

Books of The Bible

A Survey of 2nd Timothy

Introduction

In my early years of spiritual development I was taught that all first epistles are for the present, and second epistles deal with the future. It sounds quite reasonable but it is not correctly dividing the word of truth.

It is the last recorded written message from Paul to Timothy, his dearly beloved son (ch. 1:2) and son in the faith (1 Tim. 1:2). The last words are always so precious especially to the family, and in this case his spiritual which makes the matters mentioned all the more solemn. There are other last words of individuals in the scriptures:

- a) The last words a sinner will hear from God:
 - i) “Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). Words without sympathy or a vestige of hope, dark solemnity and unflinching justice are their characteristic.
- b) The last recorded words of Jacob (Gen. 49:1-33); Joseph (Gen. 50:24-25); Moses (Deut. 33:2-29); and David (2 Sam. 23:2-7).

This was the last inspired epistle the apostle ever wrote.

- a) At the end of Acts Paul was experiencing his first imprisonment. After that he was freed and went on a fourth missionary journey and then was imprisoned again. This is the second time. There will be no more missionary visits and these are his last words to the saints whom he loved, and to Timothy, his own son. He brings before Timothy the wrong objects of love (ch. 3:2, 4; 4:10) but the antidote for all these weaknesses is to love his appearing (ch. 4:8). The word of the Gospel ought to become more precious as life is seen to ebb away. It is seen for all, therefore great emphasis is put on God's word (ch. 1:8, 14; 2:15; 3:14-16; 4:2).
 - i) Hold it (ch. 1:13)
 - ii) Teach it (ch. 2:2)
 - iii) Live it (ch. 3:14)
 - iv) Preach it (ch. 4:2)

The Author

There can be no doubt that Paul was the writer of this letter. He names himself, his place in the government of God (ch. 1:1), the fact he was a prisoner (ch. 1:8), what his work for God had been (ch. 1:11); and his sufferings for the Lord (ch. 3:11).

The life of Paul was filled with turmoil (2 Cor. 11:23-28). For instance:

- a) He had known what it was to be under house arrest (Acts 28:30).
- b) He asks the Philippians to pray for his release (Phil. 1:19, 25–26; 2:24).
 - i) This prayer was answered and he was again desiring to go to Philippi (Phil. 2:24).
- c) He traveled to Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3).
- d) He then traveled to Crete (Titus 1:5) and eventually to Miletum (2 Tim. 4:20).

The Recipient

See notes on the Survey of the first epistle to Timothy.

When Written

From that which we can gather, Paul (or Saul as he was named for many years) was about three years younger than the Lord, being born in approximately 1 B.C. It is estimated that:

- a) On his first missionary journey he was about 46 years of age and had as his companions Barnabas and John Mark (Acts 12:25; 11:30).
- b) On his second missionary journey he was about 50 years of age and had as his companions Silas and later Timothy (Acts 15:40; 17:14-15; 18:5).

Books of The Bible A Survey of 2nd Timothy

- c) On his third missionary journey he was about 54 years of age and his companions were Timothy and Erastus (Acts 19:22; 2 Tim. 4:20).
- d) On his fourth missionary journey he was about 63 years of age. He wrote 1st Timothy and Titus.
- e) He was imprisoned and executed when he was about 68 years of age.
 - i) There were no epistles written on his first missionary journey.
 - ii) He wrote 1st and 2nd Thessalonians on his second missionary journey.
 - iii) He wrote 1st and 2nd Corinthians and Galatians on his third missionary journey. In between times he was in prison.
 - 1. In his first imprisonment he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians.
 - 2. In his second imprisonment he wrote 2nd Timothy.

Aspects of God

Even when all others fail to stand beside me, the Lord is still there. The faithfulness of God.

The Distinctions Between the Epistles

The difference in the epistles to Timothy:

- a) In 1st Timothy a key word is “some,” thus: “some” have turned aside (ch. 1:6); “some” having put away (ch. 1:19); “some” in (ch. 4:1; 5:15; 6:10, 21) (mentioned once in 2nd Timothy of people, 2 Tim. 2:18).
- b) In 2nd Timothy the “some” had become “all,” therefore we read: “All they which are in Asia” (2 Tim. 1:15) and “all men forsook me” (ch. 4:10, 16).
- c) 1st Timothy deals with church matters, whereas 2nd Timothy deals with personal matters.

