

Lessons from 2nd Timothy

2015 New Jersey F.C. Camp

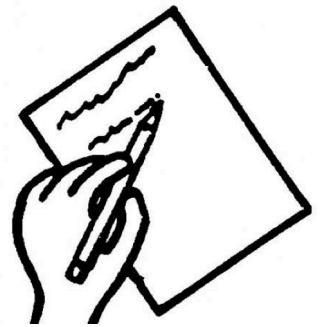
2 Timothy, Lesson 1 – Final Letter – A Worker Approved by God – Part 1

Introduction

A. Think about final letters before death

1. If you knew that you were about to die, what kind of letter would you write to your parents or your closest friend?
2. What would be some things you would include in that last letter?

3. What would be some things you would probably not include because they would seem unimportant? (Think things like entertainment, fads, etc.)



- B. 2 Timothy is the last letter of Paul's that we have. When he wrote, he knew it might be his last to Timothy.

1. Therefore in it, we find Paul focusing on the things that are the very essence of life!

C. Three areas in which Paul gets down to the nitty-gritty in 2 Corinthians:

1. **That Timothy be a worker approved by God** (lessons 1 and 2)
2. **That Timothy prepare for perilous times** (lesson 3)
3. **That Timothy be loyal to Paul and to Christ** (lessons 4,5)

- D. These three areas will be the areas of our study in this class

Things necessary for Timothy to be a good worker...

* **Illustration** - What is an apprentice? Have someone in the class explain. There is always a time when the master craftsman must leave the business to the apprentice. He leaves careful final instructions. That's what's happening here in 2 Timothy. Paul, the master evangelist and teacher must leave the "business" to his apprentice. These are careful final instructions.

I. Use the word correctly (Rightly divide it) 2 Timothy 2:15

- A. Read 2:15 (later, we'll read the verses in the contest, regarding avoiding quarrels.)

1. What words does Paul use to describe the Christian's effort to be approved by God?

2. What does one have to do with the word of God to be approved and not ashamed?

* Literally – "cut it straight" "divide it correctly" – know how to apply it.

- B. illustration - I have had a few opportunities to watch someone use Photoshop with its touch up tools and brushes to transform a photograph. Sometimes they can make beautiful works of art, sometimes hilarious joke pictures, for example, with bears!

1. If I tried to do that with Photoshop, I would quickly make a mess and freeze the computer.

2. What is the difference? Why can someone produce great works of art and humor with Photoshop and I freeze the computer?

3. Have you ever seen anyone make a mess (spiritual or otherwise) when trying to use the Bible? Tell about the experience **but don't give any names!**

4. Give examples of how people have used the Bible to be a tremendous help to others. Give names if you want.

5. What are differences between the person who makes a mess with the Bible and one who helps others with the Bible?

6. What are some things you can do to learn to use the Bible effectively?

C. Read chapter 3:15, 16

1. How long had Timothy known the scriptures? _____

* What are some advantages of learning the Bible when you're young?

* What can you do to learn it better while you're young?

Mark things you will do.

___ Have somebody read it with me on the phone or in person. (Let us know, we can do that!)

___ Get in the habit of reading it 10-15 minutes every day before going to bed or after waking up.

___ Get a good Bible reading plan and stick with it. (We can help!)

___ Memorize a verse a week.



II. Avoid entanglement in the affairs of this life ("Civilian" affairs - ESV, NIV)- Read 2 Timothy 2:4

A. What illustration does Paul use here? _____

* Thought question - How could a soldier get entangled in "civilian affairs" (ESV, NIV) to the point that it affects his ability to serve as a soldier?

* This might especially be true if a soldier is getting entangled in the affairs of a foreign country where he's serving. For example, how would it be for an American soldier to want to try to speak Korean more than English, like Korean music more than American music, buy a house in Korea, vote in their elections, Eat only Korean food, etc. At what point might his commanding officer become concerned?

B. Application - Are Christians represented as God's soldiers? Read Ephesians 6:13

* In what ways can Christians be compared to soldiers?

