

Resilient

A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

Jim Dalrymple • 8 Sessions



**NEXT
LEVEL**  **ONLINE**

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Session 1 | “Remember” | 2 Timothy 1:1-7

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Final Words

- What did Paul want to say?
- What did Paul want to leave?

Paul’s Last Will & Testament

- Remember your heritage
- Final words of encouragement
- Entrust an inheritance

Paul’s Son/Heir (cf. 2 Tim 1:1-2; 1 Tim 1:2; 1 Cor 4:17; Titus 1:4)

- Timothy is left with the legacy and responsibilities of a son (see Acts 16).
- Paul leaves Timothy the legacy of “sincere faith” and a responsibility to “Preach the Word”.

“Remember” in 2 Timothy

Remembering rekindles a resilient faith.

- “Remembering” in 2 Timothy 1:1-7
 - I remember
 - I remember
 - I am reminded
 - I remind
- “Remembering” in 2 Timothy 2:8-14
 - ☐ 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead
 - ☐ 2:14 Remind them of these things

Remembering Timothy’s heritage of sincere faith

- Paul’s Ancestors
- Timothy’s Grandmother Lois
- Timothy’s Mother Eunice
- Paul’s laying on of hands [cf. 1 Tim 4:14]

Discussion

List 3-4 names of those with a “sincere faith” that Paul would have you remember:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Question: What do you observe about these names?

Question: How does “remembering” rekindle a resilient faith?

Session 2 | “Do Not Be Ashamed” | 2 Timothy 1:8-18

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Paul is imprisoned in Rome (1:16-17; 2:9; 4:16-17).

- Onesiphorus came and found Paul imprisoned in Rome (1:16-17)
- He has been through his first defense (4:16-17)
- He has experienced abandonment (4:16-18; Ps 22:2; Mk 15:34)
- He views God as remaining faithful (4:17, Ps 22:22)
- He is expecting to die (4:6; 4:18)
- His tone is very personal

Paul’s Theology of Suffering (Three themes will be woven throughout the letter)

1. Presence in suffering ☐ share in suffering = you are not alone
2. Purpose in suffering ☐ for the Gospel
3. Power in suffering ☐ by the power of God

Trace the theme of “Power”

- 1:7 Spirit of power
- 1:8 Suffer...by the power of God
- 1:12 He is able to guard
- 2:1 Be strengthened (empowered)
- 2:13 He cannot deny himself
- 3:5 Denying its power
- 3:7 Never able to arrive at the truth
- 3:15 Scriptures...able to make you wise or salvation
- 4:17 The Lord stood by me and strengthened me

Being a prisoner of Rome would have been shameful, and to associate with a prisoner would have brought shame and potential shared suffering. Therefore, Paul is experiencing abandonment much like Jesus did when the disciples fled during his trial.

Ashamed

1. All in Asia
2. Phygelus
3. Hermogenes

Stand By (Not Ashamed)

1. Paul
2. Onesiphorus
3. Timothy?



Matthew 5:11–12 — Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 5:41 — Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Philippians 3:10 — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

2 Corinthians 1:5 — For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

James 1:2–4 — Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 4:12–15 — Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

Session 3 | “Share in Suffering” | 2 Timothy 2:1-13

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Review: “Be strengthened”

- 1:7 Spirit of power
- 1:8 Suffer...by the power of God
- 1:12 He is able to guard
- 2:1 Be strengthened (empowered)
- 2:13 He cannot deny himself
- 3:5 Denying its power
- 3:7 Never able to arrive at the truth
- 3:15 Scriptures...able to make you wise or salvation
- 4:17 The Lord stood by me and strengthened me

Question: How will you pass on the legacy of sincere faith to the generation behind you?

1. Good Soldier

- Not entangled/woven in civilian pursuits
- Purpose: please the one who enlisted him

2. Athlete

- Competes according to the rules
- Purpose: a crown

3. Farmer

- Hard work
- Purpose: share in harvest

Discuss this statement: “We willingly suffer for the things that we value most.”

