

## 2 TIMOTHY: INTRODUCTION

### I. PLACE AND DATE FOR WRITING PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

- A. Paul is in Rome as a prisoner for what appears to be a second time (1:17, 4:17).
1. During the earlier imprisonment, Demas had been with him. **NOW**, Demas had deserted Paul (*Philemon v. 24; Col. 4:14; 4:10*).
  2. Mark was in Asia where Paul recommended him in the first imprisonment Epistles (4:11; *Col. 4:10*).
  3. The circumstance and Paul's attitude seem different. In the earlier letters, Paul is anticipating acquittal and release. **NOW**, he sees only death (*Phil. 1:24, 2:24; Philemon v. 22; 4:6*).
  4. The first imprisonment saw Paul accused by the Jews for heresy and sedition. **NOW**, the apostle is treated as a malefactor or criminal (2:9).
    - a. The events transpiring over the fire in Rome that destroyed three of the fourteen wards and severely damaged seven others in July of A.D. 64 could possibly account for this charge. Historians say that Nero blamed the Christians for such criminal action. Paul, being a leader in preaching the gospel of Christ could have been captured and brought to Rome to face such charges with the group.
- B. Following the writing of I Timothy and Titus, Paul probably wrote 2 Timothy from prison in Rome in A.D. 67-68 shortly before his execution before Nero.

### II. THEME AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

- A. Theme: A farewell message of exhortation to a young evangelist.
- B. Purpose:
1. To further ground Timothy and prepare him for false teachers and ungodly times.
  2. Out of loneliness, Paul wanted to see his child in the faith for the last time on earth.
  3. Paul needed his cloak, books, and parchments which he had left at Troas.

### III. FEATURES OF THE BOOK

- A. 2 Timothy is the last letter we have written by Paul. In it we see a picture of a faithful man as he faces death.
1. Living out the spirit of Christ (4:16)
  2. Living with a clean conscience (1:3, 4:6-8).
  3. Living with interest for the future state of Christians on earth (3:1, 4:1-5).
  4. Living with the comfort of the Lord's grace (4:17)
  5. Living with confidence in the Lord's power to deliver (2:12, 4:18).

- B. Indicators of places Paul had visited following his first imprisonment:
  - 1. Corinth – left Erastus there (4:20)
  - 2. Miletus- Trophimus left there sick (4:20).
  - 3. Troas – left his cloak there (4:13).
  
- C. The mind of the useful evangelist in God’s service.
  - 1. Be strong as:
    - a. a soldier (2:3-4)
    - b. an athlete (2:5)
    - c. a farmer (2:6-13)
    - d. a workman (2:14-19)
    - e. an honored vessel (2:20-23)
    - f. a bondservant (2:24-26)
  - 2. Source of strength: sound doctrine. The appeal of Paul is for Timothy to ground himself in the sound doctrine that he had learned from Paul and ground others there also. “The best defense is a solid offense” (1:13, 2:2, 3:10, 15-17, 4:2)

**IV. OUTLINE:**

- I. SALUTATION AND THANKSGIVING (v. 1-5)**
  
- II. EXHORTATIONS TO ZEALOUS, UNASHAMED SERVICE IN THE GOSPEL (1:6-2:26).**
  - A. Stir up the miraculous gift (1:6-7)
  - B. Be not ashamed (1:8-18)
  - C. Be strong and patient in suffering (2:1-26)
  
- III. WARNINGS OF APPROACHING PROBLEMS (3:1-4:8)**
  - A. Characteristics of the coming perilous times (3:1-9)
  - B. The minister’s equipment to withstand such times (3:10-4:8).
  
- IV. PERSONAL REMARKS AND REQUESTS (4:9-22).**