* Does God mind it if we enjoy things on this earth? (Ecclesiastes 5:18)

* Does God want us to get entangled in those things?

* What is the difference between liking something in a foreign country where you're serving as a soldier and becoming entangled in it?

* What are some things that could easily entangle you to the point that it affects you're being a good soldier? Mark the three that most apply to you in the order they affect you — 1, 2, 3

___ Music

___ Movies

___ Sports

___ Video games

___ Electronic gadgets

___ Making money

___ Clothes (sneakers, etc.)

___ Academic achievement

___ Parties, social activities

___ Other _____

C. Getting a handle on "entangling" habits.

1. Write down some specific things you can do to get a better handle on these things that could easily entangle you.

2. What are some things we could do to help?

Conclusion to this lesson -

A. If you have a minute or two, practice your memory verse

B. Pray, asking God to help avoid worldly entanglements so we can be good workers/soldiers.

2 Timothy, Lesson 2 - A Worker Approved by God – Part 2

Intro.

A. What kind of a worker are you?

1. If you already have a job, what kind of a worker do you think you are on a scale of 1-10? _____
2. If you don't have a job, what kind of a worker are you at home on a scale of 1-10? _____
3. Write down a list of jobs you do at home...

4. What keeps you from being a better worker on your job or at home? Mark two

- _____ lazy _____ No one shows me how to get the work done
_____ rather be playing video games _____ I get distracted easily
_____ Other _____

5. Why is it important to learn to be a good worker in the world?

6. Why is it essential to learn to be a good worker for the Lord?

B. Read again the key verse for this section – 2 Timothy 2:15

1. What were the two things we emphasized yesterday?

- a. Handling correctly what? (2:15) _____
- b. Avoid entanglement like whom? (2:4) _____



III. Compete according to the rules

A. Read 2:5

1. How must an athlete compete if he wants to win the competition? According to the _____
2. Give some names of famous athletes who have been disqualified for cheating (May be a tough question for younger kids. They can talk about cheating in general.)

B. Is it possible to be disqualified from our "race" as Christians if we don't follow the rules?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:27 – What word does Paul use to describe what might happen to him if he didn't discipline his body and bring it in subjection? _____

C. Why don't people follow the rules? I can think of two main reasons. Maybe you can think of more.

D. What are some ways people in religion act as if they don't really care much about the "rules," instructions that God has given own how to follow him.

E. Thought questions -

1. What concrete things can you do to show that you are more serious about "competing according to the rules?"
2. What concrete things can the churches do to show that me are more serious about "competing according to the rules?"
3. Is the word "rules" a popular word today? Have you heard people make fun of the word or use it disparagingly (with disgust)? Why?
4. It is faddish today to say that God's rules (his instructions) aren't that important because salvation is by grace. Why is such an attitude not healthy?
5. What does this statement mean? - "The end justifies the means." Why does it not conform with the principle here of "competing according to the rules?" Where have you seen this "philosophy" among Christians?

IV. Avoiding disputes, having patience – Essential to be a worker approved by God!

A. Read 2:14

1. What should Timothy and others not quarrel about? _____
2. What does that type of quarrel bring about? _____

Thought questions

- * Have you heard people argue about the Bible in an ungodly way? Tell about it without giving names. What was some harm that came from that type of argument?

B. Read 2:23-26

1. What should Timothy avoid according to verse 23? _____

2. What is the result of getting involved in them? _____
 3. What must the Lord's servant not be according to verse 24? _____
 - a. Thought question – Read Jude 3 – What must Christians do for the faith? _____
 - b. How can we obey Jude 3 and also 2 Timothy 2:24? Is there a contradiction? _____
 4. What three words does verse 24 use to describe the way a Christian should be in controversy? _____
 - a. Have you ever known someone who could disagree and still keep these qualities? _____
Give names if you want.
 - b. Have you ever known anyone to whom these would be the last words you would use to describe them when they disagree with others? Don't give names!
 - c. On a scale of 1-10 (1=a terror, 10=completely under control) what number would you give to yourself to describe how you are when in a disagreement with your parents or with someone else? _____ How can you do better?
 5. According to verse 25, how should we correct others? With _____
 - a. Does Paul say not to ever correct anyone? Yes or no _____
 - b. *Thought* - Why do some people never want to correct others? Why is that not helpful?
 - c. *Thought* - What problems occur when someone does not correct this way?
 6. What is the goal of correcting with gentleness according to verses 25 and 26?
 - (vs. 25b) God may grant them... _____
 - (vs. 26a) They may come to their ... _____
 - (vs. 26b) They may escape... _____
- * Notice that the goal is not to "look smart" or "win the battle."

