

Bible Snapshots



2 Timothy – Fanning the Flames

Author – Paul, A.D. 66 or 67

- The book of second Timothy was written primarily to encourage the young evangelist Timothy, but also to explain why Paul failed to return to Ephesus (1 Tim. 3:14); to explain his current situation (1:15; 2:9; 4:10, 14, 16-18); to urge him to visit and bring some necessary items.
- Much like the first epistle, Paul also takes this opportunity to warn Timothy of the presence and coming of false teachers and encourage him to preach only the truth no matter what may be done to him.
- The letter is perhaps the most personal letter that Paul will write. It is most certainly his last. In it he mentions at least 25 individuals by name. There is also a dynamic range of emotions it seems. On one hand Paul's tone is very sad, as he details how he is cold, friendless and persecuted. On the other hand there is a note of triumph and cheer as he says, "The Lord stood with me" (4:17). The epistle is his "final speech" containing what his epitaph (4:6-8).

Themes - The unchangeable authority of God's word; to show why scripture has been given to man (3:16, 17); to encourage Timothy to hold fast and preach this word with boldness.

Key chapters/verse – 3 – the believers' guide in times of apostasy / 2:15

Key phrase / word / thought – In Christ / charge / responsibility in the house of God

Outline

- I. Exhortation and Injunction (1)
- II. Eightfold aspect of Christians (2)
 - a. Son – strong (vs. 1)
 - b. Soldier – fighting (vss. 3, 4)
 - c. Manhood – striving (vs. 5)
 - d. Husbandman – laboring (vs. 6)
 - e. Sufferer – victory (vs. 12)
 - f. Student – approved (vs. 15)
 - g. Vessel – separated (vs. 21)
 - h. Servant – gentle and teaching (vs. 24)
- III. Saints refuge in perilous times (3)
- IV. Final charge (4)

Five-fold use of the Word – Hold it (1:13); study it (2:15); apply it (2:15); rightly divide it (2:15); and preach it (4:2).

Your share in suffering (2:3-13)

What it may be – Privation and separation (vss. 4, 5); misunderstandings (vs. 7); persecution (vss. 9, 10)
Why you should accept it – It is the soldier's part (vs. 3); it is due in loyalty to your enlisting officer (vs. 4); it is necessary discipline (vss. 5, 6); it advances the gospel (vss. 9, 10); it's surety of triumph (vss. 11, 12)

Triumphant in Christ (4:1-8) – by preaching his word (vs. 2); by loving sound doctrine (vs. 3); by watching in all things (vs. 5); by persevering (vs. 5); by being evangelistic (v.s. 5); by fully performing all duties (vs. 5); by being ready to die for faith (vs. 6); by fighting the good fight (vs. 7); by finishing the course (vs. 7); by keeping the faith (v. 7); by being ready to meet Christ (vs. 8).

History and 2 Timothy – Paul speaks of persecution, most of which would be offered by the despot Nero. Nero was born in 37 A.D. to a family of scoundrels. His father, who was a Roman official, was a cheat and bully. He is also credited with several murders during his lifetime. He died when Nero was three. His mother married Emperor Claudius and convinced him to make Nero the next in line to rule, over his own son. She then killed Claudius before he could change his mind. The historian Tacitus records (Annals XV, 44) that Nero "put men in charge who know how to punish with the most ingenious cruelty and wrought havoc with those ... called 'Christians.'" This is the same man who kicked his own wife to death and committed suicide to avoid death by flogging at the hand of his own senate.