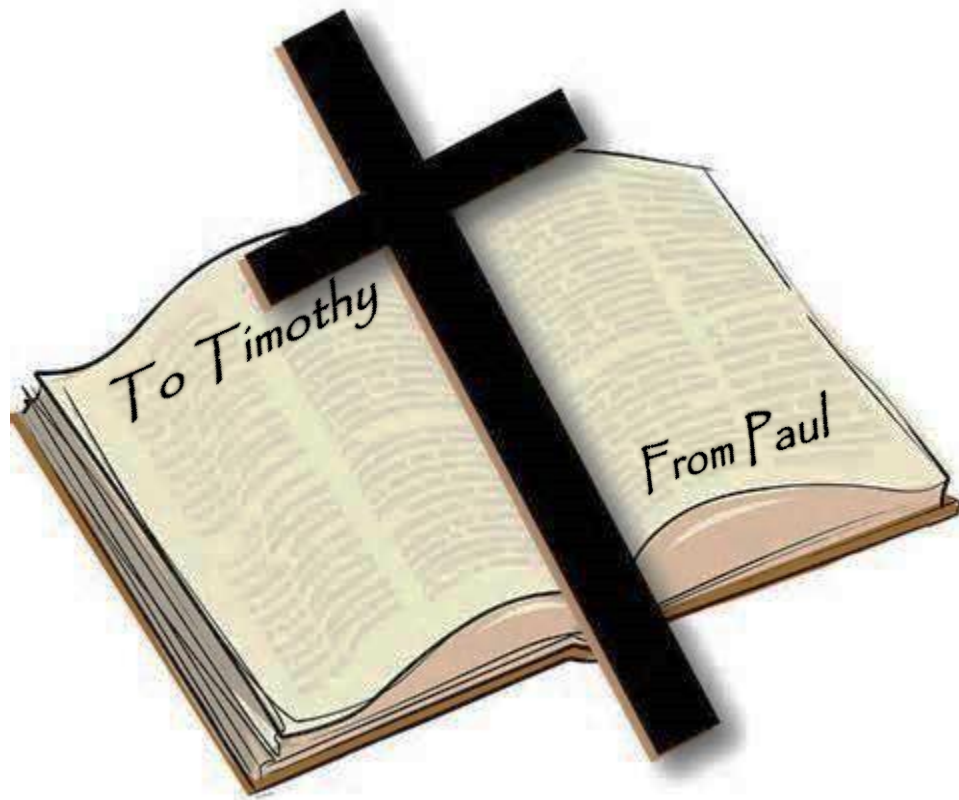


The Second Letter to Timothy



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

GULF SHORES, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

A Study Guide for the Second Letter to Timothy

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Teacher: Ray Reynolds)

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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of Sunday morning Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, J.J. Turner, Tom Holland, Robert H. Gundry, B.W. Johnson, and other various sources.

A Study Guide for the Second Letter to Timothy

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INTRODUCTION

Author:

Paul, the apostle (**II Timothy 1:1**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this second letter to Timothy. The early church accepted it as from Paul, but recent scholars will try to debate this fact. There is strong internal and external evidence that it was written by him.

Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it around 64-65 AD in the city of Rome, while in a Roman prison and preparing for his death (**II Timothy 1:8, 16-17**). As mentioned in the notes from I Timothy, the book of Acts has Paul headed for a Roman prison around 60-62 AD. Luke's detailed account of the trip is found in the latter chapters (**Acts 26-28**). Acts leaves the question of Paul's release unanswered, but there is ample evidence that he was released after the two years (**Acts 28:30, I Timothy, Titus**). Upon his release, probably in the spring of 63 AD, Paul went east (**Romans 15:22**) and also planned to visit Timothy and Titus (**I Timothy 3:14, 4:13, Titus 3:12**). However, when Nero blamed the burning of Rome on the Christians (July, 64 AD) and began a harsh persecution, Paul may have had to alter his plans. During this persecution Paul was imprisoned a second time in Rome and died in 66 or 67 A.D. (**II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**). Tradition says he was beheaded.

Theme:

Along with the first letter to Timothy and Titus, this book is lumped with the "Pastoral Epistles." It was clearly meant to be a final word of encouragement to the young preacher, protégé, and friend of the apostle. Much like the first letter, Paul identifies things every young preacher should know, believe, and teach. He addresses certain challenges but shows how the eternal benefits far outweigh the present circumstances. It is the opinion of many that the last chapter of this book is the most personal and touching of anything Paul ever wrote. It is his farewell message.

Audience:

The letter is personally addressed to young Timothy, whom he regarded as his "beloved son" (**II Timothy 1:2, 2:1**). He was still ministering in Ephesus (**II Timothy 4:19**). Remember that Paul met Timothy in Lystra, personally knew his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois who apparently taught him the Holy Scriptures from his youth (**Acts 16:1, II Timothy 1:5, 3:15**), and he mentions Timothy more frequently than any other companion. Paul had already faced his first preliminary hearing and was ready for a formal trial. He was abandoned by all of his companions except Luke (**II Timothy 4:10-11**). One witness, Alexander, is mentioned to have testified against him (**II Timothy 4:14**). Paul expected imminent death, therefore, Timothy is seen as the last hope (along with Mark) for some of Paul's final requests (**II Timothy 4:6-9, 11, 13, 21**).