V. Preach and teach even in difficult circumstances (Read 4:1,2)

A. Verse 1

1. What are some things that Paul says in this verse that lets you know he is super serious?

B. Verse 2

1. What should Timothy preach? _____
 - a. Why is preaching "politics," "the social gospel" (how to improve the world socially), how to make money, making friends, etc. more popular than actually preaching the Word in many places today?
2. When should he be ready? _____ and _____
 - * Illustration – Will a football team that can only play well when the temperature is between 60 and 70 degrees and it's sunny be a championship team?
 - * What are some times that it is relatively easy to preach and be a Christian? Discuss
 - * What are some times that it is tough to preach and be a Christian? Discuss
3. What three words does Paul use to describe what Timothy should do in teaching? _____
Write to the side what each word means. Have someone look them up. Put a definition by each of the three words.

4. What attitude should he show when doing this? _____

C. Applications – Give yourself a number on the scale of 1-10

1. How tough are you in working in difficult situations at home or on the job? _____
2. How tough are you in difficult spiritual situations? _____
3. What are some things you can do to be tougher? _____

Conclusion – Review what Paul said was necessary to be worker approved by God. Talk and pray about how to do better on each one.

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|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| A. Use the word correctly (rightly divide it) (2:15) | D. Patience in Disputes (2:23-26) |
| B. Avoid entanglement in the affairs of this world (2:4) | |
| C. Compete according to the rules (2:5) | E. Preach even in difficult circumstances (4:1,2) |

2 Timothy, Lesson 3 - Preparing for dangerous times

Introduction – Lots of thought questions!

A. Questions about children

1. How many children would you like to have? _____
2. When you think about having children, do you think that the world will be more godly and civilized during their lives? Or, do you think it will be more evil _____?
3. What are some good things you think your children (or other little children now) might see in the next 50-75 years? _____



4. What are some bad things children now might see in the next 50-75 years? _____

B. Parents worry about their children! You may not understand now. You will later!

1. I remember holding Rebecca and Leah in my arms as tiny babies, thinking about evil things they might have to face and praying to God to help me train them to face such evil.

C. Paul was at the point of leaving this earth. God told through inspiration him that many things would get worse. Paul was worried about how these evil things would affect Timothy. He wants to warn him.

I. Warnings against Shallow religion! (Read chapter 4:1-5)

A. We've already read verses 1 and 2 telling Timothy about the importance of being willing to preach in season and out of season and to reprove, rebuke and exhort patiently. Verses 3-5 tell him why such diligence and patience would be necessary.

B. Focus on verses 3-5

1. What would people not endure? _____

Thought questions

- a. Thought - What do you think of when you think of sound (healthy) teaching?
 - b. Some kids don't like healthy food. Why?
 - c. What are some parallels between those that don't like healthy food and those that don't like healthy spiritual teaching?
 - d. What are some types of healthy, sound biblical teaching that many today don't like?
- _____

2. Would they want to stop hearing teaching altogether? (yes or no) _____

3. Because of their "itching ears," what types of teachers would they try to accumulate for themselves? _____

Thought questions

- * Are there some churches today where certain types of Bible teaching would not be welcome?
 - * What are some Bible topics that they would not want to hear?
- _____

- * Are there some Bible topics that you would rather not hear? When you hear that there is going to be a lesson on this topic, do you groan inwardly?

4. What would be two results of a constant diet of unsound teaching? (last part of vs. 4)
- _____

5. What four things should Timothy do in response to this shallow religion? Discuss how we can do these four things today?

