

The Message of 2 Timothy: Guard the Gospel

Written in 67 AD, during Paul's second imprisonment in Rome; Paul knew his work was done and his life was nearly at an end.

Overview of 2 Timothy: Chapter 1 – Guard the Gospel (1.14)

Chapter 2 – Suffer for the Gospel (2.3,8.9)

Chapter 3 – Continue in the Gospel (3.13,14)

Chapter 4 – Preach the Gospel (4.1,2)

1.1– 18 Guard the Gospel

1.1 Paul Apostle and Roman prisoner

Mark 3.14,15 (Jesus) appointed twelve--designating them apostles --that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

John 15:26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

WROTE THE NEW TESTAMENT - CONTRA "red letter" Bible
ALL OF IT IS THE WORD OF JESUS

SAME COMMISSION TO PAUL - BY RISEN CHRIST

Acts 26.12-18 ...I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. {17} I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them {18} to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?

1.8 "our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner."

1.16 "was not ashamed of my chains."

Relative FREEDOM - HOUSE ARREST - ENTERTAIN VISITORS

1:17 "when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me."

2.9 "chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained."

4.16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. {17} But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. {18} The Lord will

rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Defense - AWAITS FULL TRIAL - ANTICIPATES EXECUTION

4.6-8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. {7} I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. {8} Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Reason

v. 1 "by the will of God" UNDISPUTED AUTHORITY

Galatians 1.1 Paul, an apostle--sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father

Goal

v. 1 "the promise of life in Christ Jesus"

GOOD NEWS FOR DYING SINNERS - LIFE IN CHRIST

PROMISE NOT AN OFFER - TO THOSE IN CHRIST

1 John 5.12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The Position (office) and the Duty

APOSTLE (Greek) - "ONE WHO IS SENT" e.g. "with authority"

LATIN - "missionary" 'apostolic ministry'

1.2-8 Timothy – Paul’s dear Son

PAUL'S MISSION TO LYSTRA - FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 14.6,7 cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country where they continued to preach the good news.

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 16:1 to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

TYPICAL SALUTATION OF 1st C LETTER - NEW MEANING

"Grace" -God's Riches At Christ's Expense-kindness to undeserving

"Mercy" -love to the weak and helpless who cannot help themselves

"Peace" - restored harmony to those in strife

GRACE to worthless, MERCY to helpless, PEACE to restless

Four Major Life Influences

Family

MOST FORMATIVE INFLUENCE ON US
GOOD BIOGRAPHY BEGINS WITH FAMILY ROOTS

1) Paul

1.3 God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did

GOD OF ISRAEL - GOD WHO REVEALED HIMSELF IN CHRIST

Acts 24.14 I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way,

Acts 26:6 my hope in what God has promised our fathers

COMPLETED JEW - Knows MESSIAH ISRAEL LONGED FOR

2) Timothy

1.5 your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice

3.15 from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures

John Calvin "Timothy was reared in his infancy in such a way that he could suck in godliness along with his mother's milk."

TO BE RAISED IN CHRISTIAN HOME IS PRICELESS BLESSING

Friends

ANOTHER IMPORTANT INFLUENCE - MOST IMPT. FOR YOUTH

1.3b,4 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.

PAUL WAS A FATHER AND A FRIEND - NEEDED PEOPLE

1 Cor 15.33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

SHAPING INFLUENCE OF MENTORS - TEACHERS - PEERS

Gifts

1.6b gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands

1 Timothy 4:14 your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

Ordinat. UNIQUE to TIM - GIFTS SHARED by ALL CHRISTIANS

1 Peter 4.10,11 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Discipline

NEED FOR GIFTS TO BE DEVELOPED AND USED

1.6a fan into flame the gift of God

1 Tim 4.14a Do not neglect your gift

CONSTANT NEED FOR RENEWAL IN OUR LIVES

1.7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

DIFFERENCE btwn PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD
 COMB. of Divine SOVEREIGNTY & Human RESPONSIBILITY

v. 8 EITHER ASHAMED OF CHRIST or WILL SUFFER FOR HIM

Mark 8.38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

TEMPTATION FELT BY PAUL

Romans 1.16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes

TENDENCY of SHAME: 1) Name of X 2) PEOPLE of X 3) GOSPEL

1.9,10 God's Gospel

Nature of Salvation

Free Gift / Demands EVERYTHING: "saved & called us to a holy life"

1 Thess 4.7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Source of Salvation

"his own purpose and grace" / "not because of anything we have done"

Ephesians 1.4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Basis of Salvation

SAVING WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

1) **Negative:** "destroyed death"

