



## Lesson 44 – Paul’s last Letter

Based on the Second Epistle to Timothy

At Paul’s final trial before Nero, never before had he heard the truth as he heard it on this occasion. Never before had the enormous guilt of his own life been so revealed to him. The light of heaven pierced the sin-polluted chambers of his soul, and he trembled with terror at the thought of a tribunal before which he, the ruler of the world, would finally be arraigned, and his deeds receive their just award. He feared the apostle’s God, and he dared not pass sentence upon Paul, against whom no accusation had been sustained. A sense of awe restrained for a time his bloodthirsty spirit.

From the judgment hall of Caesar, Paul returned to his cell, realizing that he had gained for himself only a brief respite. He knew that his enemies would not rest until they had compassed his death. But he knew also that for a time truth had triumphed. To have proclaimed a crucified and risen Saviour before the vast crowd who had listened to him, was in itself a victory. That day a work had begun which would grow and strengthen, and which Nero and all other enemies of Christ would seek in vain to hinder or destroy.

1) To whom did Paul write while awaiting his fate?

**2 Timothy 1:2-4** To \_\_\_\_\_, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without \_\_\_\_\_ I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to \_\_\_\_\_, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

Sitting day after day in his gloomy cell, knowing that at a word or a nod from Nero his life might be sacrificed, Paul thought of Timothy and determined to send for him. To Timothy had been committed the care of the church at Ephesus, and he had therefore been left behind when Paul made his last journey to Rome. Paul and Timothy were bound together by an affection unusually deep and strong.

Paul knew that his life was uncertain, and he feared that Timothy might arrive too late to see him. He had important counsel and instruction for the young man, to whom so great responsibility had been entrusted; and while urging him to come without delay, he dictated the dying testimony that he might not be spared to utter. His soul filled with loving solicitude for his son in the gospel and for the church under his care, Paul sought to impress Timothy with the importance of fidelity to his sacred trust.

2) How did his counsel begin?

**2 Timothy 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

**2 Timothy 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

**2 Timothy 1:8** Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou \_\_\_\_\_ of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;



3) What did Paul call Timothy's calling?

**2 Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an \_\_\_\_\_ calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

4) What is the fruit of that calling?

**2 Timothy 1:10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to light through the gospel:

5) How did Paul feel about his unfair imprisonment?

**2 Timothy 1:11-12** Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is \_\_\_\_\_ to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Through his long term of service, Paul had never faltered in his allegiance to his Saviour. Wherever he was, whether before scowling Pharisees, or Roman authorities; before the furious mob at Lystra, or the convicted sinners in the Macedonian dungeon; whether reasoning with the panic-stricken sailors on the shipwrecked vessel or standing alone before Nero to plead for his life, he had never been ashamed of the cause he was advocating.

6) What would Paul have Timothy do in his absence?

**2 Timothy 2:1-3** Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same \_\_\_\_\_ thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore \_\_\_\_\_ hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

The true minister of God will not shun hardship or responsibility. From the Source that never fails those who sincerely seek for divine power, he draws strength that enables him to meet and overcome temptation, and to perform the duties that God places upon him. The nature of the grace that he receives, enlarges his capacity to know God and His Son.

7) What did Paul counsel Timothy to do?

**2 Timothy 2:15** \_\_\_\_\_ to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**2 Timothy 2:22-23** Flee also youthful lusts: but follow \_\_\_\_\_, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that they do gender strifes.

**2 Timothy 2:24-25** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be \_\_\_\_\_ unto all men, apt to teach, \_\_\_\_\_, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

8) What did Paul predict about the world?

**2 Timothy 3:1,2,5** This know also, that in the \_\_\_\_\_ perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, \_\_\_\_\_... Having a \_\_\_\_\_ of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**2 Timothy 3:13** But evil men and seducers shall \_\_\_\_\_ worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.



9) What did Paul say to do about it?

**2 Timothy 3:14-15** But \_\_\_\_\_ thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy \_\_\_\_\_, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

10) What is the only guide?

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All \_\_\_\_\_ is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armory where we may equip for the struggle. Our loins must be girt about with truth. Our breastplate must be righteousness. The shield of faith must be in our hand, the helmet of salvation on our brow; and with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, we are to cut our way through the obstructions and entanglements of sin.

11) Paul gave Timothy a solemn charge, what was it?

**2 Timothy 4:1-2** I \_\_\_\_\_ thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; \_\_\_\_\_ the word; be instant in season, out of season; \_\_\_\_\_, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

This solemn charge to one so zealous and faithful as was Timothy is a strong testimony to the importance and responsibility of the work of the gospel minister. Summoning Timothy before the bar of God, Paul bids him preach the word, not the sayings and customs of men; to be ready to witness for God whenever opportunity should present itself.

Fearing that Timothy's mild, yielding disposition might lead him to shun an essential part of his work, Paul exhorted him to be faithful in reproofing sin and even to rebuke with sharpness those who were guilty of gross evils.

12) What did Paul tell Timothy to look for?

**2 Timothy 4:3-5** For the time will come when they will not endure \_\_\_\_\_; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an \_\_\_\_\_, make full proof of thy ministry.

The apostle does not here refer to the openly irreligious, but to the professing Christians who make inclination their guide and thus become enslaved by self. Such are willing to listen to those doctrines only that do not rebuke their sins or condemn their pleasure-loving course. They are offended by the plain words of the faithful servants of Christ and choose teachers who praise and flatter them. And among professing ministers there are those who preach the opinions of men instead of the word of God. Unfaithful to their trust, they lead astray those who look to them for spiritual guidance.



**13) How should we act today?**

**Titus 2:12-13** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live \_\_\_\_\_, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that \_\_\_\_\_ hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The enemy of all righteousness has taken the world captive and has led men and women to disobey the law. As Paul foresaw, multitudes have turned from the plain, searching truths of God's word and have chosen teachers who present to them the fables they desire. Many among both ministers and people are trampling under their feet the commandments of God. Thus, the Creator of the world is insulted, and Satan laughs in triumph at the success of his devices.

**14) What advice for Timothy is good for us as well?**

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be \_\_\_\_\_ in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

In the Bible are found the only safe principles of action. It is a transcript of the will of God, an expression of divine wisdom. It opens to man's understanding the great problems of life, and to all who heed its precepts it will prove an unerring guide, keeping them from wasting their lives in misdirected effort.

God has made known His will, and it is folly for man to question that which has gone out of His lips. After Infinite Wisdom has spoken, there can be no doubtful questions for man to settle, no wavering possibilities for him to adjust. All that is required of him is a frank, earnest concurrence in the expressed will of God. Obedience is the highest dictate of reason as well as of conscience.

**15) What were Paul's expectations?**

**2 Timothy 4:5-6** But \_\_\_\_\_ thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full \_\_\_\_\_ of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Paul was about to finish his course, and he desired Timothy to take his place, guarding the church from the fables and heresies by which the enemy, in various ways, would endeavor to lead them from the simplicity of the gospel. He admonished him to shun all temporal pursuits and entanglements that would prevent him from giving himself wholly to his work for God.

**16) What is the reward of the faithful?**

**2 Timothy 4:7-8** I have fought a \_\_\_\_\_ fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

**Can you see Paul's faith didn't waiver?**

**Would you like to be positive in impossible times?**

**When is the time put away worldly thinking?**