II. Warnings against Shallow culture in general (Read 3:1-5)

A. How does Paul describe the coming times in verse 1? _____

B. A long list of depravity – Read each item. Then discuss how you have seen signs of this quality in our society. Discuss how the quality might affect you

1. Lovers of _____
2. Lovers of _____
3. Vs. 2 _____
4. Vs. 2 _____
5. Vs. 2 _____
6. Vs. 2 Disobedient to their _____

* Discuss how you have seen this in worldly friends. Are there some television shows that you think promote this evil quality? Can your friends' attitude and that of TV shows towards their parents affect you in any way? How can you avoid that?

7. Vs. 2 _____
8. Vs. 2 _____
9. Vs. 3 _____
10. Vs. 3 _____
11. Vs. 3 _____
12. Vs. 3 _____
13. Vs. 3 _____
14. Vs. 3 _____
15. Vs. 3 _____
16. Vs. 4 _____
17. Vs. 4 _____
18. Vs. 4 _____

19. Vs. 4 Loves of _____ rather than lovers of _____

C. And yet... verse 5

1. What appearance would these people try to present? _____

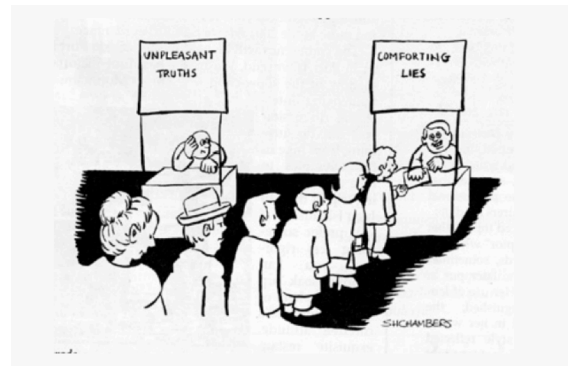
* Where and how have you seen this? (Be careful with names.)

2. However, what would they deny? _____

3. What should Timothy do regarding such people? _____

D. Thought questions:

1. Why was it important for Timothy and for us to avoid such people and attitudes?
2. Why is it so difficult for us to avoid them today?
3. Which is the most difficult for you to avoid?
 - a. Television shows where these types of people are featured
 - b. Movies where these types of people are featured
 - c. Popular people at school or work who are like the people described here
4. What can you do to avoid such people in some circumstances without appearing "holier than thou?" This is a toughie!



Conclusion – A prayer for wisdom and strength in facing our world, which is more corrupt every day.

2 Timothy, Lesson 4 - Loyalty to Christ and to His People, part 1

Introduction – Be honest. Have you ever been tempted to be ashamed of someone you loved around certain friends, perhaps because they were out of style, uneducated or “not cool?”

A. Questions

1. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? _____
2. What was he expecting to happen to him? (4:6-8) _____
3. What did he want Timothy to do? (4:9, 21) _____
 - * Why would it be important for him to come before winter? If you have a hard time figuring it out, What happened to Paul when his boat tried to travel too close to winter? (Acts chapter 27)
 - * If Timothy waited until after winter, what might happen to Paul before he got there?

B. In the back of Paul's mind, he seemed to be concerned that Timothy might hesitate. Why might Timothy be tempted to hesitate and not go quickly to Paul?

C. A large portion of the book is dedicated to exhortations to be shy or fearful, but for Timothy to be bold in coming to Paul in spite of shame and dangers.



HOW DOES PAUL MOTIVATE TIMOTHY?

I. By reminding him of the faith he had shown in the past – (Chapter 1)

A. Read 1:3,4

1. How often did Paul remember Timothy in his prayers? _____
 - * Do you know of someone who prays constantly for you? Would you like us to?
2. According to the first part of verse 4, What did Paul remember about Timothy?
His _____
 - * What good things do tears usually indicate about an individual? (unless crocodile tears!)

B. Read 1:5

1. Where had Timothy's sincere faith been before coming to him? _____
 - * *Thought question* – How had that been transferred to him?

