



Step by Step

■ 55. 2 Timothy



Author // Paul

Original Recipients // Timothy

Date of Writing // Second Timothy is Paul's final letter, written from Rome in 67 AD.

Type of Literature // Didactic

Major Themes // Faithfulness; The Word of God; The Last Days

Occasion for Writing // Once again, the Apostle Paul found himself incarcerated. This time however, things were different. The political climate in Rome had changed drastically. Emperor Nero instigated the first politically driven persecution of the church which resulted in the imprisonment and martyrdom of many Christ followers. It was during this time that both Peter and Paul were arrested, condemned, and executed. Knowing his death was imminent, Paul penned a final letter to his protégé Timothy.



Simple Summary // Knowing he had reached the end of his race Paul wrote to encourage Timothy to press forward. Rising persecution mixed with declining morality would make the task of carrying forward the Great Commission challenging, and would require faithfulness on the part of all who desire to follow and serve Christ. This letter is filled with exhortations including “Stir up”, “Do not be ashamed”, “Hold fast”, “Be strong”, “Be diligent”, “Shun/flee/avoid”, “Preach” and “Be watchful”. The tone is that of a spiritual father giving a heartfelt final charge to beloved children of the faith.



Outline // One helpful outline for Second Timothy:

- 1 // *Encouragement to Stir Up the Gifts*
- 2 // *Encouragement to Be Strong in Grace*
- 3 // *Encouragement to Know the Times*
- 4 // *Encouragement to Preach the Word*

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Key Verses

1:6 // Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1:13 // Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2:1 // You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2:15 // Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

3:1 // But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

3:16-17 // All Scripture 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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4:2 // Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

4:7 // I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

■ ■ Jesus in Second Timothy



Jesus is pictured as the One who, before time began, established our calling and purpose (1:9). He is the One who strengthens and stands with us (4:17). Ultimately, He is the One who rewards those who have loved Him and labored for Him (4:8).

