

2 Timothy

Introduction, Background, and Argument

1. Title and Destination

1.1 ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΜΟΘΕΟΝ Β - “Second to Timothy”

1.2 Timothy was a native of Lystra (Acts 16:1-3) who had a Greek father and a Jewish mother (16:1).

1.3 He had been taught the OT by His grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Tim 1:5; 3:15).

1.4 He was converted during Paul’s first missionary journey in Lystra (Acts 14:6-23; 1 Tim 1:2, 18).

1.5 He was taken with Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:3).

1.6 He was circumcised by Paul for easier access to Jews (Acts 16:3).

1.7 He was a traveling companion and protege of Paul (Acts 16:1-17:16; 1 Thess 3:1-2; Acts 18:5; 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10; 2 Cor 1:1, 19; Rom 16:21; 20:1-5; Phil 1:1; 2:19; Col 1:1; Phlm 1).

1.8 After Paul’s release from his first imprisonment in Rome he left him at Ephesus as his representative to handle matters on his behalf (1 Tim 1:3).

1.9 He was sickly (1 Tim 5:23), timid (1:7), and a youth (under 40 years of age) when 1 Timothy was written (~AD63-66; 1 Tim 4:12).

1.10 In AD64 Rome was burned. Nero blamed the Christians. Thus, Christianity became an illegal religion (*religio illicito*). Christians who did not proclaim Caesar as God were arrested, imprisoned, tried, and if found guilty, executed. It is at this time that we see the transition of Christianity from being viewed as a religion inside Judaism to outside Judaism.

1.11 Timothy was imprisoned and released, presumably due to being outspoken for Christ (Heb 13:23), perhaps just before 2 Timothy, but more likely immediately after. He was at Ephesus.

2. Authorship

2.1 External evidence

2.1.1 Polycarp

2.1.2 Ignatius

2.1.3 Clement of Rome

2.1.4 Irenaeus

2.1.5 Tertullian

2.1.6 Justin Martyr

2.2 Internal evidence

2.2.1 Paul names himself as the author in 2 Tim 1:1.

2.2.2 The writing style and vocabulary are consistent with Paul’s other writings.

2.2 3 The biographical details are consistent with Paul.

3. Date

3.1 When Paul wrote Titus he was planning to spend the winter of AD63 in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12).

3.2 He had planned for some time to go to Spain (Rom 15:24, 28).

3.3 Tradition says Paul went to Spain between AD64-66. We have no record of what he did.

3.4 After returning he went to Greece to visit Corinth and Asia to visit Miletus and Troas (2 Tim 4:13, 20).

3.5 In Fall or Winter of AD66 Paul was probably arrested in Troas where he was forced to leave his parchments and cloak (2 Tim 4:13, 21; 4:6-8).

3.6 His prison in Rome was a cold, dark dungeon. He was not permitted many visitors in contrast to his first imprisonment.

3.7 When he wrote 2 Timothy he had already undergone his first hearing where no one supported him (4:16).

3.8 Paul's request that Timothy bring him his cloak indicates he likely wrote 2 Timothy in the Fall of AD67.

3.9 Tradition says Paul was executed in June of AD68 on the Ostian Way, making this his last will and testament.

4. Occasion

In the wake of the Neronian persecutions, Paul was in prison for being an outspoken proponent of Christianity. This time he was being held in a cold, dark dungeon and not permitted many visitors. In this bleak situation, Paul wrote Timothy to encourage him to endure the hardships of persecution by openly preaching the word.

5. Purpose(s) of Writing

5.1 Paul wrote to encourage Timothy not to be timid, despite the Neronian persecutions.

5.2 Paul wrote to encourage Timothy to be courageous.

5.3 Paul wrote to encourage Timothy to endure despite difficulty.

5.4 Paul wrote to explain the characteristics of apostates.

5.5 Paul wrote to inform Timothy of the results of his first trial.

5.6 Paul wrote to inform Timothy of his impending death.

5.7 Paul wrote to request Timothy bring His cloak and parchments he left at Troas.

5.8 Paul wrote to encourage Mark to come with Timothy.

5.9 Paul wrote to warn Timothy of Alexander the Coppersmith.

6. Argument

Paul was about to die. The torch of Christianity needed to be passed to the next generation. Timothy was capable, but he needed to overcome his timidness and faithfully endure Nero's persecutions without fear.

7. Theme(s)

7.1 The main theme is to preach the word

7.2 A sub-theme is enduring hardship

8. Outline

8.1 Salutation (1:1-2)

8.2 Challenge to Not be Ashamed (1:3-18)

8.3 Challenge to Suffer Hardship (2:1-13)

8.4 Challenge to be a Good Workman (2:14-26)

8.5 Challenge to Avoid Men who Oppose Truth (3:1-17)

8.6 Charge to Preach the Word (4:1-8)

8.7 Final Instructions (4:9-21)

8.8 Benediction (4:22)

9. Uniquenesses

9.1 2 Timothy is a personal charge rather than a doctrinal treatise.

9.2 2 Timothy likens the Christian life to military service, athletics, and farming.

9.3 2 Timothy contains the most famous verse on inspiration of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16)

9.4 2 Timothy shows that Paul remained faithful till the end.

9.5 2 Timothy shows several parallels between Paul's last days and Christ's last days.

9.6 2 Timothy is Paul's last will and testament.

10. Controversial Passages

10.1 2 Tim 2:12 "If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;"

11. Keys to 2 Timothy

11.1 Key Word: Preach the Word/Endurance

11.2 Key Verse: 1 Tim 3:14-17, "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in

righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

11.3 Key Idea: Christian ministers should endure persecution by faithfully preaching the word so that men may be saved and grow to maturity and be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ.