



Second Timothy

We're All Pastors: Equipping the Next Generation

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PAUL'S FINAL CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

Second Timothy 4:1-8

January 6, 2019

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Theme: In 2 Timothy 4:1-8 the Apostle Paul concludes his charge to Timothy. This is Paul's earthly grand finale, so to speak, the moment when he passes the baton to his younger successor (and to countless other Christians who will follow). Here the Apostle Paul, perhaps the most influential Christian of all time, distills into a few succinct sentences and phrases what he most wants Timothy to remember. And he reflects on his own imminent death. Even after all these centuries, it's still a sacred moment worth listening in on.

Outline:

1. Introduction

2. Attention, Everyone—This Is Really Important (4:1)

3. The Charge: Preach the Word! (4:2)
 - a. Whether It's Convenient or Not
 - b. Always Press It Home
 - c. With Patience and Care

4. Warning: Post-Truth Society Ahead (4:3-4)

5. Spiritual Resilience Is Required (4:5)
 - a. Don't Panic
 - b. Stay Tough
 - c. Don't Turtle
 - d. Finish Your Assignment

6. Paul Reflects on His Own Life (4:7-8)
 - a. Looking Back
 - b. Looking Forward

7. Conclusion

Takeaway: It is always better to align ourselves with God's transforming truth than to buy into comfortable, go-with-the-flow deceptions and distractions. Such a life of faith will attract opposition and involve challenges. But for all of that it is eminently worthwhile. Life is lived best now when it is lived with eternity in view.

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