1 Corinthians 15.54,55 "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Hebrews 2.14,15 by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

PAUL'S TESTIMONY - DEATH DESTROYED FOR HIM

Philippians 1.20,21 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

2) **Positive:** "brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"

1 Corinthians 15.42-44 The body that is sown is perishable, but is raised imperishable; {43} it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; {44} is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1 Peter 1.3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you

Summary: Unfolding Events of God's Saving Work

- 1) Eternal gift to us in Christ of God's grace
- 2) Historical appearing of Christ who died and rose again
- 3) Personal call to sinners through preaching of gospel
- 4) Moral sanctification of believers by Holy Spirit
- 5) Final heavenly perfection

1.11-18 The Christian's Duty toward the Gospel

Spread it Actively

"apostle" Ephesians 2.20 the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

ONCE FOR ALL WRITTEN SCRIPTURE

"preacher" Ephesians 4.11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers"

"teacher" Colossians 1.28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

MORAL BEHAVIOR WHICH FOLLOWS THE GOSPEL

Suffer for it Bravely (verse 12a)

Reason: vs. 9 - IT IS A FREE, UNDESERVED GIFT

Galatians 5.11 Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.

Galatians 6:12 Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.

Guard it Faithfully (verses 12b - 18)

1) Sound Teaching : def. "an architect's outline sketch"

HEALTH GIVING WORDS: Acts 20.27 "whole will of God"

CONCERN w/ BOTH WHAT TIM DOES AND HOW HE DOES IT

1 Timothy 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience *as an example* for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

2) Good Deposit: NEB "treasure put into your charge"

GUARD SO IT IS NOT LOST OR DAMAGED
ENTRUSTED WITH PRICELESS TREASURE

Luke 11.21 "strong man guards his house"

v. 15 ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO HAVE DESERTED THE GOSPEL

Acts 19.10 all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

3) Onesiphorus: ONE WHO REMAINED FAITHFUL

"a bringer of profit"

- a) Loyal Supporter "refreshed me" "not ashamed" "searched hard"
- b) Grateful Prayer PRAYER FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY /

SEPARATED BY MILES NOT DEATH
WE CANNOT DO THIS ON OUR OWN - Tim: young, sick, timid

4) Holy Spirit

1.12b Deposit given by Christ (1 Tim 6.20) / Thus IT IS OURS

1.14 Deposit guarded by Christ (1 Peter 4.19)

HE MAKES SURE IT IS KEPT SAFE
GROUND OF CONFIDENCE: WE KNOW HIM
DO NOT BE AFRAID AMIDST DENIAL AND APOSTASY

2.1-26 Suffer for the Gospel (2.3,8,9)

Ch. 1 Ends with People LEAVING the Truth > How about YOU Tim?

BE STRONG! How? Young, Timid, Sickly >> IN grace of Jesus

2.1,2 Passing on the Truth

RELAY Race of Ministry – Jesus, Paul, Timothy, Faithful, Others

Gal 1:11-12 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 4:1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

‘Many Witnesses’ NOT a SECRET SOCIETY > Open TRUTH of God

Our DUTY is to THIS and to NEXT Generation > Pass Baton Well

Me, John, Louis Talbot, and Sam Sutherland > ‘Preach it Louie!!’

John: ‘That is us in a few years!’

Six Pictures of the Christian Life > Sometimes Best Teaching Tool

2.3,4 - Picture 1: The Dedicated Soldier

Paul was CHAINED to Soldier > Commonly Seen thru all R. EMPIRE

Soldier NOT EXPECT Easy Life > War is Hell! Need COMMITMENT

PLEASE Commanding Officer: Just PASSING THRU World on March

1 Cor 7:29-32 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. I would like you to be free from concern.

1 Cor 9:14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1.5 - Picture 2: The Athlete who Keeps the Rules

Greek Athlete TRAINING for Olympics > Break Rules, No Prize

Requires DISCIPLINE, TRAINING, ENDURANCE

1 Cor 9:24-26 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly;

Heb 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus

2.6 - Picture 3: The Hard-Working Farmer

Not GLAMOROUS Job > No GAIN without PAIN of Hard WORK

Many Bible Texts about HARVESTS, FRUITFULNESS, and LABOR

Prov 24:30-34 I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. 32 I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man

Gal 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

2.7 The Way to Understand: God's Help, Man's Work

Man's Duty 'think' / God's Promise 'insight' > STUDY and PRAY

2.8-13 Suffering: The Way of Blessing

Three Pictures: Soldier, Athlete, Farmer / Now Three Living Examples

NOTICE in their Lives Same Pattern > CROSS leads to the CROWN

Jesus

Apostle tells Bishop: 'Don't FORGET Jesus' / Sadly WE DO!

