

A JOURNEY THROUGH 2 TIMOTHY

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

This reading plan walks you through the letter of 2 Timothy that Paul wrote to his ministry partner and protege, Timothy. This plan will take an in-depth look at each chapter of Paul's second letter to Timothy and point to his words' historical, spiritual, and practical significance.

EACH DAY'S READING INCLUDES:

- A scripture reading for that week's corresponding chapter in 2 Timothy and other related scripture references throughout the bible.
- A commentary, devotional, or reflection thought to process the message of the text more intentionally.
- Space for you to write thoughts or questions from that day's corresponding scripture or reflection.

ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

A great companion to this study is the *BibleProject.com*.

You can watch the videos that give an overview of 2 Timothy and how to read New Testament letters:

- 2 Timothy Overview Video from BibleProject - graceintheword.cc/2Timothy
- How to Read New Testament Letters in Historical Context - graceintheword.cc/NTLettersHistorical
- How to Read New Testament Letters in Literary Context - graceintheword.cc/NTLettersLiterary

Check out graceclarksville.com/graceintheword for more resources, and join our Facebook community at facebook.com/groups/graceintheword

Study material in this guide was adapted from The BibleProject, ESV Study Bible, NLT Filament Bible App, 1 & 2 Timothy: He Reads Truth, N.T. Wright 2 Timothy Commentary, 2 Timothy Enduring Word by David Guzzik, The Message of 2 Timothy by John Stott

What is your hope for this study in God's Word?



SCAN HERE FOR
GROUP/EMAIL SIGNUP!

HOW TO READ A NEW TESTAMENT LETTER

2 Timothy is an epistle (letter) written by the apostle Paul to his apprentice Timothy.

EPISTLES



EPISTLES ARE LETTERS THAT USUALLY HAVE A SECTION DEDICATED TO TEACHING TRUTH ABOUT GOD AND A SECTION DEDICATED TO TELLING PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THAT TRUTH. EXAMPLES INCLUDE ROMANS, TITUS, EPHESIANS, GALATIANS, 1 THESSALONIANS, AND 1 PETER.

HOW TO READ A NEW TESTAMENT LETTER (EPISTLE)

Adapted from "Galatians" She/He Reads Truth

Most of the books that make up the New Testament are letters. Some were addressed to churches, while others were written to individuals. Here are some principles to keep in mind when reading these letters:

1. **Reading a letter can be like listening to one side of a conversation.**
 - We must look for context clues to figure out what was going on.
2. **Letters were meant to be read all at once.**
 - This allows the reader to see the author's progression of thought and make connections that might otherwise be missed.
3. **These letters were written to believers learning to live in Christian community.**
 - The authors intended for these to be read out loud to the entire church and often be shared with other churches.

4. **These letters were written to a specific group of believers in history.**
 - Some bits of guidance were written to a specific problem, while others articulate universally true principles.
5. **New Testament letters draw heavily on the Old Testament.**
 - The Old Testament was the Bible of the early church. The better we know the Old Testament, the better equipped we are to understand the New Testament letters.
6. **The New Testament Letters are part of our family history.**
 - Much has changed in the last two thousand years, but the faith that brought hope to Christians in these early churches is the same faith we hold on to today.
7. **Jesus is the point of these letters.**
 - These letters were written in the years right after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. They were written so the readers would grow in their understanding of who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do, so His followers can become more like Him.

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more and not puff me up.
3. God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

** Prayers from The Bible Recap Reading Plan by Tara-Leigh Cobble **

TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, to whom it was written, and what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful, we recommend the NLT Study Bible)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, challenging
- Once you are finished reading, take a few minutes to meditate on what you have read:
 - Narrow down what you've read to just one or two main thoughts.
 - What did I learn about God in these passages?
 - How can I praise God for what this says about him?
 - What did I learn about the human heart in these passages?
 - What behavior/emotions come when I forget these things about God?
 - What is God revealing to me today that I need to listen to?
 - What sins do I need to confess in light of what God revealed today?
 - What next step can I take in light of what I have read today?

