

**Endure**  
*A Study of 2 Timothy*  
Week 07: The Last Days – Instructions for Truth

**Scripture**

2 Timothy 4:1-8

**Review (Where We Are)**

We've been on a journey of Paul's final writing before his death. He invests heavily in Timothy, whom Paul believed would carry on the work he had started.

***Paul's Advice to Timothy...***

- Fan the flame of your spiritual gifts given to you by God  
**2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)** ... fan into flame the gift of God...
- Guard the truth  
**2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV)** Follow the pattern of the words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
- Endure hardship (good soldier, athlete, farmer)  
**2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus...  
"Paul is calling for Timothy to overcome his apparent drift toward weakness and renew his commitment to his ministry." - John MacArthur
- Don't quarrel over words (familiar reminder found in 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 4:7; 6:4)  
**2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)** ...charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.  
**2 Timothy 2:16 (ESV)** But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness...
- Hold onto the Scriptures for faith and practice  
**2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.  
"As he lies in his cell, a prisoner of the Lord, Paul is still preoccupied with the future of the gospel. His mind dwells now on the evil of the times. Timothy is so weak, and the opposition so strong." - John Stott

## Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

As Paul is moving toward his final words to Timothy (and his earthly life), he provides advice for finishing well.

A birth of a baby is celebrated, but how can death also be celebrated? The key is how a person finishes rather than how they start.

**Ecclesiastes 7:1 (ESV)** A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

## Information (What They Need to Know)

**Paul challenges Timothy to...**

**2 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

- **Preach the word**

**2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)** ...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- ✓ *In season and out of season* – popular/unpopular; convenient/inconvenient
- ✓ *Reprove* – correcting wrong behavior
- ✓ *Rebuke* – criticizing willing rebellion or doctrinal error
- ✓ *Exhort* – urging to obedience (being patient and also instructing)

- **Teach what people *need*, not what they *want***

**2 Timothy 4:3 (ESV)** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

- ✓ There will be a time when people will reject truth
- ✓ There will be a time when people elevate teachers who say what feels good instead of what moves the hearer toward obedience

*“Itching ears indicates a yearning for novelty that results in a pursuit of teachers who will tell people what they want to hear (to suit their own passions)...”* - ESV Study Bible

- **Remain strong in faith**

**2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- ✓ Sober-minded – even-tempered
- ✓ Endure suffering
- ✓ Proclaim the Gospel and Endure in your calling

## Application (What They Need to Do)

If Paul could endure, he knew Timothy could do the same.

- **Time on earth is short**

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

- **Finish well**

**2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- **Rest and eternal award await**

**2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)** Henceforth 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.

“...the crown represents eternal righteousness. Believers receive the imputed righteousness of Christ (**justification**) at salvation. The Holy Spirit works practical righteousness (**sanctification**) in the believer throughout his lifetime of struggle with sin. But only when the struggle is complete will the Christian receive Christ’s righteousness perfected in him (**glorification**) when he enters heaven.” – John MacArthur