Lord's Supper: Luke 22:19 "Do this in remembrance of me."

Person: 'David' HUMANITY / 'raised' GOD

Work: Died for our SINS / Justified by Resurrection

Luke 24:26 "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

1 Peter 1:11 the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow

Paul

SUFFERING of Paul leads to SALVATION of Others

2 Tim 1:11-12 of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12 That is why I am suffering as I am.

Phil 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

UNCHAINED Word goes forth from CHAINED Messenger

WORD is Key to Salvation of GOD'S ELECT > Sheep will HEAR

Christian

vs. 11-13 Quotes from CHRISTIAN HYMN > Two Stanzas

1st Pair > Those who remain TRUE > ENDURE

2nd Pair > Those who become FALSE > FAITHLESS

'DIED with Him' > Jesus is HIGHER than SELF and SAFETY

Rom 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

FAITHLESS? – Context in NEGATIVE Couplet / DISOWN

FAITHFUL to His THREATS > We are WARNED, STAY to be Saved

God cannot be FALSE to HIMSELF or HIS WORD

Matt 10:33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

3 Pictures: Soldier, Athlete, Farmer / 3 Examples: Christ, Paul, Believe

Blessing > Pain, Fruit > Toil, Life > Death, Glory > Suffering

2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,

2.14-19 Picture 4: The Unashamed Workman

WORK > Teaching God's Message // Cutting STRAIGHT FURROW

Good & Bad Workman – DIFFERENCE? How they handle Scripture.

Not Personality, Humor, Likeability: FAITHFULNESS to God & Word

Diff btwn FOOLISH Discussions and FAITHFUL Explanations

'godless chatter' > No EMPTY TALK in Teaching the Message

Not called to be CLOWN, COMEDIAN, ACTOR > TEACHER

'left way of truth' > Crooked, Dangerous Path, Arrow off Target

v. 19 Right Doctrine promotes Right Living

If you KNOW God than you are KNOWN by Godly Living

1 Tim 6:20-21 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.

2.20-22 Picture 5: The Clean Vessel

Large House // God's Church – Vessels // Leaders in the Church

Acts 9:15 This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

2 Cor 4:7 We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Good Teacher = Good VESSEL > CLEAN in Word and CONDUCT

v. 22 FLEE – Evil things // CALL ON – God and His Purity

Christian Life > Put Off and Put On / Set your mind GOOD THINGS

Phil 3:13-14 Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2.23-26 Picture 6: The Lord's Servant

World of Ideas / Arguments / Controversies > Don't be Argumentative

'foolish and ignorant arguments' > for some SIGN of INTELLIGENCE

Prov 26:4-5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes. > NEED Wisdom to TELL THE DIFFERENCE

GENTLENESS // NURSES Care / Posit > PRAISE / Neg. CORRECT

(Paul's Example: Acts 9.29; 17.2,17,18; 18.4; 19.8; 24.5; 28.23,31)

Opponents (v.25,26)

Need REPENTANCE from Sin and RELEASE from Satan

Belief > Behavior / Behavior > Belief

Review:

Soldier, Athlete, Farmer > Picture of DEDICATION, HARD WORK

Workman > Image of FAITHFUL TEACHING

Vessels > HOLY LIVING, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER

Servants > GENTLE but FIRM

3.1-17 Continue in the Gospel (3.13,14)

Paul the prisoner thinks of FUTURE of the Gospel > CHALLENGES

Timothy is WEAK – But GOD is GREAT – Committed to CHURCH

3.1,2 Facing Times of Stress

'Last Days' began with Pentecost > Characterized by Attacks

Opposition to the Gospel is CONSTANT Reality

'PEOPLE' – Source of Problems! > Be PREPARED / Not 'Evil Spirits'

3.2-9 Description of Evil People

Moral Conduct

19 Descriptions:

SELF Love: Selfish, Greedy, Boastful, Conceited / contra Love of God

FAMILY Breakdown: Abusive, Disobedient, Ungrateful, Unholy, w/out Love

PRIDE > Root of Evils, Centered on SELF, rather than GOD-Centered

Only GOSPEL can CHANGE HEART > Die to Self – Live for Him

Religious Practice

Terrible Ones are ‘MEMBERS of Church’! / Empty Rituals

USA Grows – More RELIGIOUS and More IMMORAL Same Time

Form & Power: Religion & Morals / Faith & Works > BOTH Needed

Isa 1:13-17 Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations-- I cannot bear your evil assemblies. 14 Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me;

I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; 16 wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, 17 learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