WEEKLY CHECKLIST

WEEK ONE: 2 TIMOTHY BACKGROUND AND THEME

- Day 1 - Acts 16:1-5, 1 Timothy 1:18-19, 1 Timothy 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-15
- Day 2 - 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, Philippians 2:19-24, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8, 1 Timothy 1:2-5
- Day 3 - 1 Timothy 1:18-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, 1 Timothy 4:11-16, 1 Timothy 6:11-14, 20-21
- Day 4 - 2 Timothy 1:2-4, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Matthew 28:18-20
- Day 5 - 2 Timothy 1:8-9, 2 Timothy 2:1-3 and 15, 2 Timothy 3:14-15, 2 Timothy 4:2-6
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK TWO: 2 TIMOTHY 1

- Day 1 - 2 Timothy 1:1-4, 1 Samuel 18:1-3, 1 Samuel 20:16-17, 41-42, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:17
- Day 2 - 2 Timothy 1:1-4, Acts 16:1-5, Proverbs 22:6
- Day 3 - 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- Day 4 - 2 Timothy 1:8-12, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
- Day 5 - 2 Timothy 1:12-18, Hebrews 11:1-2, Revelation 2:10
- Day 6 - Recap - 2 Timothy 1
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK THREE: 2 TIMOTHY 2

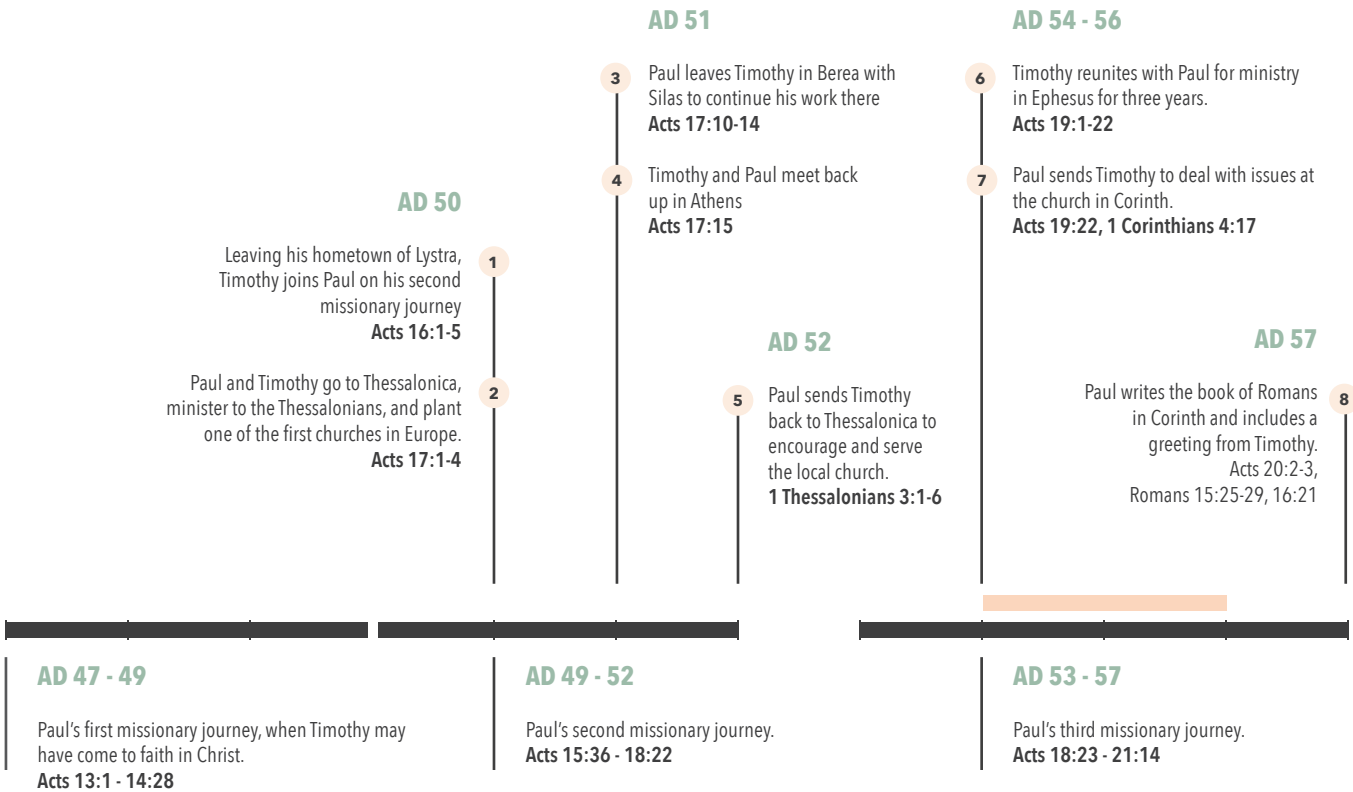
- Day 1 - 2 Timothy 2:1-14, Romans 1:2-7, Romans 5:6-11, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- Day 2 - 2 Timothy 2:1-14, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Day 3 - 2 Timothy 2:1-14, Romans 6:3-11, Galatians 2:19-20, Ephesians 2:1-10
- Day 4 - 2 Timothy 2:15-26, 1 Peter 3:13-18, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 4:29-32
- Day 5 - 2 Timothy 2:15-26, Ephesians 4:17-27, Psalm 119:9-16
- Day 6 - Recap - 2 Timothy 2
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK FOUR: 2 TIMOTHY 3

