigned, undisguised, sincere.”
    - b. This was not a subjective statement, but Timothy had demonstrated his genuine faith over and over again.
  2. “which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois” - Gr. “Lois” [loh ees] - “agreeable”
    - a. The faith of Timothy was no accident, but had dwelt first in his grandmother “Lois.”
    - b. Nothing more is known about this fine lady except it appears she was a Christian.
    - c. This is suggested by the word “believer.” (Acts 16:1). **“a Jewish woman who was a believer..”**
    - d. The word believer here denotes a Christian. (Acts 5:14;16:15, 31, 34; 10:45, 2 Cor. 6:15; 1 Thess. 1:7; 2:10; 1 Tim. 4:10; 5:16; 6:2; 1 Pet. 3:21).

ACT 16:15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be **faithful** to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. It can be rendered “If you consider me a believer in the Lord.” See NIV

ACT 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

ACT 16:34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household. The words “having believed in God” mean in context that this man and his family were now Christians.

ACT 5:14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number; It is clear “believers in the Lord” refers to Christians in this context.

ACT 10:45 And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. “Believers” here is referring to Jews who had become Christians.

2CO 6:15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Once again “believer” denotes a Christian.

1TH 1:7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. “Believers” is a reference to Christian believers.

1TH 2:10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; “Believers” is a reference to Christians, and Paul and his co-workers had been an example to them.

1TI 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Christ is the potential Savior of “all men” (Jn. 3:16; 8:24), but in reality He only saves those who obey Him (Jn. 3:36; Lk. 6:46; Heb. 5:9) - “believers.”

1TI 5:16 If any woman who is a believer [a Christian] has dependent widows, let her assist them, and let not the church be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

1TI 6:2 And let those who have believers [Christians] as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

1PE 1:21 who through Him [Christ] are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Many Gentiles had become “believers in God” through Christ, that is, they not only believed in God but had become Christians and were trusting in Jesus.

3. “and your mother Eunice” - Gr. “eunike” [you **nee** kay] “good victory”

- a. Lois had instilled faith in her daughter Eunice. She too was a Christian, and manifested the spiritual influence of a mother and grandmother.
- b. With the help of her daughter they instilled their faith in Timothy who became one of finest men who has ever lived.
- c. Mothers and grandmothers do a great work when they instill faith in their children and grandchildren.
- d. Timothy converted many souls, and this would not have occurred with Lois and Eunice.
- e. This is not Paul’s point, but Paul is showing that it is possible to raise a child right without a believing father.
  - 1) It is harder, but it is possible.
  - 2) Some think his father was dead, but this is speculation and is based on the silence of the scriptures.

4. “and I am sure that it is in you as well”

- a. Paul had no doubt about the faith of Timothy. He had demonstrated it time and time again.
- b. Timothy abided by the admonition of Paul. (1 Tim. 4:12).

1TI 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.