Key Verses:

II Timothy 1:7, 1:12, 13-14, 2:2, 2:10-13, 2:15, 2:22-26, 3:1-5, 3:12, 3:16-17, 4:2, 4:6-8, 4:17

Outline:

- I. ***A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Ministry (1:1-18)***
 - A. Church leaders must minister in faith (vs.1-7).
 - B. Church leaders must minister with conviction (vs.8-12).
 - C. Church leaders must minister with endurance (vs.13-18).

- II. ***A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Service (2:1-26)***
 - A. Church leaders must faithfully serve in hardship (vs.1-7).
 - B. Church leaders must faithfully serve in chains (vs.8-13).
 - C. Church leaders must faithfully serve in study (vs.14-19).
 - D. Church leaders must faithfully serve in conflict (vs.20-26).

- III. ***A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Trials (3:1-17)***
 - A. Church leaders must prepare for the last days (vs.1-9).
 - B. Church leaders must prepare for persecution (vs.10-13).
 - C. Church leaders must prepare for good work (vs.14-17).

- IV. ***A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Witness (4:1-22)***
 - A. Church leaders must remember their calling (vs.1-5).
 - B. Church leaders must remember their reward (vs.6-8).
 - C. Church leaders must remember their friends (vs.9-13).
 - D. Church leaders must remember their enemies (vs.14-15).
 - E. Church leaders must remember their deliverance (vs.16-18).
 - F. Church leaders must remember their brethren (vs.19-22).

A Study Guide for the Second Letter to Timothy

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Teacher: Ray Reynolds)
CHAPTER ONE: A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Ministry

Introduction: Paul begins his second letter to Timothy with a standard opening for Greek letters. They usually identify the sender, name the person or group to which the letter was intended, followed by a brief greeting. Paul also affirms God's will for him to proclaim the good news. He wants to encourage the young preacher to learn from his example. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST MINISTER IN FAITH (vs.1-7)

¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. ⁶Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

What are the standard openings for ancient Greek letters? Why does Paul use them?

Why do church leaders need to be strong in faith?

Who was on Paul's prayer list? Why?

How did he know that Timothy and the Ephesians cared about him?

What kind of faith did the Ephesians have in God?

Who influenced Timothy in his faith?

Who gifted Timothy and laid hands on him? Why is that important?

What spirit has God NOT given us?

What spirit has God given us? Why?

II. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST MINISTER WITH CONVICTION (vs.8-12)

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Why do church leaders need to be full of conviction?

Why would Timothy be ashamed of Paul?

Who gave Paul strength? Strength to do what?

We are called to become what kind of people in the kingdom?

Paul was chosen for what purpose?

Why did Paul suffer?

How can we know we are protected?

III. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST MINISTER WITH ENDURANCE (vs.13-18)

¹³Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. ¹⁵This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; ¹⁷but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. ¹⁸The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

Why do church leaders need to have endurance?

What pattern should we follow? Why?

What was Timothy supposed to protect? Why?

Who left Paul? How would you feel if you were in his shoes?

Who stayed with Paul? Why?

What did Paul pray for Onesiphorus to receive? Why?

When did Onesiphorus help Paul?

Conclusion: Paul shares many intimate thoughts with young Timothy. He wanted to encourage this young man in his ministry, and build up the church in Ephesus. We are blessed when we read this letter. We can see ourselves through the eyes of young Timothy, and through the older mentor Paul. Each of us should find our own niche in the kingdom and fulfill our ministry. We, like Timothy, have spiritual gifts that must be used to build up the church.

A Study Guide for the Second Letter to Timothy

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Teacher: Ray Reynolds)
CHAPTER TWO: A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Service

Introduction: Paul continues to encourage Timothy to endure the hardships of ministry and pass on what he has learned to faithful Christians. This chapter deals with things related to the daily walk with God and the victory we have in Jesus. Regardless of what is happening in our life we should never stop serving God! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST SERVE IN HARDSHIP (vs.1-7)

¹You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Why do church leaders need to be faithful in difficult times?

What does Paul encourage Timothy to teach?

What were those men supposed to do? Why?

How can we prove we are good soldiers of the cross?

What can we learn from the military, athlete, and farmer?

II. CHURCH LEADERS MUST FAITHFULLY SERVE IN CHAINS (vs.8-13).

⁸Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. ¹²If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. ¹³If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Why do church leaders need to serve despite their circumstances?

What should we remember about Jesus?

What is not chained? Why is that important to remember?

How did Paul feel about his chains?

What is special about this faithful saying? What does it mean?

III. CHURCH LEADERS MUST FAITHFULLY SERVE IN STUDY (vs.14-19).

¹⁴Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Why do church leaders need to faithfully study the Bible? How is that a service?