Man of God

There are, to the best of my knowledge, six men who are called “man of God”. They are:

- a) Moses (Deut. 33:1); David (Neh. 12:36); Shemaiah (2 Chron. 11:2); Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:18); Elisha (2 Kgs. 5:8); and Timothy (1 Tim. 6:11).
- b) There are five others called such but not named. They are: The angel of the Lord (Jud. 13:6, 8) (I put this in although it was the Lord Himself, a Christophany); The man who chastised Eli (1 Sam. 2:27); The man from Judah who cried out against King Jeroboam (1 Kgs. 13:1); The man who told King Ahab that Israel could defeat the Syrians (1 Kgs. 20:28) but possibly Elijah; and the man who told King Ahaziah not to go to war (2 Chron. 25:7, 9).
- c) What makes this interesting is that only one person is twice called “man of God” in the New Testament, and indeed he is the only one so called. Paul is never called such, neither was Peter, James, Luke, or even John, and while they might well have been such, they are not called it. Since Timothy the only one so called, it indicates there are lessons we can learn concerning such a person.
 - i) Characteristics of the man of God (for this, references will be in 1st and 2nd Timothy)
 - 1. He flees the love of money and that which causes discontentment (1 Tim. 6:6, 8).
 - 2. He follows righteousness, godliness, love, patience, and meekness (1 Tim. 6:11, 12).
 - 3. He fights the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12).
 - 4. One who's learning the scriptures seeking to be furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
 - ii) The dangers for the man of God:
 - 1. The reluctance to act due to his personality (ch. 1:6–8).
 - 2. The proclamation of false teaching (ch. 2:17, 18).
 - 3. The evils of the last days (ch. 3:1–9).
 - 4. Persecutions, and the suffering of saints by deceiving men (ch. 3:11-14).
 - 5. The forsaking by fellow workers, loneliness and deprivation (ch. 1:15, 4:10-12).
 - 6. Opposition from evil men (ch. 4:14).

Books of The Bible A Survey of 2nd Timothy

7. The impending loss of a father in the faith (ch. 4:6, 7).
8. Getting caught up in useless discussions (ch. 2:14).

iii) The encouragements for a man of God:

1. Saved and called according to God's own purpose and grace (ch. 1:9).
2. The resurrected Christ (ch. 2:8).
3. Study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth (ch. 2:15), fleeing youthful lusts (ch. 2:22).
4. The all sufficiency of the word of God (ch. 3:14–17).
5. The appearance of Christ (ch. 4:1, 8, 18).
6. The life of others, his mother, his grandmother, and Paul (ch. 1:5, 8).

iv) Figures of the man of God:

1. A soldier (ch. 2:3-4).
2. An athlete (ch. 2:5).
3. A husbandman (ch. 2:6).
4. A workman (ch. 2:15).
5. A vessel unto honor (ch. 2:21).
6. A servant (ch. 2:24).

v) The safeguards for the man of God:

1. The example set by a godly leader (ch. 3:10-14).
2. The background of a godly home (ch. 3:14-15).
3. The Holy scriptures (ch. 3:15-17).

vi) The service of the man of God in the last days:

1. Preach the word (ch. 4:2). He was to herald the word of God, proclaim its Royal message. This is a word used by Mark fourteen times, which is more than any other New Testament book. He is one of a number of great heralds of the scriptures: Noah (2 Pet. 2:5); Jonah (Jon. 3:4); and John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1).
2. He was to preach as we also are to preach because of the apostasy (ch. 4:3-4) and the departure (the loosening of the ropes, a nautical term) of Paul (ch. 4:6).

vii) The reward of the man of God:

1. A crown of righteousness (ch. 4:8). There are five crowns to be given at the Judgment seat:
 - (a) An incorruptible crown for being a faithful participant (1 Cor. 9:25).
 - (b) A crown of rejoicing for the evangelist (1 Thess. 2:19).
 - (c) A crown of glory for the shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).
 - (d) A crown for enduring temptation (Jam. 1:12).
 - (e) A crown for those who finish the course and love His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).

Words found only in 2nd Timothy

Word	Reference	Word	Reference
Chapter One			
Grandmother	ch. 1:5	Sound mind	ch. 1:7
Stir up	ch. 1:6	Partaker of the afflictions	ch. 1:8
Fear	ch. 1:7	Refreshed	ch. 1:16

Books of The Bible
A Survey of 2nd Timothy

Word	Reference	Word	Reference
Chapter Two			
Chosen	ch. 2:4	Eat as a canker	ch. 2:17
Strive for masteries	ch. 2:5	Youthful	ch. 2:22
Strive not about words	ch. 2:14	Unlearned	ch. 2:23
No profit	ch. 2:14	Patient	ch. 2:24
Needeth not to be ashamed	ch. 2:15	Oppose	ch. 2:25
Rightly dividing	ch. 2:15	Recover themselves	ch. 2:26
Chapter Three			
Lovers of their own selves	ch. 3:2	Manifest	ch. 3:9
Incontinent	ch. 3:3	Seducers	ch. 3:13
Despisers of those that are good	ch. 3:3	Assured of	ch. 3:14
Fierce	ch. 3:3	Correction	ch. 3:16
Traitors	ch. 3:4	Reproof	ch. 3:16
Lovers of pleasures	ch 3:4	Inspiration of God	ch. 3:16
Lovers of God	ch. 3:4	Perfect	ch. 3:17
Silly women	ch. 3:6	Itching	ch. 4:3
Chapter Four			
Out of season	ch. 4:2	Cloak	ch. 4:13
Heap to themselves	ch. 4:3	Parchments	ch. 4:13
Departure	ch. 4:6	Copper smith	ch. 4:14

Structure or Thought Flow

The following are structures from various sources and study.

