



REV. D. THOMAS PORTER, PH.D.

3422 Fallview Court ♦ Land O' Lakes, FL 34639
http://PorterHouse.info ♦ DrTom@PorterHouse.info
813.962.5758^{Office} 813.728.5713^{Cell}
Saturday, July 13, 2019

LESSON NOTES (EXPLORE THE BIBLE)

2 TIMOTHY

Teaching and Study Preparation

OVERVIEW

Preparation for Studying Paul's Letters to Timothy

Handwritten signature of D. Thomas Porter in blue ink.

What we call 2 Timothy may be the last written words of Paul. As such, his advice toward the end of his life may have also unique meaning for us as we too approach the end—of a career, an era, a relationship, or even a life. As we listen to Paul coach Timothy with his difficult work in Ephesus, let us listen to Holy Spirit's guidance for us. Our work is difficult.

BACKGROUND

We believe Paul was released from Rome around 62-63AD, after his fourth missionary journey. It was during this journey that Paul wrote to Titus and the letter we call 1st Timothy. Paul was then again imprisoned and during this incarceration Nero was emperor and 2nd Timothy was written (66-67AD). In his previous imprisonment, he was under house arrest (Acts 28:30); this time he was in a dungeon, cold (4:13), chained (1:16; 2:9). His friends had trouble finding him (1:17), and he knew his life was nearly finished (4:6-8).

We can hypothesize Paul wrote 2 Timothy for three reasons—

1. He was lonely. Phygelus and Hermogenes (1:15), and Demas (4:10) had deserted him. Crescens, Titus and Tychicus were away (4:10-12), and only Luke was with him (4:11). Paul wanted very much for Timothy to join him also. Timothy was his "fellow worker" (Romans 16:21), who "as a son with his father" had served closely with Paul (Philippians 2:22; see also 1 Corinthians 4:17). Of him Paul could say, "I have no one else like him" (Philippians 2:20). Paul missed Timothy (1:4) and twice asked him to come soon (4:9,21).
2. Paul was concerned about the welfare of the church during this time of persecution under Nero, and he admonishes Timothy to guard the gospel (1:14), to persevere in the gospel (3:14), to keep on preaching the gospel (4:2) and, if necessary, to suffer for the gospel (1:8; 2:3).
3. He wanted to write to the Ephesian church through Timothy (see 4:22).

THE GOSPEL LIGHT REVEALS (2 TIMOTHY 1)

2 Timothy 1:1-10. We've Been Called. I am Paul, an ambassador of Christ Jesus as a function of God's purpose, and act as an apostle according to the promise of life found in Christ Jesus. I am writing to my dear son, Timothy, with the gift of mercy and reconciliation from God the Father and Jesus the Christ, our Lord.

I serve God as did my forefathers with a clear conscience; I thank God 24-7 and remember you in my prayers. I recall your tears of our goodbyes; I long to see you so I can be filled with joy. I think of your faith, so sincere, a faith first shown in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. I am persuaded that that sincerity of trust still lives in you. It is for this reason I remind you to fan the flames from the gift of God given to you through the laying on my hands. Remember—God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of audacious power, deep love, and consistent self-discipline.

So? Don't be ashamed to speak openly, publicly about our Lord, or my prisoner status. Join me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. It is God who has saved us, called us to a holy [ἀγία; set aside

by and for God's purpose; i.e., at its core "different"], not because of what we've done, but because of His purpose and gift. This gift was extended to us εν Christ Jesus before time began. Now, this gift has been revealed through the appearance of Christ as Jesus of Nazareth. The very One who destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Q Why was Paul an apostle of the Lord our God? According to what warrant?

Q About what did Paul remember Timothy very fondly? To whom does he give credit for Timothy's "sincere faith" (free from hypocrisy according to the Greek)?

Q What can cause a faith to become hypocritical?

Q About what is there to be ashamed about being a publically open witness about the Lord?

Q What has the gospel light revealed? How old is this gift?

Q Why are we called to be set aside, to live a "holy life?" [Purpose and gift, gift and purpose]

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I have been 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. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

⁸So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:11-18. Keep the Faith. I have been appointed a herald for this good news, and an apostle and a teacher. So? Well, that's why I am suffering. But, I'm not ashamed because I know in whom I have believed; and, I am convinced He is able to deliver me for that day of accountability. [see also Job 19:27-27]

As to what you have learned from me, keep to the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard that deposit which was made in you—guard it with the help of Holy Spirit who lives within us.

This is a tough time—you know about all the folks who've deserted me. May the Lord show mercy to Onesiphorus's home because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. In fact, when I was in Rome, he looked for me and looked for me until he found me. May the Lord grant him mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

- Q Why are we ashamed of those who are incarcerated, or have been?
- Q About what does Holy Spirit have the most trouble guarding our spiritual deposit? Why does He have particular trouble guarding our spiritual deposit?
- Q How far did Onesiphorus travel to find Paul? [1240 miles; at 20 miles per day, it took 2 months]
- Q Why did Paul brag about Onesiphorus [Greek for "bringing an advantage"]?

2 TIMOTHY 1:11-18

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹²That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

¹³What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

¹⁵You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.