Remembering has been a theme as we look back on those in our heritage of faith.

Remember Jesus Christ

- Risen from the dead
- Offspring of David

He is victorious in suffering
He is sovereign over everything

We share in suffering with Jesus (but also his purpose, power, and promise)

- Purpose: “This is why I am suffering” (2:9)
“For the sake of the elect, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus...” (2:10)
- Power: “But the word of God is not bound!” (2:9)
- Promise: “If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
If we endure, we will also reign with him...” (2:11-13)

Session 4 | “A Good Worker” | 2 Timothy 2:14-26

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Question: What work will you do with your words? Notice how unhealthy words lead to “de-creation” rather than “new-creation”:

Healthy Words

1. Words of truth

Unhealthy Words

1. Quarrel about words
2. Ruins the hearers
3. Irreverent babble
4. Lead to more ungodliness
5. Spread like gangrene
6. Swerved from the truth
7. Upsetting the faith of some

Two foundations:

1. Sand of unhealthy words that bring a great crash
2. God’s firm foundation which stands

The Lord knows those who are his (Numbers 16)

Worker who rightly handles the word of truth (2:15)

- Like a farmer plowing
- Like a stonemason chiseling
- Like a carpenter cutting

Vessel who is ready for the master to use (2:20-21)

- Cleansed
- Set apart as holy
- Useful to the master
- Ready for every good work

The Lord's Servant (2:22-26)

- List the characteristics of what it looks like to be a servant in the house of the Lord.



Gospel words that set the captives free

1. Repentance (2:25)
2. A knowledge of the truth (2:25)
3. Come to their senses (2:26)
4. Escape the snare of the devil (2:26)

Session 5 | “Continue in What You Have Learned”

2 Timothy 3:1-17

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There will come times of difficulty (“violent” demoniacs in Mt 8:28)

When are the “last days”?

- OT echo; see Joel, Isaiah
- Notice Paul and Timothy were already experiencing these times:
 - Avoid such people
 - Among them are...

Conclusion: Paul wrote this so that Timothy would know that he was living in the midst of the prophetic future and that the implications of his response were of vital importance.

Lovers of self	φίλαυτοι	}
Lovers of money/silver [1 Tim 6:10]	φιλάργυροι	
Proud/Boasters	-αλαζόνες	
Arrogant	ὑπερήφανοι	
Abusive/Slanderers	βλάσφημοι	
Disobedient to their parents [Dt 21:18]	-ἁπειθεῖς	
Ungrateful	-ἄχαριστοι	
Unholy	-άνόσιοι	
Heartless/Unloving [στοργή – is a familial affectionate love]	-ἄστοργοι	
Unappeasable/Unforgiving	-ἄσπονδοι	
Slanderous [1 Tim 3:11; Tit 2:3 – see 2 Tim 2:26!!]	διάβολοι	}
Without self-control	-ἄκρατεῖς	
Brutal/Untamed [Animals]	-ἀνήμεροι	
Not loving good [opposite of Tit 1:8]	-ἀφιλάγαθοι	
Treacherous [Judas/Apostates/traitors in Macc revolt]	προδῶται	
Reckless	προπετεῖς	
Swollen with conceit [false teachers -1 Tim 3:6; 6:4]	τετυφωμένοι	
Lovers of pleasure	φιλήδονοι	
Rather than lovers of God	φιλόθεοι	

Capture a metaphor with overtones of captives taken in war.

- Synonym in 2:26 – “captured by the devil to do his will.”
- Those captured are seen as victims of the spiritual battle taking place—the most vulnerable being victims is an unfortunate but common theme of warfare throughout history.

- 2 Cor 10:5 – “take every thought captive to obey Christ”

Weak women is literally “little women” which is meant as a pejorative contrast to those who were not giving in to these opponents. The form indicates that he is not referring to all women but to a select group. They are victims of these who are already burdened by false desires and a need to be rescued by the truth. However instead of being helped these teachers bring them further harm.