- Day 1- 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 2 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 15:33, 1 Peter 3:8-18
- Day 2- 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Exodus 7:11 and 22
- Day 3- 2 Timothy 3:10-13, James 2:14-26
- Day 4- 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 4:4
- Day 5- 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 3
- Day 6- Recap - 2 Timothy 3
- Day 7- Rest Day

WEEK FIVE: 2 TIMOTHY 4

- Day 1- 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Isaiah 40:6-8, James 1:19-21
- Day 2- 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Proverbs 3:5-8, James 1:5-8, Ephesians 5:6-20, Matthew 7:15-27
- Day 3- 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Deuteronomy 31:6-8, James 1:12-18
- Day 4- 2 Timothy 4:6-22, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Philippians 3:12-14, Acts 20:24
- Day 5- 2 Timothy 4:14-22, Colossians 3:12-17, Galatians 6:1-10
- Day 6- Recap - 2 Timothy 4
- Day 7- Rest Day





AD 63

10 Paul writes to Timothy the letter that we know as 1 Timothy from Nicopolis
Titus 3:12

AD 67 & 68

11 Paul writes Timothy the letter that we know as 2 Timothy while in prison in Rome.

12 Paul is martyred in Rome.

AD 62

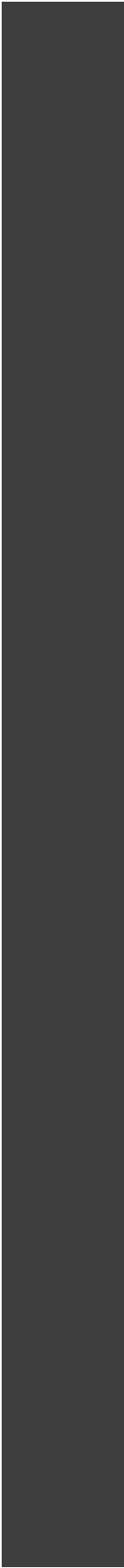
Paul sends Timothy to Ephesus again to pastor the church there.
1 Timothy 1:3



To learn more about Paul and his story, check out Acts 9:1-19



WEEK 1 [REDACTED]
**2 TIMOTHY
BACKGROUND
AND THEME**



For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

DAY 1 - MONDAY ██████████

WHO WAS TIMOTHY?

