

# 2 Timothy a life well lived

### Chapter 1

#### Background

On the night of July 19, 64 A.D., a fire broke out among the shops lining Rome's chariot stadium. The flames raged for six days before coming under control; then the fire reignited and burned for another three days.

When the smoke cleared, 10 of Rome's 14 districts were in ruin. The 800-year-old Temple of Jupiter Stator and the Atrium Vestae, the hearth of the Vestal Virgins, were gone. Two thirds of Rome had been destroyed.

Nero was blamed for the disaster, implying that he started the fire so that he could bypass the senate and rebuild Rome to his liking. The historian Tacitus claimed that Nero watched Rome burn while merrily playing his fiddle.

Nero blamed the fire on the Christians, whom he mercilessly hunted down and crucified. During gladiator matches he would feed Christians to lions, and he often lit his garden parties with the burning carcasses of Christian human torches.

Second Timothy was written by Paul from a damp and lonely Roman prison cell shortly before his death. Paul knew his death was near as the Roman emperor Nero had arrested him and was using him as a scapegoat as the leader of the Christians who he held responsible for the fire.

Second Timothy offers a picture of Paul settling his accounts and preparing for his inevitable death. At the close of the letter, Paul mentioned a significant number of people—some who had wronged him and others who had served faithfully alongside him.

Paul is actually giving Timothy a "state of the church" address, updating Timothy on the current state of their acquaintances and friends so that the young pastor could carry on after Paul's departure.

The state of the Church in Ephesus was not good. It had fallen into error doctrinally and sin in terms of behavior. There were leaders in the church who had no business being in leadership. They were teaching error, and they were living ungodly lives.

I find it interesting that in his last letter Paul's mind is not on himself or the unfairness of his death. He is trusting that God has him right where He wants him so Paul's attention is on others, the church and to the next generation, Timothy.

Where do you hope your thoughts will linger as you come to the end of your days?

#### 2 Timothy 1: 1 (NIV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

#### 2 Timothy 1: 2 (NIV)

To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 3-4 (NIV)

I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 5 (NIV)

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 6-7 (NIV)

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 8 (NIV)

So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God

What does it appear Paul is concerned about in regards to Timothy from the last few verses?

#### 1 Corinthians 16: 10 (NIV)

When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 6-7 (NIV)

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#### Matthew 10: 32-33 (NIV)

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 9 (NIV)

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

#### 2 Timothy 1: 10 (NIV)

but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 11 (NIV)

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 12 (NIV)

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to quard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

Why is Paul telling Timothy that being in prison is not shameful?

#### 2 Timothy 1: 13-14 (NIV)

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

## What is Paul talking about guarding?

What do we guard it with?

#### 2 Timothy 1: 13-14 (NIV)

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

#### 2 Timothy 1: 15 (NIV)

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

How is Paul feeling?

#### 2 Timothy 1: 15 (NIV)

You know that <u>everyone in</u>
the province of Asia has
<u>deserted me</u>, including
Phygelus and Hermogenes.



How long did Paul teach in Ephesus?

## Acts 20: 31 (NIV)

So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Who else warned with tears night and day for three years?

### Matthew 26: 56 (NIV)

But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

How difficult is it for Timothy to lead a Church that has deserted Paul?

## 2 Timothy 1: 15 (NIV)

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including

Phygelus and Hermogenes.

Phygellus means "a little fugitive" and Hermogenes means "born lucky". They were there when times were good, but in difficult times they quit an ran off.

## 2 Timothy 1: 16 (NIV)

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

Here is another reference as to the reason why everyone is abandoning Paul, what is it?

## 2 Timothy 1: 16 (NIV)

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

## 2 Timothy 1: 17-18 (NIV)

On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

What does this tell us about where Paul was being kept?

## 2 Timothy 2: 1 (NIV)

You then, my son, <u>be strong</u> in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Where is Paul telling Timothy to draw his strength from?

## 2 Timothy 2: 1 (NIV)

You then, my son, <u>be strong</u>
<u>in the grace that is in</u>
<u>Christ Jesus</u>.

## **Ephesians 6: 10-11 (NIV)**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

## 2 Timothy 2: 1 (NIV)

You then, my son, <u>be strong</u>
<u>in the grace that is in</u>
<u>Christ Jesus</u>.

## 2 Timothy 2: 2 (NIV)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Can we hear things that Paul has said?

## 2 Timothy 2: 2 (NIV)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

# What is Paul telling Timothy?

#### BIBLE CENTERED

Interact with the Bible frequently. It is transforming their relationships and shaping their choices.

5%

#### BIBLE ENGAGED

Interact with the Bible frequently. It is transforming their relationship with God and others.

19%

#### BIBLE FRIENDLY

Interact with the Bible consistently. It may be a source of spiritual insight and wisdom.

19%

#### BIBLE NEUTRAL

Interact with the Bible sporadically. It has little spiritual influence, but that influence may be growing.

9%

#### BIBLE DISENGAGED

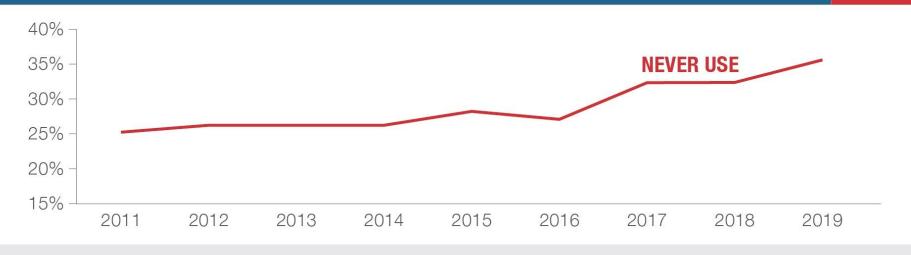
Interact with the Bible infrequently, if at all. It has minimal impact on their lives.

48%\*

\*% of population



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## 2 Timothy 2: 3 (NIV)

Join with me in suffering, <u>like</u>
<u>a good soldier of Christ</u> **Jesus**.

What war is Timothy fighting?

Christianity is not a club, a game or designed for spectators.

Christianity is a war, but not against flesh and blood, it is a Spiritual war.

## 2 Timothy 2: 4 (NIV)

No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

# Who is our Commanding Officer?

## 2 Timothy 2: 5 (NIV)

Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

## Who's rules do we follow?

What happens in sports if a player disagrees with the rules?

What happens when society disagrees with God's rules?

## 2 Timothy 2: 6 (NIV)

The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

## What is Paul saying here?

## 2 Timothy 2: 7 (NIV)

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

What does it mean to reflect on something?

What is Paul wanting Timothy to reflect on?