- Burdened/overwhelmed with sins
- Led astray by various passions/desires
- Always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. They are held captive by deceit.

Jannes and Jambres

- Magicians who opposed Moses/truth (Ex 7:11-22; 8:7-19; 9:11 – not named in OT but in Jewish tradition).
 - Etymology of names may be “To oppose” and “To rebel”
 - In some traditions they are Jewish. In one tradition they follow Israel into the wilderness and cause the golden calf incident.
- Stock typological figures for those who oppose God’s truth/messenger.

Result: Those “held captive” will be set free by truth (2 Tim 2:24-26).



But you

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| • 2 Tim 3:10 | You, however, have followed my teaching... |
| • 2 Tim 3:14 | But as for you, continue in what you have learned... |
| • 2 Tim 4:5 | As for you... fulfill your ministry. |

You have followed... [Note: This virtue list contrasts the vice list in 3:1-9]

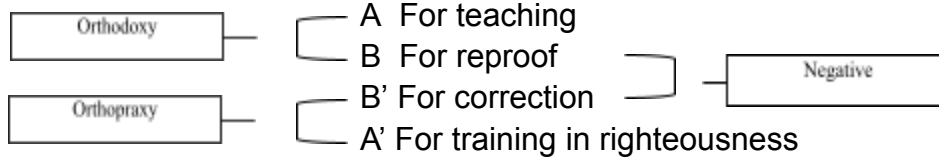
- My teaching
- My conduct
- My aim in life
- My faith
- My patience
- My love
- My steadfastness
- My persecutions and sufferings in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (Echoes of Paul’s 1st Missionary Journey). Timothy was from Lystra [Acts 16]

Continue in what you have learned...

All Scripture is God-breathed

- God is the source. His words give life and new life. This does not specify the method by which this happened, but the emphasis is on the source by which it happened.
- Contrast this to the demonic message of opponents in Ephesus (1 Tim 4:1).
- Benjamin Merkle makes a case for this translation rather than, “All God-breathed Scripture is useful...” (*Exegetical Gems from Biblical Greek*, pg. 48).

Profitable/Useful [cf. 1 Tim 4:8; Tit 3:8]



Session 6 | “Preach the Word” | 2 Timothy 4:1-5

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I charge you– a technical term that at times refers to the transitioning of an office or responsibility to another. This bears the weight of a solemn oath. Here again we have the transferring of responsibility from Paul to Timothy in the presence of the one who is judge (Moses-Joshua).

[cf. 1 Tim 5:21 and 2 Tim 2:14]

The tone of this installment language is amplified by Paul’s eschatology:

- In the presence (OT idiom “before the face”)
- Who is [about] to judge the living and the dead
- By his appearing
- By his kingdom

Five Imperatives – In light of this installment & eschatological realities:

- Preach the word
- Be ready [3:1 “times of difficulty”]
 - in season
 - out of season
- Reprove [correct/expose/convict] =tell them what is wrong
- Rebuke =tell them to stop
- Exhort [urge/encourage] =tell them what to do

Attitude/Motive = with complete patience and teaching

For a time is coming...

- 2 Tim 3:1 = times of difficulty
- 2 Tim 4:2 = out of season

When people will not endure (put up with) **sound/healthy teaching**

- a. Notice the progression: not endure □ accumulate □ turn □ wander

But having itching ears will accumulate teachers to suit their own passions.

- b. “Itching/tickling” is only used here.
- c. Ears – a stock metaphor with connotations of both audible hearing and obedience.
- d. “Accumulate” or “pile up” as if to validate their false teaching.
- e. “Passions” – always negative in in the Pastoral Epistles [1 Tim 6:9; 2 Tim 2:22; 3:6; 4:3].

Question: Do our unhealthy passions influence our teachings,
or do the sound teachings of Scripture influence our passions?

And will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths

- cf. 1 Tim 1:3-4, "...myths and endless genealogies..."

