

New Testament Survey

Class 22: 2 Timothy

Author and Date of Composition:

- Paul, c.64 AD
- This is almost certainly the last of Paul's letters. Paul's expectation of his coming death is a key subtext in this letter. We may contrast Philippians, where Paul expects his imprisonment to end in his release. In 2 Timothy, Paul anticipates no such rescue (e.g., 4:6-7). However, in both circumstances he retains his composure and shows no signs of distress or regret. This is particularly striking in 2 Timothy, where a clear sense of hope pervades the letter, grounded firmly in the person and promises of Christ Jesus (e.g., 4:8).

Recipient:

- Timothy was a native of Lystra. He was a mature Christian even before Paul's second visit to that city, when he joined Paul to assist in mission work. (Acts 16:1-3, c.51 AD).
- Timothy was one of Paul's closest friends and coworkers. He appears to have been with Paul, or in direct contact with him for the rest of Paul's life. Timothy is mentioned in all but three of Paul's letters (Gal, Eph, Titus)!
- Paul's impending death is therefore all the more traumatic for Timothy. The conclusion of their friendship on earth and the sober exhortation for Timothy to continue laboring for the advance of the gospel until his own death give this letter a deep pathos as sorrow and hope mingle throughout.

Class Schedule:

18-Feb-24	2 Timothy
25-Feb-24	Titus

Outline of 2 Timothy¹

I. Opening (1:1–2)

II. Exhortation to Endurance for the Gospel (1:3–2:13)

A. Thanksgiving for Timothy's sincere faith (1:3–5)

B. A call to bold endurance in ministry, part 1 (1:6–14)

C. Examples, positive and negative (1:15–18)

D. A call to bold endurance in ministry, part 2 (2:1–13)

III. Dealing with False Teachers (2:14–3:9)

A. Timothy in contrast to the false teachers (2:14–26)

B. Description of the false teachers (3:1–9)

IV. Exhortation to Timothy in Contrast to False Teachers (3:10–4:8)

A. Call to hold fast to Scripture and Paul's example (3:10–17)

B. The ultimate charge (4:1–8)

V. Conclusion (4:9–22)

¹ This outline is from the *ESV Study Bible*, "Introduction to 2 Timothy."