What was the struggle Paul foresaw in Timothy's preaching?

What can we learn about God's workmen?

What was Timothy supposed to stay away from in his ministry? Why?

Whom does Paul call out by name? What had they done?

What are the words written on the seal? Why is that important?

IV. CHURCH LEADERS MUST FAITHFULLY SERVE IN CONFLICT (vs.20-26).

²⁰But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. ²²Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Why do church leaders need to endure conflict?

What kinds of items are found in our houses? Why do we keep them?

Why do we have different things for different purposes? Why not all-in-one?

Why should we stay clean and holy? What should we avoid?

What are the qualifications for a minister and teacher?

How should we handle criticism and conflict? What could happen?

Conclusion: Paul hopes that some who have been blinded will come to their senses. Good biblical preaching should help keep us on track. God will bless the ministers who preach in/out of season!

A Study Guide for the Second Letter to Timothy

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Teacher: Ray Reynolds)
CHAPTER THREE: A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Trials

Introduction: The second chapter ends with some discussion on the need for faithfulness in times of conflict. Paul is building toward an important point. We live in a spiritually degenerate world and we need steadfastness to overcome it. How can we do it? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST PREPARE FOR THE LAST DAYS (vs.1-9)

¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Why do church leaders need to prepare for the last days?

Why are there troubles in the last days?

When are the last days?

What will happen to love in the last days? Why?

What will happen to the Golden Rule in the last days? Why?

What will happen to women in the last days? Why?

What can we learn about the magicians of Exodus?

How should we prepare for the last days?

II. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST PREPARE FOR PERSECUTION (vs.10-13)

¹⁰But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹²Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Why do church leaders need to prepare for persecution?

What example should Timothy follow? Why?

What could Timothy learn from Paul? What can we learn?

Where did Paul serve with Timothy in ministry?

Will we be persecuted? When? Why?

How will sinful people treat each other?

III. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST PREPARE FOR GOOD WORK (vs.14-17)

¹⁴But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Why do church leaders need to prepare for doing good works?

What teaching should Timothy follow?

When is it a good time to teach the Holy Scriptures? Why?

What can you gain from learning the Holy Scriptures?

What does it mean when it says the Bible is God-breathed? Inspired?

What are the benefits of teaching and preaching the Holy Scriptures?

How can being reproved be a profitable thing?

Why should we strive for correction and instruction in righteousness?

What does it mean to be thoroughly equipped for every good work?

Conclusion: The last verse challenges every reader to look at the meaning of the phrase “man of God” to see if we measure up. Timothy, as a leader, needed to discover his footing. All of us as believers should be equipped for service. We can do that when we read, study, and apply Scripture to our daily walk. The Holy Scriptures can affect us both personally and collectively as kingdom people. We cannot allow trials to discourage us from doing the right thing.

A Study Guide for the Second Letter to Timothy

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CHAPTER FOUR: A Christian Leader Should Be Faithful in Witness

Introduction: In this last chapter Paul reaches the climax of the letter. He gives Timothy a final charge to fulfill his God-given role as a minister in the kingdom of God. He backs up that charge with his own testimony of faithfulness, his preparedness for martyrdom, and his affection for young Timothy. This chapter is deeply personal and profound. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR CALLING (vs.1-5)

¹I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Why do church leaders need to remember their calling?

What can we learn from the calling of a minister of God?

What are the dangers ministers can face?

II. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR REWARD (vs.6-8)

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Why do church leaders need to remember their reward?

What can we learn from Paul's testimony?

What would you say if you were given an opportunity to give a farewell message?

III. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR FRIENDS (vs.9-13)

⁹Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. ¹²And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.

Why do church leaders need to remember their friends?

Who is still with Paul? Who left him? What is he needing?

IV. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR ENEMIES (vs.14-15)

¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. ¹⁵You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

Why do church leaders need to remember their enemies?

Alexander, the coppersmith, probably testified against Paul. How did that affect him?

What can we learn about the divine judgment against those who oppose God's work?

V. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR DELIVERANCE (vs.16-18)

¹⁶At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Why do church leaders need to remember their deliverance?

When Paul stood at his defense, who stood beside him? How did Paul feel about that?

Was Paul truly alone? Explain.

VI. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR BRETHREN (vs.19-22)

¹⁹Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. ²¹Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. ²²The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Why do church leaders need to remember their brethren?

Which co-workers are specifically mentioned by name? What do we know about them?

How does Paul end this letter?

Conclusion: The letters to Timothy must have been cherished by the young preacher. No doubt the church at Ephesus considered them to be treasures. They were read, shared, and preserved for generations. Notice that Paul ends this letter with a benediction and a personal prayer for the spiritual well-being of his young protégé. With every reason to put the emphasis upon himself, and his chains, Paul directs his attention to a preacher who was making a difference in the church. He was unsure if a personal visit would happen, and it seems unclear as to his fate, so Paul commends Timothy one more time for his kingdom work. May God bless those who preach the Word. And may God bless those who hear and receive it!