

Faithful Perseverance Amidst Faithless Perils

“Ultimately, 2 Timothy serves as a mandate for _____, grounding faithful ministry in prophetic awareness of spiritual _____, the authoritative bedrock of Scripture, and the personal example of _____ and vindication modeled by both Paul and Christ.”

I. The Passage _____

II. The _____

III. _____

I. The Passage Context: The Second Epistle to Timothy stands as the definitive "_____ " of the Apostle Paul—a valedictory address composed during an era of profound ecclesiological transition. Unlike the relatively "mild" house arrest of his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28), where the Apostle enjoyed the freedom of a rented dwelling and the ability to receive visitors, the historical setting of AD 66-67 finds Paul languishing in the Mamertine _____. This second confinement was severe: he was chained as a common _____ (kakourgos) in a dank, subterranean dungeon, facing the cold of an approaching winter with only a hard ledge for a bed. Writing under the shadow of the executioner's ax, Paul's words are not those of a defeated man but of a senior general meticulously ensuring the continuity of the mission through his protégé. The urgency of this "apostolic transition" is fueled by Paul's knowledge that the era of his itinerant ministry has concluded, and the preservation of the "good deposit" now rests upon Timothy.

Paul and Timothy

Paul's Relationship with Timothy: The strategic vehicle for leadership succession was the intimate "spiritual _____ " Paul established with Timothy. Addressing him as "my beloved son" (*agapētos teknon*) and "my true son in the faith" (*gnēsios teknon*), Paul underscores a bond that transcended mere professional mentorship. This relationship functioned as the primary mechanism for the preservation of the apostolic _____. As Paul prepared to "put out to sea" (*analuseōs*), he entrusted Timothy with the *parathēkē*—the good _____ of truth—demanding a loyalty that mirrored his own.

Timothy was a "Work in Progress": Timothy's personality presents a complex biographical study: he was a man of documented sensitivity and a natural inclination toward " _____ " or "cowardice" (*deilia*) tasked with holding a high-level apostolic front. Paul's exhortations suggest that Timothy's effectiveness did not stem from a naturally robust temperament but from a carefully cultivated spiritual interior. His character required the constant " _____ " (*anazopyrein*) of divine _____ to ensure his mind remained controlled by "disciplined thoughts" rather than paralyzing timidity.

God is not looking for perfect men and women to impress everyone or strong men and women to carry heavy loads and work extra hard. He is looking for _____ men and women. He is looking for _____ men and women. He is looking for _____ men and

Key Words: Timothy, Prison, Gospel, Parenaesis, Fear, Love, Grace, Courage, Endurance, Preach, Appearing, Guard, Stand, Know, Last Days, Perilous Times, Vice List, Jannes and Jambres

Key Verses: 2 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Timothy 6:11; Titus 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:5-7, 13-14; 2:1-3; 3:14-15; 4:1-2,8

Bible Teacher

2 Timothy 3:1-13

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women. Timothy was not a perfect man. He was not a particularly brave man. He was physically ill much of the time. But while Demas disappeared when the going got tough, and while others hesitated, Timothy allowed the Holy Spirit to sustain him in the grace of Christ and remained faithful to the end and beyond.

II. The Faithless Perils: (2 Timothy 3:1-9,13)

The _____ We Face:

“But know this, that in the _____ perilous times will come.” (2 Timothy 3:1, NKJV)
The Last Days is not merely a future epoch. It is the entire period between the Ascension and the Second Coming. The condition is “perilous times.” The same word is used in Matthew 8:28 to describe demon-possessed men who were “exceeding fierce.” The spiritual landscape is violent and unpredictable. The church will not fix the world through cultural influence.

