

## 2 Timothy: The Good Fight *Finishing Well in Christ*

### Lesson 39—2 Timothy 1:13-18

*Continuing from our last study...*

#### Prayer

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times. The depth of theology is so great that I would strongly advise using the New Living Translation for one of your Scripture readings.

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Though this week's study is on 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:13-18, begin your reading from chapter 1:8 through v.18 to grasp the overall content of what Paul is writing.*

#### Scripture Meditation/Memorization

One of the most fundamental and rewarding Christian disciplines that pays back in full spiritual dividends is Bible meditation/memorization. It is an absolutely fundamental in the formation of your spiritual development, spiritual walk and faith growth. In Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT), the Psalmist warrior, King David said,

*“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.  
But they delight in the law of the Lord,  
meditating on it day and night.”*

### **Memory Verse**

*"[13] Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. [14] That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us."*—**2 Timothy 1:13-14 (NKJV)**

### **Study Format**

We have all had weeks in which the time available for preparation of our Bible study evaporates under an unexpected event or a pressing project at work. To enable everyone to complete the study, even when time is at a premium, questions are being divided into two categories: essential and expanded. The Essential Questions are those necessary to understand key points of the passage. The Expanded Questions or growth questions help expand knowledge and gain deeper insight into the Scripture.

If you are concerned about having enough time to complete the whole study, it is suggested that you start by first answering the Essential Questions for each day and answer the Expanded Questions as time permits.

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### **2 Timothy 1:13-18—Be Loyal to the Faith**

In this final section of our passage of study for the week, we will find the key to faithful service and examples of those who did and didn't remain loyal to Paul in ministry. It is likely that all the individuals mentioned were familiar to Timothy and likely came from Ephesus. Onesiphorus, whose name means "useful," is mentioned again in 2 Timothy 4:19. Orthodox tradition identifies him as one of the 70 sent out by Jesus (Luke 10:1–21) and later became the bishop of the church in Corinth.

### **Essential Questions:**

1. This section starts with a strong admonition in verse 13. In today's church this has become a problem as in an effort to be inclusive, many churches sacrifice essential doctrines, called by some "sloppy agape." The Hebrews writer issues a similar warning in his letter. The Greek used by the Hebrews writer gives us great insight. Using words taken from sailors, the phrase "*give more earnest heed*" (Hebrews 2:1a, NKJV) means to lay or set anchor and the phrase "*lest we drift away*" (Hebrews 2:1b, NKJV) referred to an unmoored ship which was carried off by the tide to its eventual destruction on rocks. What do we learn from the following verses?

a. 2 Timothy 1:13

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b. Hebrews 2:1

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c. Both of these verses are imperatives or calls to action. What action(s) should we as believers take to comply with Paul's advice?

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2. It has often been said that the Holy Spirit is the forgotten member of the triune Godhead for most believers. What can we learn of the role and importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers from the following verses:

a. 1 Timothy 1:14

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b. John 14:16, 17, 26

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c. John 16:14

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d. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

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e. Romans 5:3-5

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3. \*What is the “*pattern of sound teaching*” Paul encourages Timothy to pursue?<sup>1</sup>

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a. **Reread 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12-14.** The word “committed” means *deposit*. \*How does one go about guarding the “good deposit” (2 Timothy 1:13-14)?

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4. \*How would you express the “pattern” or outline of the gospel in three short sentences?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Question taken from *The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*, published by David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Question taken from *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary—1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, Tenn., 2013

5. It has been said that we are known by the company we keep. In fairness, being known as a Christian in Rome during Nero’s persecution was potentially a capital offense.

a. Whom does Paul condemn and for what reason(s)?

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b. What do we learn about choosing our friends wisely in 1 Corinthians 15:33?

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**Expanded Question:**

6. \*Do you have a friend you would call spiritually “refreshing”?<sup>3</sup>

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a. \*Do you know someone who needs a refreshing friend?

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**Lesson 39 Summary/Take Away**

If one of your friends at work or a neighbor were to ask you what you did on Tuesday, you would tell them you went to a Bible study. The next question would likely be, “What did you learn?” We often summarize an entire athletic contest or a movie in a few brief sentences and easily convey the essence of the event. Now

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<sup>3</sup> Question taken from *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary—1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, Tenn., 2013

apply these same skills to give a summary of the passage in a sentence or two. Then, in an additional sentence or two, describe what impact this passage will have on how you live.

