

2 Timothy 1

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Begin your Bible study with prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your study.

Background information: Paul's second letter to Timothy was written while he was held in a Roman prison apparently rearrested as part of Nero's persecution of Christians. Unlike Paul's confident hope of release during his first imprisonment, this time he had no such hopes. In his first imprisonment in Rome (ca. A.D. 60–62), before Nero had begun the persecution of Christians, he was only under house arrest and had opportunity for much interaction with people and ministry. At this time, 5 or 6 years later (ca. A.D. 66–67), however, he was in a cold cell, in chains, and with no hope of deliverance. According to tradition, Paul was not released from this second Roman imprisonment, but suffered the martyrdom he had foreseen. Paul wrote this letter to prepare Timothy to stand strong without his frequent guidance. Paul was deeply troubled by false teaching and apostasy which endangered the church at Ephesus. As he had before, Paul urged Timothy to continue to teach sound doctrine, promote good works, and accept one's share of suffering for the sake of the gospel. (adapted from John MacArthur)

Read 2 Timothy 1

1. Underline or make a note of the words or phrases in 1:1-7 that describe Paul's relationship with Timothy. Based on this, describe their relationship in your own words.

2. In verse 6, Paul urges Timothy to "kindle afresh the gift of God". This literally means "keep the fire alive". Read 1 Cor 12: 4-7. To whom does God give gifts? What is the purpose of God's gifts?

3. Using what you learned in 1 Timothy and in your study of 2 Timothy 1 so far, why do you think Paul reminds Timothy that we don't have a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (v. 7)?

4. What things does Paul command Timothy to do in verses 8-12?

5. For what purpose are Christians “saved and called” (v. 9)? (See Romans 8:28-30; Eph 2:1-10)

6. According to verses 9-11, what does Paul say your calling is *not* dependent upon? Upon what is it based? Read Ephesians 1:4, what do you learn about the nature of your calling?

7. Why does Paul strongly urge Timothy to “retain the standard of sound words” and “guard...the treasure” with which he was entrusted. (v. 13,14)? Why might Timothy have been afraid or reluctant to do so?

8. In verses 15–18, Paul contrasts a few of his relationships. List each of the people he mentions and write down what you learn about each of them. What does this teach you about the importance of friendships in our Christian walk?

Application: After praying for conviction and insight, choose one truth you have learned that you will seek to apply this week. Create a plan to apply this principle to your life this week.

End your study by thanking the Lord for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the truths you have learned.

For further study: Paul mentions mercy a few times in this chapter. Using the resources you have available (dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordance, etc) do a word study on mercy. Write down what you learn.