C. Read Verse 6 –

1. What did Timothy have through the laying on of Paul's hands?
 - * We're talking miraculous spiritual gift here given through laying on of apostles' hands (Acts 8:18)
2. What should Timothy do regarding that gift? _____
 - * *Thought question* - Though we don't have miraculous spiritual gifts today, we all have certain gifts and talents that we can use for God. What is one you have? What can you do to stir that gift to serve the Lord?

D. Read Verse 7

1. What kind of Spirit does God **not** give us? _____
2. What kind of Spirit does God give us? _____ and _____

* *Thought question* - Can you see Paul's efforts to build up Timothy's confidence? What are some things that God does through His word and His people to build up your confidence to be bolder?

II. By reminding Timothy of His own (Paul's) faith

A. Read chapter 1 verse 8

1. Paul doesn't want Timothy to be ashamed of what two things?

2. Instead, what does he want Timothy to do? _____

B. Read chapter 3:10-13

1. What seven things does Paul want Timothy to follow in vs. 10? _____

2. In what two places that Timothy knew about did Paul suffer persecution?
And _____
 - a. Read Acts 16:1-3 - Where was Timothy from _____
 - b. Read Acts 14:19 What had happened to Paul there? _____
 - * Thought questions – Do you think there's a good chance that Timothy saw this with his own eyes or at least saw Paul after it happened?
 - * How do you think it would affect you to see a good Christian stoned almost to the point of death?
3. And yet, what did the Lord do for Paul in all of that? _____
 - * *Thought questions* – Do you think that Timothy would have risked anything by going to Rome to see Paul? What?
 - * Read Hebrews 13:23 – What had just happened to Timothy here?
(Some people think this may have happened after he went to see Paul.)
 - * Can you see how Paul is trying to get Timothy to be bold to come to him?
 - * How can the example of other faithful Christians help you to be bolder and less likely to be ashamed?

III. By pointing out the disloyalty of some (This is the saddest part of the book!)

* We would like to hope that this great man of God had a lot of support from those he helped during this time on “death row” before he was executed. Sadly such wasn't the case. Instead, many of his own friends, even close friends abandoned him.

A. Read 1:15

1. Who had turned away from Paul? All in _____ (That's where Timothy was when he received this letter!)
2. What two did Paul mention in particular? _____ and _____
 - * Asia was where Paul had so many friends and done so much work (Acts 19). Evidently those who were in Rome and at one time supported Paul, all left him!

B. Read 4:14 What had Alexander the Coppersmith done? _____

C. Read 4:9, 10

1. Why had Demas abandoned Paul? _____
 - * Can anyone find where Demas was mentioned before as a faithful Christian?
2. Where had Crescens gone? _____ Where had Titus gone? _____
 - * We would like to think they had good motives for leaving Paul, though none are mentioned either good or bad. But, what motive could have been stronger than staying with this amazing man of God in his last few months on the earth?

D. Read 4:16 – What brethren had stood by Paul at his first defense before Nero? _____

* We know from other statements that we'll study tomorrow that not all abandoned Paul. However, many who could have stood by his side, obviously didn't!

E. Thought questions

- * Have you ever left someone, only later to find out that they really needed your help and encouragement? Tell about it if you want. How did you feel?
- * What can we do to make sure that we don't abandon good people, especially elderly people when they really need us?

Conclusion – The last part of this lesson is depressing. But don't despair! Tomorrow we'll read about the few who did stand by Paul in his last days and ask ourselves how we can be like them!

2 Timothy, Lesson 5 - Loyalty to Christ and to His People, part 2

Introduction – Brief review – Paul is about to be executed for his faith



A. Questions

1. According to 4:9, What did Paul want Timothy to do? _____
2. According to 4:21, He should come before what? _____
3. And yet, 1:8, indicates that Timothy might have had what attitude about coming to him? _____

B. Ways in the last lesson we have seen Paul encourage Timothy to be bold and come to him

1. Reminded him of his faith in the past (1:3-7)
 2. Giving his own faith as an example to Timothy (1:8; 3:10-13)
 3. Pointing out the disloyalty of some (1:15; 4:9,10, 14, 16)
- Timothy, Don't be like them.

