

2 Timothy

1 ¹Greetings from Paul, an apostle* of Christ Jesus. I am an apostle because God wanted me to be. God sent me to tell people about the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.

²To Timothy, a dear son to me.

Grace,* mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

³I always remember you in my prayers day and night. And in these prayers I thank God for you. He is the God my ancestors* served, and I have always served him with a clear conscience. ⁴I remember that you cried for me. I want very much to see you so that I can be filled with joy. ⁵I remember your true faith. That kind of faith first belonged to your grandmother Lois and to your mother Eunice. I know you now have that same faith. ⁶That is why I want you to remember the gift God gave you. God gave you that gift when I laid my hands on^a you. Now I want you to use that gift and let it grow more and more, like a small flame grows into a fire. ⁷The Spirit* God gave us does not make us afraid. He is our source of power and love and self-control.

⁸So don't be ashamed to tell people about our Lord Jesus. And don't be ashamed of me—I am in prison for the Lord. But suffer with me for the Good News.* God gives us the strength to do that.

⁹God saved us and chose us to be his holy* people, but not because of anything we ourselves did. God saved us and made us his people because that was what he wanted and because of his grace.* That grace was given to us through Christ Jesus before time began. ¹⁰And now it has been shown to us in the coming of our Savior Christ Jesus. He destroyed death and

showed us the way to have life. Yes, through the Good News Jesus showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed.

¹¹I was chosen to tell people that message as an apostle* and teacher. ¹²And I suffer now because of that work. But I am not ashamed. I know the one I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to protect what he has trusted me with until that Day.^b

¹³What you heard me teach is an example of what you should teach. Follow that model of right teaching with the faith and love we have in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴This teaching is a treasure that you have been trusted with. Protect it with the help of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside us.

¹⁵You know that everyone in Asia* has left me. Even Phygelus and Hermogenes have left me. ¹⁶I pray that the Lord will show mercy to the family of Onesiphorus. Many times Onesiphorus encouraged me. He was not ashamed that I was in prison. ¹⁷No, he was not ashamed. When he came to Rome, he looked and looked for me until he found me. ¹⁸I pray that the Lord Jesus will make sure Onesiphorus receives mercy from the Lord God on that Day. You know how many ways this brother helped me in Ephesus.

A Loyal Soldier of Christ Jesus

2 ¹Timothy, you are a son to me. Be strong in the grace* that we have because we belong to Christ Jesus. ²What you have heard me teach publicly you should teach to others. Share these teachings with people you can trust. Then they will be able to teach others these same things. ³As a good soldier of Christ Jesus, accept your share of the troubles we have. ⁴A soldier wants to please his commanding

^a**1:6 laid my hands on** This act was a way of asking God to bless people in a special way—here, to give Timothy power for a special work.

^b**1:12 Day** The day Christ will come to judge everyone and take his people to live with him. Also in verse 18.

officer, so he does not spend any time on activities that are not a part of his duty. ⁵Athletes in a race must obey all the rules to win. ⁶It is the farmer who works hard that deserves the first part of the harvest. ⁷Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand it all.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ. He is from the family of David.* After Jesus died, he was raised from death. This is the Good News* that I tell people. ⁹And because I tell that message, I am suffering. I am even bound with chains like someone who has really done wrong. But God's message is not bound. ¹⁰So I patiently accept all these troubles. I do this to help the people God has chosen so that they can have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. With this salvation comes glory* that never ends.

¹¹Here is a true statement:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him.

¹² If we remain faithful even in suffering,
we will also rule with him.

If we refuse to say we know him,
he will refuse to say he knows us.

¹³ If we are not faithful,
he will still be faithful,
because he cannot be false to himself.

A Worker Who Pleases God

¹⁴Keep on telling everyone these truths. And warn them before God not to argue about words. Such arguments don't help anyone, and they ruin those who listen to them. ¹⁵Do your best to be the kind of person God will accept, and give yourself to him. Be a worker who has no reason to be ashamed of his work, one who applies the true teaching in the right way.

¹⁶Stay away from people who talk about useless things that are not from God. That kind of talk will lead a person more and more against God. ¹⁷Their evil teaching will spread like a sickness inside the body. Hymenaeus and Philetus are men like that. ¹⁸They have left the true teaching. They say that the day when people will be raised from death has already come and gone. And they are destroying the faith of some people.

¹⁹But God's strong foundation never moves, and these words are written on it: "The Lord knows those who belong to him."^a Also, these words are written there: "Everyone who says they believe in the Lord must stop doing wrong."

²⁰In a large house there are things made of gold and silver. But there are also things made of wood and clay. Some of these are used for special purposes, others for ordinary jobs. ²¹The Lord wants to use you for special purposes, so make yourself clean from all evil. Then you will be holy,* and the Master can use you. You will be ready for any good work.