The _____ We Face

2 Timothy 3:2-5 is a “vice list” like Romans 1:29-31. While Romans diagnoses humanity’s fundamental rejection of God, 2 Timothy diagnoses a far more insidious problem for the church: those who sin knowingly against the light, possessing an outward form of godliness but disowning its power. It begins with disordered loves:

- Lovers of themselves
- Lovers of money
- Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God:

The list begins with self-love and ends with pleasure love.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “For men will be lovers of themselves ● Lovers of money, ● Boasters, ● Proud, ● Blasphemers, ● Disobedient to parents, ● Unthankful, ● Unholy, ● Unloving (without natural affection) ● Unforgiving (Trucebreakers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slanderers (False accusers -diaboli) ● Without self-control (incontinent) ● Brutal (fierce – savage) ● Despisers of good, ● Traitors (betrayers) ● Headstrong (Reckless) ● Haughty (blinded by pride) ● Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (Hedonists) |
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The Great Masquerade

“having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:5, NKJV)

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2 Timothy 3:1-13

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Having the **MORPHOSIS** (form) but denying the **DUNAMIS** (power).

The Foes We Oppose

2 Timothy 3:6-9 teaches about the predatory strategy of the false teachers who take captive people who are always seeking something new and exciting, loaded down with guilt, and vulnerable.

The Historical Precedent of Jannes and Jambres

“Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;” (2 Timothy 3:8, NKJV)

- They were Pharaoh’s court magicians. (Exodus 7:11)
- Their Method – they did not debate theology; they counterfeited miracles.
- Their Failure – they hit the wall at the 3rd plague.
- The Promise – God allows deception to go only so far. The counterfeit cannot replicate the life-giving power of the Gospel.

Diagnosis 1: Men of Corrupt Minds

- Definition: kataphtheiro – ruined, depraved, rotted away
- The Cause – misdirected love (v.v.2-4)
- The Result – (v.7) Intellectual promiscuity – constant motion without progress

Diagnosis 2: Disapproved concerning the faith

- Definition – adokimos – reprobate/disapproved
- Metallurgy term – tested and found worthless
- The Verdict – Rejected

The Result

“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, _____ and _____.” (2 Timothy 3:13, NKJV)

- Evil Men and Impostors – Goetes (Sorcerers/Jugglers)
- Deceiving – misleading others
- Being Deceived – believing their own lies

The ultimate judgment on a liar is self-deception.

III. The Faithful Perseverance: (2 Timothy 3:10-12)

In stark contrast to the deceit and moral chaos of the false teachers, Paul presents his own life as a model for Timothy. The antidote to apostasy begins with emulating a godly example. “But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,” (2 Timothy 3:10, NKJV)

- Doctrine – objective truth
- Manner of Life – conduct that matches creed
- Purpose – guiding resolve
- Faith – fidelity and trustworthiness

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- Longsuffering – the ability to endure difficult people without retaliation
- Love – motivating force – contrast with lovers of self, the man of God is driven by the love of God
- Perseverance – the ability to endure difficult circumstances and remain under the load

The Crucible: A Resume of Suffering

“persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.” (2 Timothy 3:11, NKJV)

The Evidence of Authenticity: Paul grounds his defense in geography, specifically Timothy’s home region in Galatia.

- Antioch – Paul was expelled by prominent citizens (Acts 13).
- Iconium – Plot formed to stone Paul, and he fled to Lystra (Acts 14).
- Lystra – Timothy’s hometown. Paul was stoned, dragged out of the city, and left for dead. Timothy was an eyewitness to the cost.

The Deliverance: “...And out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

- The Paradox – Paul was stoned and left for dead – yet he calls it “deliverance.” Biblical rescue is not always escape from danger, but preservation through it.
- The Ultimate Hope – Paul writes from a dungeon facing execution. He knows he will not escape death this time. Deliverance here means safe passage through death to His Heavenly Kingdom.

The Great Axiom – The Universal Law of Godliness “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12, NKJV)

- **The Condition:** “...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus...”
- **The Guarantee:** “will suffer persecution.”

Persecution is not an anomaly; it is a guarantee. The “spirit of the age” (haters of good) inevitably collides with the Spirit of Christ. Friction creates fire. A man does not fully discover the tyranny of this world till he casts off its yoke.

The Legacy of Fidelity – the torch is passed. Paul is about to die. He hands the baton to Timothy, not with a promise of ease, but with a promise of God’s presence in the fire.

- **Final Exhortation** - “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,” (2 Timothy 3:14, NKJV)
- **The antidote** to perilous times is not innovation, but continuity. Hold fast to the Doctrine, the Manner of Life, and the Purpose.

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Bible Teacher
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