Ways Paul encourages Timothy to be bold and come to him!

IV. The loyalty of a few (Timothy, be like them!)

A. Read 1:16-18

1. Why did Paul want God to grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus? _____
2. What word does Paul use to describe the way Onesiphorus searched for him? _____
* *Thought question* - Paul wasn't staying in the Sheraton hotel? Where was he? What risks might Onesiphorus have had to take to find Paul? (Timothy, be like him!)
* When has someone "put themselves out" to help and encourage you. When have you sacrificed to help and encourage others?

B. Read 4:10 again (and be depressed) but then feel better by reading verse 11

1. Who was standing loyally by Paul in his last days? _____
* Discuss everything you know about Luke.
* We don't know a lot about Luke but know that he was fiercely loyal to Paul!
2. Read Matthew 25:37-40 – When we are fiercely loyal to God's people, who are we really being loyal to? _____

C. Read 4:16, 17

1. Though no "brethren" stood with Paul at his first defense, who did stand by him?
* *Thought questions* – Are we ever really alone if we're Christians? How can we have a better realization of the presence of the Lord in our lives when we feel lonely?

V. The hope of eternal life (Timothy, even if you come and are killed, you will live!)

A. Read 1:12 Why was Paul not ashamed? _____

B. Read 2:11-13

1. What happens if we die with Christ? _____
(Could there be some double meaning here about "dying with Christ?" [Rom. 6:3,4])
2. What happens if we endure? _____
3. However, what happens if we deny him? _____
4. If we are faithless, what is He? _____ Why?
* The idea seems to be – "Timothy. Come to me. If you die, you will live!"

C. Read 4:6-9 – Say it by memory if you can by now!

1. What symbol does Paul use to describe his coming death in the first part of 6?
_____ (Read Ex. 29:40, 41 if you want.)
2. What word does he use to describe his death in the last part of verse 6?
a. The word "depart" and "departure" is often used of death in the N.T. Why?
3. What three phrases does Paul use to describe what he has done? Why does each describe well the Christian life? _____

4. As a result, what did God have waiting for Paul? _____

5. To whom else has God promised this? _____

Thought questions – Paul is nearing death. What are some words you would use to describe his attitude towards death? Write down two or three

* An atheist reputedly said before he died, “O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!”

* How do Paul’s words of confidence compare with the atheist’s words of despair?

* When you die, how do you want to look back at your life and at the future— As Paul? Or, as someone like the atheist?

* How can you make sure that when you die, you will be confident like Paul?



Concluding thoughts

A. Did Timothy make it in time to Rome to spend Paul’s last days with him, praying and asking for God’s strength? Or was he delayed and unable to be with him in his last moments?

1. A theory – We know that Timothy was arrested at one time and released (Heb. 13:23). The theory is that Timothy did go to Rome and was arrested by Nero (who wasn’t very friendly towards Christians) and later released, perhaps when Nero died.

2. We would like to think, yes! But bottom line is we don’t know.

3. We’ll have to wait until we get to heaven to know!

B. If you were Timothy would you have taken your time in getting ready to go to Rome? Or, would you have quickly prepared and made every effort to get to him quickly?

1. How can you know if you would have been loyal to Paul?

2. By how loyal you are to Christ now!

3. What would it take to get you to become lethargic about serving Christ? What might make you ashamed to serve Him with all your heart? Mark one

a. Desire for popularity

b. Desire for fun

c. Too busy fascinated with video games, electronic gadgets.

d. Can’t find strength to break away from bad habits

C. Only one thing mattered when Timothy got this letter! To avoid distractions and go immediately to Paul and therefore be loyal to him and by extension to Christ.

1. Any other temporary issue that might have hindered Timothy meant nothing in comparison to this.

D. Personal thought questions for you

1. What is the only thing that really matters in your life?

2. What do you plan to do to put all the little insignificant distractions in their place to dedicate yourself to this only thing that really matters?

3. What can we do to help? Let us know!

E. Close with a prayer to God to help us to be loyal to Him and to His people and to put everything else in its place.

