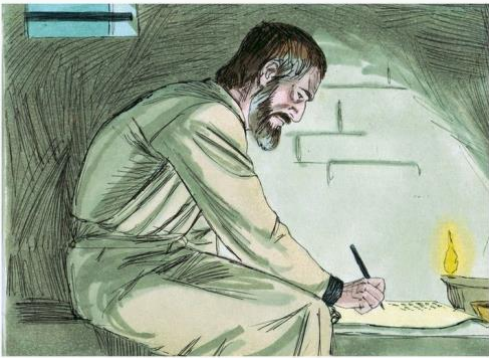


## Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Lesson 1

### 2 Timothy 1:1-7

*Fan into flame the gift of God...*  
*2 Timothy 1:6*

The book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy provides a window into the heart and mind of the apostle Paul after over thirty years of missionary travels—travels that enabled him to carry the message of Christianity throughout the vast expanse of the Roman Empire during the first century. This short letter from Paul to his beloved protégé Timothy is the last letter from Paul that is included in the Bible.



Paul is writing from a Roman prison and he expects that his death is imminent. Even so, Paul writes with fervor and intensity--energized by his confidence in the glorious future of the gospel of salvation. In this passionate final letter, Paul entrusts Timothy with the responsibility of carrying on the life work that Paul has been doing—proclaiming the gospel and strengthening the churches.

As we read and study this short letter, we will see that Paul looks back on his life with a sense of gratitude and satisfaction. He has enjoyed a lifelong sense of purpose through his response to the call of Christ. His life and travels have had a world-changing impact for good. His efforts have been effective; his work has been rewarding; his deep devotion for Jesus will continue to flourish throughout eternity.

1. In preparation for your study of this letter to Timothy, please begin by reading the entire letter; it's quite short. Pay attention to the general tone of the letter. Observe Paul's account of his circumstances as he is writing. What is striking to you about Paul's attitude and his priorities? Jot down your notes here.
2. Scan through the letter again and write down the verses that reveal Paul's love and regard for Timothy. What do you see in the letter that affirms the closeness

of their relationship?

3. From your initial reading of this letter, what is your understanding of what Paul is calling on Timothy to do after Paul's life has ended? Summarize Paul's commission to Timothy in just one or two sentences.
  
4. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7. Who were the earliest people who influenced Timothy and were examples to him of lives shaped by Christian faith?

*Historical note: In the ancient world, women were valued far less than men. Families did not envision positions of influence and impact for their daughters, but they invested wholeheartedly in the development of their sons. By contrast, God has always used women of faith and courage to be crucial elements for achieving His good plan. Examples:*

- *Hebrew midwives risked their lives to save newborn Hebrew babies, and so Moses survived to deliver the Israelites from slavery.*
- *A prostitute in Jericho risked her life to protect Israel's scouts. She is named as an ancestor of Jesus.*
- *In Judges 4, Jael set a brilliant trap and killed the military commander of Israel's enemy, which led to 40 years of peace.*
- *A Moabite widow chose to commit her life to the God of Israel, and the line of King David (and Jesus!) was preserved.*
- *Esther, the heroic queen of Persia, saved the Jews from genocide.*
- *A teen-aged virgin named Mary was chosen and consented to give birth to the promised Savior and King—our LORD Jesus!*

5. **For Personal Reflection:** Think back over your life. Who were the key people that God used in your life to awaken in you a desire to know Jesus? What qualities in them made their influence effective in your life? Share with your group if you feel comfortable doing so.
  
6. **For Personal Reflection:** Consider your life today. Are there people that God has placed in your life whom you could influence for Christ? Think about your family, your neighbors, your colleagues at work, moms of your children's classmates, your acquaintances at the gym—what names come to mind? Jot down how you might connect with these individuals in a way that would bring an opportunity to speak about your faith. Are you willing to be one whom God will use?
  
7. Read again Paul's instruction to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:6-7. What do you infer about God's provision for the tasks He gives us to accomplish? What is our responsibility in the matter?

8. **For Personal Reflection:** As we embark on this study of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, we hold in the forefront of our minds the concept of our life's purpose. God created each of us for a purpose. He has placed before us a path to walk, and He has given us a supply of gifts and tools that will enable us to accomplish His good purpose in our lives. God intends for your life to have lasting impact in your community.
- a. How does this sense of purpose encourage you today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What aspects of our culture hinder you from embracing the call to serve Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Are there changes you can make in your life to facilitate a wholehearted response to God's call on your life?

*Paul serves as an example to us of one who lived a life of enduring significance. As he faced the end of his earthly life, he was confident that he had faithfully followed God's purposes for him. In 2 Timothy 4:6-7, Paul writes, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Imagine your joy if one day this testimony will be yours as well.*

**My Prayer:**

*Father, I want my life to accomplish Your good purposes.  
Capture my heart and my will;  
enable me to follow you with confidence and joy.*