Four Imperatives

- **Be sober-minded** (cf. 1 Tim 3:11; 1 Thess 5:6)
- **Endure suffering** In a flip of the script this has been a phrase used of Paul thus far in 2 Timothy, now he charges Timothy to do the same (cf. 1:8; 2:3; 2:9)
- **Do the work of an evangelist** = "one who proclaims good news" (cf. Philip in Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11).
- **Fulfill your ministry**—to "bring your service to completion" was commonly used in reference to a repayment of a debt or an obligation. This is thus Timothy's response to the work of Christ and the example of Paul.

Session 7 | “Finish the Race” | 2 Timothy 4:6-10

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Six Concluding Metaphors:

1. **Drink Offering**—Drink offerings in the OT were most often wine (Ex 29:40–41; Lv 23:13; Nu 15:5–10; 28:7; the wine may have represented blood—see Ps 16:4).
2. **Departure**—Metaphor speaking to the breaking up of camp or the loosing of a ship from the dock. It was a common euphemism for death.
3. **Good Fight**—Boxing/Military (1 Tim 6:12; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Phil 3:12-14).
4. **Race**—(Phil 2:16; 3:14; Gal 2:2; 5:7; cf. Heb 12)
5. **Kept the faith**—deposit fidelity

[**Henceforth**—the only thing remaining

There is laid up for me—term used of honors stored up (Col 1:5; 1 Pet 1:4)

6. **Crown of righteousness** [18x in NT]

- imperishable crown 1 Cor 9:25
- crown of boasting 1 Thess 2:19
- crown of life Jms 1:12
- crown of glory 1 Pet 5:4;
- crown of life Rev 2:10

Righteous judge – in contrast to the courts he has and will face on earth. Don’t miss the force of this image considering Paul’s situation (1 Cor 4:3-4 “For me it is a very small thing to be judged by you or by any human court...It is the Lord who judges me.”)

The irony is seen in this vindication that even though Paul will not be “justified” in the Roman Imperial court, he will be declared “righteous” in Christ’s heavenly court. Paul sees this reward as worth it all (2 Cor 4:17-18 “far outweighs”).

That day— (2 Tim 1:12—“I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until **that day** what has been entrusted to me. “)

Not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing

- 1 Tim 6:14 free from reproach until the appearing
- Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing
- 2 Tim 4:1 to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing



4:8 All who have loved his appearing

4:10 In love with this present world

Demas

- A former coworker of Paul mentioned during Paul's imprisonment in Col 4:14 and Phlm 24 (associated there with Luke and Mark).
- "Deserted me" ("forsaken me"—Ps 22:1 LXX).

Session 8 | “Father, Forgive Them” | 2 Timothy 4:9-22

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Do your best to come soon [cf. Tit 3:12; 2 Tim 2:15; 4:21].

- 2 Tim 1:4 — As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.
- 4:21 will add “before winter” thus Paul will want his cloak (4:13).
- Paul envisions a gap between his current legal status and his execution. Remember the length of trials in Acts 24-28 (esp. Acts 28:30).
- Paul is wanting to be surrounded by friends who have stood by him.

Demas

- **“Love with this now age”** vs. **“loved his appearing” (4:6)**
- A former coworker of Paul mentioned during Paul’s imprisonment in Col 4:14 and Phlm 24 (associated there with Luke and Mark).

Other Travel Updates:

- **Crescens to Galatia**—nothing more is known
- **Titus**—Titus to Dalmatia, north of Nicopolis where he was to meet Paul earlier in Titus 3:12.
- **Luke alone is with me**—remember that some suggest Luke may have had a role in the composition of these letters (Gordon Fee, *Pastoral Epistles*, 26-31; 294). Perhaps even playing a role as a personal physician to Paul. [note: Luke-Acts written c. 60-61 just a few years earlier].
- **Mark**
 - Paul’s tension with Barnabas and Mark (Acts 15:37–41) predated Paul’s arrival in Lystra (Acts 16:1).
 - Mark had already joined back up with Paul in Col 4:10 & Phlm 24.
 - “He is useful” (2 Tim 2:21)
- **Tychicus**
 - One of Paul’s many travel companions. Acts 20:4 mentions him in the context of Troas (2 Tim 4:13).
 - Previously he carried both letters to the Ephesians and the Colossians.
 - Likely carrying this letter (“I sent” being an epistolary aorist as in Eph 6:21-22). He was likely coming to relieve Timothy who could travel to Rome (as in Tit 3:12).

