

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

### Lesson 47—2 Timothy 4:9-22

*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 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**

*“The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you Amen”—2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy  
4:22 (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 4:9-16—*Tale of Two Disciples*

We are introduced to a series of individuals in this passage, but three are of special interest to us. One started well and finished poorly while another flipped that progression and started poorly but finished well. The third individual is an unsung hero to whom we are indebted for his writing of two of the books of the Bible (Luke and Acts).

### Essential Questions:

1. Demas is mentioned in three passages. What can we infer about him from Philemon 1:24, Colossians 4:14, and 2 Timothy 4:10 (given in the chronological order they were written)?

a. Philemon 1:24

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b. Colossians 4:14

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c. 2 Timothy 4:10

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2. Mark, or John Mark, as he was also known, was a disciple of Peter and the author of the gospel bearing his name. He was dependent upon Peter for most of the information for the gospel but was an eyewitness for some events (see Mark 14:51–52). It is also believed that his mother’s house was the site of the Last Supper and the principal meeting place for the early Jerusalem church. While he started poorly, he finished well. What do we learn about him from the following?

a. Colossians 4:10

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b. Acts 13:4, 13 (remember Mark is also called John Mark, or sometimes just John)

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c. Acts 15:36–40

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d. Philemon 1:24

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e. 2 Timothy 4:11

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3. Luke is mentioned only three times by name in the entire Bible but was the author of two of our New Testament books. He was an eyewitness to many of the events in Acts (watch for the pronoun *we* as evidence of his presence). He was a secondary source for his gospel. What do we learn about him and his writings from:

a. Colossians 4:14

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b. Luke 1:1–4

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**Expanded Question:**

4. It has been said that when God’s people rise and build, Satan’s followers rise in opposition. One such individual is Alexander, who was an ongoing problem in Paul’s ministry. What do we learn from:

a. 1 Timothy 1:20

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b. 2 Timothy 4:14–15

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5. \*What role do fellow Christians play in your spiritual journey?<sup>1</sup>

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a. Do you grow more on your own or with a friend?

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## **2 Timothy 4:17-22—*The Lord is Faithful***

When all had seemingly deserted him, Paul knew that the Lord had not and was still present and strengthening him through his trial. It is interesting that his words about those deserting him (“may it not be charged against them” in verse 16) were very similar to Stephen’s plea for his persecutors (“Lord, do not charge them with this sin” in Acts 7:60).

### **Essential Questions:**

1. What assurance did Paul have in the midst of the trial (literally) he was going through according to verse 17–18?

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2. As Paul stood on the edge of eternity, what mission did he still feel compelled to complete (verse 17)?

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3. What assurances do we have when undergoing persecution according to the following:

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

a. Hebrews 13:5–6

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b. Matthew 10:18–19

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**Expanded Question:**

4. While we aren't all called to be a large-scale evangelist or author such as Paul, we can still be faithful in whatever ministry to which God calls us. Two examples of behind-the-scenes saints are Priscilla and Aquila. What do we learn of their ministry from:

a. Acts 18:2

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b. Acts 18:26

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c. 1 Corinthians 16:19

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5. \*How can Paul’s example at the end of his life encourage you when your faith is tested or your friends abandon you?<sup>2</sup>

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6. \*What is the most important truth you learned from the book of 2 Timothy? Why?<sup>3</sup>

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***Lesson 47 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 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***

*“The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you Amen”—2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:22 (NKJV)*

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<sup>2</sup> Stott, J., & Johnson, L. (1998). *2 Timothy: Standing Firm in Truth* (p. 53). Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press; IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

## 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.

Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

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## 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: [mannygwcm@gmail.com](mailto:mannygwcm@gmail.com)