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**Memory Verse**

*“[13] Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. [14] That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.”—2 Timothy 1:13-14 (NKJV)*

**Key Words/Phrases**

Write out the definition of these key words. You can use a regular dictionary or go to one of the Greek sources listed in the Tool Box at the end of the study. You may also use a concordance to see where else and how the word is used in the Bible.

The Holy Spirit Who Dwells in Us (2 Timothy 1:14)

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**Background Information for 2 Timothy**

One commentator entitled 2 Timothy as Paul’s famous last words while others have called it his last will and testimony, his swan song, or his marching orders for a young apprentice. Second Timothy is one of three Pastoral Epistles, the others being 1Timothy and Titus. They are called Pastoral Epistles because they were letters written by Paul to two young pastors. The Pastoral Epistles have been considered to be authentic and part of the canon of Scripture since the second century. However, in the words of John MacArthur, “Many modernist critics delight

in attacking the plain statements of Scripture and for no good reason, deny that Paul wrote the Pastoral Epistles, ignoring the testimony of the letters themselves and that of the early church.” The critic’s denial is based upon the fact that one third of the words in these epistles, in the original language, are unique and not used elsewhere in Paul’s writings. Most evangelicals counter that it is not unreasonable to use different words when addressing a close personal friend as opposed to a serious theological discussion addressed to an entire gathering of often unknown church members.

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, his true son in the faith, believing that death was imminent. The letter though very personal, has few commendations but has 25 imperatives or instructions for Timothy to help better equip him as the mantle of leadership passes to him from Paul.

A brief look at the timeline of the last decade of Paul’s life is helpful to understanding these epistles.

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| <b>AD 58</b>          | Paul arrested in Jerusalem  |
| <b>AD 60–61</b>       | Paul arrives in Rome  |
| <b>AD 61–63</b>       | Paul imprisoned in private home and writes Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.  |
| <b>Early AD 64–67</b> | Paul released from first imprisonment and goes on fourth missionary journey.<br>It was during this time Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus while in Macedonia.                                |
| <b>Mid–AD 64</b>      | Most of Rome burns to the ground. Most blame Nero for the fire citing his desire for “urban renewal.” Nero uses Christians as a scapegoat for fire and widespread persecution breaks out. |
| <b>AD 67</b>          | Paul arrested for a second time.  |
| <b>AD 68</b>          | Paul martyred in Rome.  |

The following chart, adapted from MacArthur's Study Bible, gives a simple comparison of Paul's two imprisonments.

<b>First Imprisonment</b>	<b>Second Imprisonment</b>
AD 61–63	AD 67–68
Acts 2–Wrote the Prison Epistles	Wrote 2 Timothy
Lived in rented house chained to guard	Chained in dungeon of Mamertine Prison
Many visited Paul	Virtually alone (only Luke with him)
Many opportunities to witness (even to captors)	Very limited opportunities for ministry
Accused by Jews of heresy and sedition	Persecuted by Rome as a criminal against empire
Suffered as part of local sporadic persecution	Persecution of all Christians by Nero
Optimistic about his release (Philippians 1:24–26)	Anticipated his execution (2 Timothy 4:6)

## **Tool Box**

**Step 1: The Bible.** Read the passage in a couple of different versions. If you are having trouble understanding a passage, choose a more dynamic version such as *New Living Translation*. To focus in on the exact meaning of a verse, choose a more literal translation such as *New King James Version*, *New American Standard Bible* or *English Standard Version*. *The Amplified Bible* is another excellent version.

**Step 2: Study Tools.** Use these to help you dig deeper. Background Information: 1) Unger's Bible Dictionary, 2) Bible Dictionaries online at biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.com. (recommend both David Guzik and Chuck Smith's commentaries/study notes); Word Studies: 1) Zodhiates' *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, 2) Vine's *Complete Expository Dictionary*, and 3) Strong's *Dictionary of Bible Words*.

**Step 3: Commentaries.** Commentaries should not be used in place of studying God's Word directly, but they can give you additional insights. Some good commentaries include: Warren Wiersbe, J. Vernon McGee, F.F. Bruce, *the Expositors Bible Commentary*, *NIV Application Commentary*, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (edited by Walvoord & Zuck), *the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, and William Barclay (\*great for background and culture, but be careful of his spiritual applications).

**Step 4: Online Assistance.** Should you have a specific question about the study please e-mail your inquiry to: [mannyqwcm@gmail.com](mailto:mannyqwcm@gmail.com)