Cloak

- A heavy overcoat like a poncho often made out of wool or goat hair. The average man owned only one of these.
- Was Paul arrested in Troas this cloak left with Carpus? Either way Timothy could travel through Troas on his way to Rome.

Books and parchments

- What were these?
 - Legal documents?
 - Copies of letters?
 - Scripture and notes?
 - Unknown
- Recent scholarship has argued for the common use of journals/notebooks by the students of first century rabbis and philosophers. It is likely that Jesus' disciples did as well.

Alexander the Coppersmith

- Which Alexander?
 - Same Alexander from 1 Tim 1:19-20 who was handed over to Satan?
 - Same Alexander from Acts 19:33 who is still nursing a grudge from his humiliation in front of the angry crowd who rejected his defense as a Jewish representative?
 - Other? Whoever he was, this Alexander may have caused Paul's arrest (possibly in Troas) which is why Paul's belongings are still there. The phrase "did me great harm" is more literally "demonstrated to me great harm" (often a legal term of showing proof or evidence). Thus, Paul leaves vindication for this injustice to the Lord who "will repay him according to his deeds" (quoting Ps 62:12, echoed in Rom 2:4). It is hypothesized that Paul mentions him in this context of Troas to warn Timothy who will be traveling that route—"beware of him yourself" (4:15).

At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me.

- cf. 1:15 "all who are in Asia turned away from me..."
- Defense – preliminary hearing of the case (*prima actio*). If sufficient grounds for the case were warranted, then a formal trial would follow (*secunda actio*).
- Deserted me (like Demas in 4:10)
 - Ps 22:1 "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"
 - Ps 22:11 "Be not far...for trouble is near and there is none to help."

May it not be charged against them.

- Echoes of Jesus in Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them..."
- Echoes of Stephen in Acts 7:60 "Lord do not hold this sin against them."

But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me.

- Ps 22:20-21—"But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!"
- **Stood by**—who better to have at your side as an advocate?
(cf. 2 Tim 2:15—"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved.")
- **Strengthened**
1:7 God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control

- 1:8 Share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God
1:12 I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day
2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus
2:13 He cannot deny himself
3:5 Having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power
3:7 Always learning but never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth
3:15 Writings which are able to make you wise for salvation
4:17 The Lord stood by me and strengthened me

That the message might fully be proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it

- Paul's calling and mission has now been completed (2 Tim 4:7).
- Acts 9:15–16 But the Lord said to him [Ananias], "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

- Ps 22:20-21, "Save/rescue me from the mouth of the lion!"
- Possibly an allusion to Rome and/or death

The Lord will rescue me ...and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.

- Ps 22:26-28, "The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!...for kingship belongs to the Lord..."

Final Greetings & Travel Updates:

- **Prisca and Aquila**
 - Rome-Corinth (Acts 18:1-3)
 - Ephesus (Acts 18:18-26; 1 Cor 16:19)
 - Rome (Rom 16:3-4)
 - Ephesus again now (2 Tim 4:19)
- **Household of Onesiphorus** – see notes on 1:16-18.
- **Erastus remained at Corinth.**
 - Erastus who was sent with Timothy to Macedonia in Acts 19:22?
 - The official in Rom 16:23?
- **I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus**
 - From Ephesus who traveled with Paul (Acts 20:4; 21:29).
 - Miletus is 30 miles south of Ephesus.
- **Do you best to come before winter** (thus the need for the cloak in 4:13)
- **Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia** – unknown background (3/4 Latin names)

Final Words—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

If you would like to contact Jim to further discuss 2 Timothy, you can reach him by emailing dalrymple.jim@occ.edu.

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