- 1) "Explore the book" by Sidlow Baxter
 - a) The true pastor and present testings (ch. 1:3-2:26)
 - i) Challenge: "stir up" (ch. 1:6); "be not thou therefore ashamed" (ch. 1:8); "Hold fast" (ch. 1:13); "be strong" (ch. 2:1).
 1. Incentive: "remember" ch. 2:8); "Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind" (ch. 1:7); Paul's example (ch. 1:8, 13; 2:2).
 - ii) Challenge: "charge" (ch. 4:1); "study" (ch. 2:15); "Shun" (ch. 2:16); "flee" (ch. 2:22); "Follow" (ch. 2:22); "avoid" (ch. 2:23).

Books of The Bible A Survey of 2nd Timothy

1. Incentive: “foundation standeth sure”(ch. 2:19); “meet for the master’s use” (ch. 2:21).
 - b) The true pastor and age end troubles (ch. 3:1-3:17).
 - i) Challenge: perilous times (ch. 3:1), “continue thou” (ch. 3:14).
 1. Incentive: Paul’s example (ch. 3:10, 11), The holy scriptures (ch. 3:15, 16).
 - ii) Challenge: “preach the word” (ch. 4:2), “reprove, rebuke, exhort” (ch. 4:2), watch (ch. 4:5).
 1. The coming kingdom (ch. 4:1), a crown (ch. 4:8), the Lord shall deliver (ch. 4:18).
- 2) Be faithful:
 - a) Be faithful to God and his people despite humiliation (ch. 1:12; 16-17).
 - b) Be faithful to the Lord and his people despite hardship (ch. 2:3).
 - c) Be faithful to the Lord and His people in the midst of heresy (ch. 3:1-8).
 - d) Be faithful to God and His people right until your home call (ch. 4:6-7).
- 3) The encouragements to Timothy due to his reluctance or fearfulness, and the fact that Paul, his father in the faith, was in prison.
 - a) Why was Paul in prison?
 - i) There were two reasons for his imprisonment.
 1. From the Jewish standpoint he was a propagator of a cult that taught that the man Jesus was God. He had turned his back on Judaism and the Jehovah of the Old Testament; he had accepted that the sacrifice of Jesus was more precious than the blood of the sacrifices of the ancient law; he had spoken against their temple.
 2. From the Roman perspective Paul was the leader of a religious political cult that refused to accept the claims of the ancient deities upon him, refused to acknowledge Caesar as Lord, but in open rebellion preached Jesus is Lord.
 3. With the “leader” now in prison, who would take the reins and who was equipped to lead the saints? It was an intimidating task and responsibility and could cost the individual their freedom or life.
 - ii) How is the fear to be overcome?
 1. By recalling the examples of others who have walked this path (ch. 1:3). They did not waver but served God with a clear conscience.
 2. The awareness that a man of God is praying for the individual continually (ch. 1:3-4).
 3. Remembrance of the faith in my forefathers (ch. 1:5).
 4. Remembrance of the gift given to me (ch. 1:6).
 5. Remembrance of the ability of the Spirit which has been given to me (ch. 1:7).
 - iii) What Timothy needed to recognize:
 1. The truth of the gospel makes affliction inevitable (ch. 1:8-12).
 2. The truth must not be compromised (ch. 1:13-14).
 3. This present age is a moral challenge (ch. 1:15-18).
 4. Endurance is needed if the truth is to be safeguarded (ch. 2:1-2).
 5. This necessitates self discipline (ch. 2:3-7).
 6. Self discipline was seen in the Lord and Paul (ch. 2:8-13).
 - iv) He must stand against error:
 1. Irrespective of the blatant opposition of those who have swerved from the truth (ch. 2:18); “who will never come to the truth (ch. 3:7); who oppose the truth (ch. 3:8); and who will endure sound doctrine (ch. 4:2).
 2. Against this Timothy must guard the truth (ch. 1:14); teach the truth (ch. 2:1-2, 24); continue in the truth (ch. 3:14); and preach the truth (ch. 4:2).

Books of The Bible
A Survey of 2nd Timothy

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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