

2 TIMOTHY

Introduction

Author. The author of the work is clearly Paul. It is his final work of the New Testament.

Date. Assuming that his demise was near under the reign of Nero, a date of 66 or 67 A. D. is most likely.

Occasion. Paul had been rearrested and imprisoned in Rome. Because of the degeneration of the legal system in Rome due to Nero's madness Paul knew that this imprisonment would eventually culminate in his martyrdom. Paul was aware that the prospect of the death of Timothy's spiritual father would be devastating to the young man. Thus Paul writes to encourage and exhort Timothy in light of that prospect. Paul also writes to summon Timothy to see him one more time before his demise.

Several factors distinguish Paul's imprisonment here from his first incarceration at Rome. Unlike Paul's first imprisonment where he was allowed much freedom in his own hired house (Acts 28:30) during this jailing he was treated as a dangerous criminal (2:9). Although previously people could come and go freely (Acts 28:30, 31), now Onesiphorus had to look long and hard for Paul and finally came to him only at great personal risk (1:16-17). Although during his first imprisonment in Rome he had the company of many co-workers (Acts 28:17-31) at this point he felt virtually alone (1:15). While before he anticipated release (Philippians 1:25, 26; Philemon 22), at this point he anticipated certain execution (4:6-8).

Message Statement. *The ministering of the Word of God in the midst of persecution is the responsibility of the man of God.*

Argument

- 1A INTRODUCTION 1:1-2
Paul identifies himself as an apostle in his introduction to Timothy. Certainly there was not a more loving and loyal relationship between two workers in the New Testament than these, so that the apostolic title was unnecessary unless Paul was emphasizing the title for the benefit of Timothy. As apostles were specially chosen by God to preach and explain the good news so also Paul was now encouraging Timothy to maintain the same burden in his ministry as he carries on in the place, and absence, of Paul.
- 1B PAUL'S EFFORTS TO CONFIRM TIMOTHY IN HIS GOD-ORDAINED ROLE 1:3-18
Paul first of all encourages Timothy to be faithful to the ministry to which God has called him. Rather than rebuking his son, Paul gently encourages and reminds Timothy of the gifts and background with which God has blessed and entrusted him.
- 1B By Encouraging Timothy 1:3-5
Paul's words of praise must have encouraged him. Remembering his heritage of faith passed down from his grandmother and mother must have inspired the young apostolic delegate as well.

- 2B By Exhorting Timothy 1:6-14
Paul's exhortation of Timothy in this section is threefold. He encourages him to boldly exercise his spiritual gift, 1:6-7; to testify about the Lord, 1:8-12; and to maintain the purity of the gospel, 1:13-14.
- 3B By Providing a Model for Timothy 1:15-18
Paul's last means of encouraging his son in the faith was by providing a positive role model in the man Onesiphorus. When others had deserted Paul, this man remained true and thus serves as a motivating example for Timothy to remain true to his task in the midst of apostasy.
- 1C PAUL'S EXHORTATIONS FOR TIMOTHY TO MAINTAIN THE WORK AND WORD OF GOD 2:1-26
After exhorting Timothy about his personal commitment to ministry Paul moves on to specific concerns of the ministry. He first issues a call for endurance in the midst of hardship and then warns Timothy about certain kinds of false teaching.
- 1B A Call for Endurance 2:1-13
Paul calls for Timothy to endure hardship as he carries out his commission of training faithful men who will likewise replicate the message in others. Paul includes several pictures from daily life to illustrate the concepts of hard work, diligence and singleness of purpose. Paul himself is a role model of this kind of endurance in the ministry. Paul's final encouragement to ministry is the reward held out to the faithful in eternity (2:12).
- 2B A Warning About Foolish Controversies 2:14-26
The foolish controversies cited here are evidently some early form of Gnosticism. Two particular leaders of the heresy, Hymenaeus and Philetus denied the bodily resurrection and probably affirmed that the resurrection was only spiritual (according to Gnostic teaching). Paul's warnings were to avoid such men and to gently instruct those who opposed him in the hope that God would grant them repentance.
- 1D PAUL'S WARNINGS ABOUT THE LAST DAYS 3:1-17
The last days are those days of the Messianic era, the time beginning with Christ's first coming rather than only the time just before the second coming of Christ. Paul's warning is that godlessness would increase.
- 1B A Description of the Times 3:1-9
Paul recommends separation from wicked men who have only a form of godliness. These men are compared with Jannes and Jambres, who, according to Jewish tradition, opposed Moses as Pharaoh's court magicians. Evidently these were men of some Satanic power.
- 2B The Means of Combatting the Times 3:10-17
Paul's advice for combatting these times was simple: expect persecution and continue in the ministry of the word of God. This passage which celebrates the power of the word of God naturally flows into Paul's charge to Timothy to preach the word (4:1-5).
- 1E PAUL'S DEPARTING REMARKS IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS DEATH 4:1-8
As a father would exhort a son to carry on in his absence, Paul now charges Timothy to preach the word. Previously he simply encouraged Timothy to exercise his gift, but now in light of the urgency of the end times, he is commissioned to continue.
- 1B His Charge to Timothy 4:1-5
While it is true that men will resist the clear preaching of the word in preference of myths, Timothy is encouraged to keep his head in all situations. Paul summarizes his charge of Timothy in 4:5, *But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*
- 2B The Perspective of His Coming Death 4:6-8
Because the coming death of his "father" in the faith would no doubt be a very discouraging prospect for Timothy, Paul puts the harsh reality into the divine perspective. The timing of his death is at hand, though, in reality, he calls it his *departure*. His earthly work is such that he can look forward expectantly to heavenly reward.
- 1F PAUL'S FINAL REQUESTS AND GREETINGS 4:9-22
Paul's final requests demonstrate a desire for companionship (he twice requests Timothy to come, 4:9, 21) and for the scriptures (4:13). Paul's description of this experience with the Roman legal system clearly distinguishes it from his first imprisonment (4:16-18). Paul anticipates physical death, but spiritual safety (4:18).