ACTS 16:1-5, 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19, 1 TIMOTHY 4:11-13, 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

A TRUE SON IN FAITH

The book of 1 Timothy opens with these words from Paul...“ I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith.” This gives us insight into who Timothy was. He was an apprentice and dear friend to Paul during his time establishing the early churches. Timothy served as Paul’s representative to several churches and was later a pastor in Ephesus (when Paul wrote the letters of 1 & 2 Timothy). Paul likely met Timothy and his mother, Eunice, on one of his early missionary journeys. Timothy’s mother and grandmother had raised him in the Jewish tradition knowing of a coming Messiah. We even see Paul reference this heritage in 2 Timothy 1:5, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

Timothy’s mother was Jewish, and his father was Greek. This heritage gave Timothy a unique perspective and perhaps one that Paul knew would be useful in establishing churches. Timothy would have grown up with a deep knowledge of the Jewish scriptures. Even at a young age, he had a deeply rooted faith. It is assumed that his father was not a believer due to his Greek heritage, so Timothy grew up in a household of believers and non-believers. This likely proved helpful as the early church’s mission was to bring together Jews and Gentiles to fellowship together in the body of Christ.

Timothy was young, likely in his late teens/early twenties, when he joined Paul, but he already had a reputation that caught Paul’s attention. Paul knew he could mentor Timothy on staying strong in faith and firm in the gospel. Paul often sent Timothy to churches that were struggling to share the gospel with people who were not interested in hearing it. Timothy is an example for us as Christians today of how to be encouragers of the gospel amid a world that isn’t open to receiving truth.

Timothy’s life reflects that God can use a willing, teachable spirit, no matter your background, age, or insecurities. Timothy was not a mature, wise pillar of faith, but Paul saw something in him, a light that wanted to shine for Jesus and proclaim the truth. With Paul’s guidance and encouragement, we know that Timothy became a man who respected God’s Word, significantly impacted the early churches, and lived out a great legacy of faith.

REFLECTION

What stands out about Timothy from these verses?

What can we learn from young Timothy and his reputation among those older than him?

DAY 2 - TUESDAY ██████████

PAUL & TIMOTHY'S MINISTRY TOGETHER

1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-17, PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24, 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-8, 1 TIMOTHY 1:2-5

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Paul and Timothy were ministry partners. The two traveled to key areas where they preached and spread the gospel. Paul could not have done the impactful work for Christ that he did without the help, love, and support that Timothy offered. In return, Timothy's faith was strengthened, his ministry skills sharpened, and his heart for God's people deepened. Timothy was a young disciple serving in Lystra, an ancient city in modern-day Turkey. When Paul visited the cities of Derbe and Lystra, Timothy's reputation as a disciple of Christ drew Paul's attention. The two met, struck up a friendship, and Timothy followed him to do ministry work together.

The two of them would go on to work together for about twenty years. They would plant one of the first churches in Europe (in Thessalonica), minister and strengthen churches, and direct communities back to righteous worship and practice of faith. They would mourn their time away from one another and lament their persecutions together. Specifically, Timothy would help send and deliver the majority of Paul's epistles in the New Testament (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon).

The deep relationship that Paul and Timothy had for one another was the most beautiful part of their ministry together. Paul mentored Timothy and helped him grow up in the faith. In turn, Paul found in Timothy the son he never had (ex., He described Timothy as a son in 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 1:2). In 1 and 2 Timothy, we see affection in Paul's letters to his brother, co-worker, and son Timothy as well as, mentorship, and discipleship that we can all learn from Paul's final letter was to Timothy, and in it, we as Christians can learn much about how to keep faithfully serving and giving our lives away for the gospel.

REFLECTION

Why is a discipleship relationship so important to the Christian life?

Who is someone you view the way Paul views Timothy? Who is someone who has mentored or discipled you?