²²Stay away from the evil things a young person like you typically wants to do. Do your best to live right and to have faith, love, and peace, together with others who trust in the Lord with pure hearts. ²³Stay away from foolish and stupid arguments. You know that these arguments grow into bigger arguments. ²⁴As a servant of the Lord, you must not argue. You must be kind to everyone. You must be a good teacher, and you must be patient. ²⁵You must gently teach those who don't agree with you. Maybe God will let them change their hearts so that they can accept the truth. ²⁶The devil has trapped them and now makes them do what he wants. But maybe they can wake up to see what is happening and free themselves from the devil's trap.

Many People Will Stop Loving God

3 ¹Remember this: There are some terrible times coming in the last days. ²People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud and boast about themselves. They will abuse others with insults. They will not obey their parents. They will be ungrateful and against all that is pleasing to God. ³They will have no love for others and will refuse to forgive anyone. They will talk about others to hurt them and will have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. ⁴People will turn against their friends. They will do foolish things without thinking and will be so proud of themselves. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure. ⁵They will go on pretending to be devoted to God, but they will refuse to let that "devotion" change the way they live. Stay away from these people!

⁶Some of them go into homes and get control over weak women, whose lives are full of sin—women who are led into sin by all the things they want. ⁷These women always want to learn something new, but they are never able to fully understand the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres,^b fought

^b3:8 *Jannes and Jambres* Probably the magicians who opposed Moses in Pharaoh's court. See Ex. 7:11–12, 22.

^a2:19 Quote from Num. 16:5.

against Moses,* these people fight against the truth. Their thinking has been confused. The faith they have and teach is worthless. ⁹But they will not succeed in what they are trying to do. Everyone will see how foolish they are. That is what happened to Jannes and Jambres.

Last Instructions

¹⁰But you know all about me. You know what I teach and the way I live. You know my goal in life. You know my faith, my patience, and my love. You know that I never stop trying. ¹¹You know about my persecutions* and my sufferings. You know all the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—the persecution I suffered in those places. But the Lord saved me from all of it. ¹²Everyone who wants to live showing true devotion to God in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³People who are evil and cheat others will become worse and worse. They will fool others, but they will also be fooling themselves.

¹⁴But you should continue following the teaching you learned. You know it is true, because you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵You have known the Holy Scriptures^a since you were a child. These Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is given by God. And all Scripture is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching the right way to live. ¹⁷Using the Scriptures, those who serve God will be prepared and will have everything they need to do every good work.

4 ¹Before God and Jesus Christ I give you a command. Christ Jesus is the one who will judge all people—those who are living and those who have died. He is coming again to rule in his kingdom.* So I give you this command: ²Tell everyone God's message.* Be ready at all times to do whatever is needed. Tell people what they need to do, tell them when they are doing wrong, and encourage them. Do this with great patience and careful teaching.

³The time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching. But people will find more and more teachers who please them. They will find teachers who

say what they want to hear. ⁴People will stop listening to the truth. They will begin to follow the teaching in false stories. ⁵But you should control yourself at all times. When troubles come, accept them. Do the work of telling the Good News.* Do all the duties of a servant of God.

⁶My life is being given as an offering for God. The time has come for me to leave this life here. ⁷I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have served the Lord faithfully. ⁸Now, a prize is waiting for me—the crown* that will show I am right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give it to me on that Day.^b Yes, he will give it to me and to everyone else who is eagerly looking forward to his coming.

Personal Notes

⁹Do your best to come to me as soon as you can. ¹⁰Demas loved this world too much. That is why he left me. He went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia. And Titus went to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke is the only one still with me. Get Mark and bring him with you when you come. He can help me in my work here. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

¹³When I was in Troas, I left my coat there with Carpus. So when you come, bring it to me. Also, bring my books. The books written on parchment* are the ones I need.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker caused me so much harm. The Lord will punish him for what he did. ¹⁵He fought against everything we teach. You should be careful that he doesn't hurt you too.

¹⁶The first time I defended myself, no one helped me. Everyone left me. I pray that God will forgive them. ¹⁷But the Lord stayed with me. The Lord gave me strength so that I could tell the Good News* everywhere. He wanted all those who are not Jews to hear that Good News. So I was saved from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will save me when anyone tries to hurt me. He will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Glory* forever and ever be the Lord's. Amen.*

Final Greetings

¹⁹Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila and to the family of Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus

^a3:15 *Holy Scriptures* Writings that Jews and followers of Christ accepted to be from God—the Old Testament.

^b4:8 *Day* The day Christ will come to judge everyone and take his people to live with him.

stayed in Corinth. And I left Trophimus in Miletus—he was sick. ²¹Try as hard as you can to come to me before winter.

Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters here.

²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace*

Greetings to you from Eubulus, Pudens, be with you.

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