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY ██████████

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

1 TIMOTHY 1:18-20, 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6, 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16,
1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16, 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-14, 20-21

STICK TO THE TRUTH

Paul wrote the letter of 1 Timothy to Timothy after discovering false teachers in their midst in Ephesus. This letter is meant to help Timothy know how to handle leadership within the church and how to counter the false teachers by sticking to the truth of God's Word. Written towards the end of Paul's life, we sense the urgency in guarding the truth of scripture, clinging to sound doctrine and preserving it, teaching people to study the Scriptures and let the scripture form and shape them. Ephesus was the ancient center of pagan worship; because of this, Timothy encountered the struggles of the culture's influence on the church.

Timothy's youth no doubt served him well, allowing for the energy and vigor he needed to serve his people. However, it also caused inevitable difficulties with older Christians who may not have taken quickly to the leadership of such a young man because of his lack of knowledge and experience in leadership. It was important to Paul that Timothy set an example of consistent faith and a good conscience, remaining above reproach and exercising the spiritual gifts that God had given him.

- Chuck Swindoll

The message Paul gives Timothy in the book of 1 Timothy still rings true for us as believers in our culture today.

- Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. (1:19)
- Pray for all people. Ask God to help them, intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. (2:1)
- Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. (4:11)
- Stay true to what is right for the sake of your salvation and the salvation of those who hear you. (4:16)
- Pursue righteousness, a godly life, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for the true faith. (6:11-12)

The overarching theme of 1 Timothy is that true faith based on scripture, unlike false teaching, will bear fruit and lead to visible life change in the believer.

REFLECTION

In what areas do you see culture influencing our churches today?

How could an emphasis in our lives on the truth of God's Word and living in light of this truth form us?

DAY 4 - THURSDAY ████████████████████

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY 1:2-4, 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2, MATTHEW 28:18-20

A LOVE LETTER

Paul's second letter to Timothy is a powerful one. It is far more personal than his first letter to him or arguably to any of the other churches he wrote to. It helps to remember that Paul is writing this letter from prison. This letter will be Paul's final letter to Timothy or anyone. In it, Paul writes his final words, words of encouragement, love, and instruction.

Paul gives instructions for Timothy's personal life and his integrity in ministry. Specifically, Paul points to how we can remain faithful servants of Christ in our lives and inadvertently how to give up our lives for Christ. This letter is a letter of love, not only to his partner in ministry, Timothy, but most importantly to his Savior, who he has given his entire life to following and introducing to the world at large. Paul uses his final words to be an encouragement and a directive for the work he dedicated his life to and for this work to continue after his earthly life has ended.

Final words are important. Jesus used His last words to call His disciples to continue to spread the gospel, and Paul is using his final words to encourage his son in ministry, Timothy, to do the same. The words we leave behind, the way we live, focus, and direct our lives will either point others to walk in fellowship with Christ or to turn away from Him. May we use as much love and intentionality as Paul did with Timothy in our lives with those around us.

REFLECTION

Why do you think our final words are important?

How do Paul's final words to Timothy sum up their relationship and Paul's earthly ministry?

DAY 5 - FRIDAY ████████████████████

OVERALL THEME OF 2 TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9, 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-3 AND 15, 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15, 2 TIMOTHY 4:2-6

The overarching tone of Paul's letter of 2 Timothy is that of an older pastor passing the torch to the younger pastor to keep serving faithfully once he is gone. Our study of 2 Timothy will push us to think about how we face those who challenge our faith. We live in a culture much like Timothy, where not everyone is open to hearing the truth, and we are faced daily with moments that test whether we will bend to the culture or faithfully stand on the truth. Paul lived his life "poured out as an offering to God" and encouraged Timothy to do the same. This book encourages all believers to give their lives away in service to the Lord.

REFLECTION

Spend some time with the Lord today. Ask him to show you an area where you need to stand on truth faithfully. Ask him to show you where you can pour out your life as an offering.