Matt 23:25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

AVOID – Cannot ESCAPE them – But do not seek FELLOWSHIP

1 Cor 5:9-11 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

Zeal for Converts

Like a SECRET Military Operation > Not Direct, Cunning, Sneaky

Sneak thru Backdoors to WOMEN Alone // Serpent coming to Eve

1. Morally: Burdened by Guilt / Want ‘Religious’ Man to Say all is OK

2. Emotionally: Swayed by Evil Desires / Lonely, Need Support

3. Intellectually: Always 'learning'/ Mental Confusion / Listen Anyone

Victims of Cunning / Lying Men / Empty Promises > Adulterous

Jannes & Jambres – Chief Magicians of Pharaoh in Egypt

IMITATED the REAL Work of God > Religious Phonies

'Success' will be LIMITED and TEMPORARY > Folly will be CLEAR

History of Churches > Imposters EXPOSED > Integrity AFFIRMED

3.10-15 Standing Firm in the Faith

'you' – Timothy called to STAND ALONE > Lonely but Not Alone

2.1 'you then, my son...'

Be Different from World

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

The Past

v. 10 Follow Paul's Steps / Disciple – Boasting? Test of SINCERITY

TRUE Servants of God REMAIN > Will be KNOWN by Man & God

Phil 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice.

Conduct – Whole way of Life, Consistent Behavior

Purpose – Spiritual Goals that motivated him

Faith – What and How he believed, Doctrine and Faithfulness

Patience – Tolerant of Enemies and aggravating people

Love – for God and man, Jesus and His Church

Endurance – steadfast, bearing up in difficult circumstances

Persecutions – Proof of his Character and Legitimacy / Heretics Run!

Antioch – Iconium – Lystra (Tim's home) > Traveling Companions

v. 12 Experience of ALL who seek to FOLLOW HIM

John 15:18-20 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

v. 13 Seek to REVERSE Advance of Evil > Grows worse and worse

LYING and BEING Deceived by their OWN LIES

The Future

v. 14 'but as for you' > Again Tim called to LONELY LEADERSHIP

Evil is SLIDING – We are called to STAND FIRM > ABIDE in Him

2 John 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

TRUTH is AFFIRMED by LIVING EXAMPLES of Loved Ones

SEED Planted by Godly Mother and Grandmother / Paul HARVESTED

3.15b-17 Origin and Purpose of Scripture

SOURCE of Truth > Comes from WORD of God > God of the Word

UNCHANGING Message in this FAST CHANGING WORLD

v. 15 BEST Summary Statement of the PURPOSE of Scripture

Not ENCYCLOPEDIA of All Truth > Narrow Focus on Saving Truth

God-breathed

'EVERY WORD of Scripture is BREATHED Out by God'

DIVINE Origin of Bible guarantees its HUMAN Usefulness

True of OT and NT > All Words of Jesus > Author and Subject

1 Thess 2:13 when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God

2 Peter 3:15-16 our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures

Useful

‘Thoroughly Equipped’ > All you need in God’s Word / No More
 Word and Spirit > Believer has TOOLS for Life and Ministry in Christ
 We do not KNOW IT ALL > but we KNOW we NEED IT ALL!
 BELIEF > ‘teaching truth’ and ‘rebuking error’
 BEHAVIOR > ‘correcting faults’ and ‘instructing in right living’

4.1-22 Preach the Gospel (4.1,2)

Final Written words of Apostle Paul > Martyred w/in Days or Weeks
 End of 30+ years as Apostle, Herald, Evangelist, Teacher of Gospel
 CHARGE – Testify under Oath – Solemn Words

4.2 The Nature of our Gospel

The Word of God – v. 3 ‘sound doctrine’ / v. 4 ‘the truth’ / v. 5 ‘good news’ / v. 7 ‘the faith’
 Responsible to Guard It – Suffer for It – Continue it It – Preach It
 Not called to INVENT / IMPROVE Message > Be Faithful, CLEAR

An Urgent Message

Message of GREAT IMPORTANCE – Be READY, STAND-BY
 In/Out of Season – Man’s Idea > God’s Time is NOW, ALWAYS
 His APPEARING is COMING > Many are NOT YET READY

A Relevant Message

For ALL People in All SITUATIONS: correct, rebuke, encourage
 Comfort the Uncomfortable / Disturb the Comfortable
 Apply UNCHANGING Word to Constantly Changing CULTURES

A Patient Message

‘with great patience’ > cannot FORCE someone into FAITH

Urging AND Being Patient at Same Time > TRUST in God

2 Tim 2:24 The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone

An Intelligent Message

Present God’s Word with God’s Wisdom > Do your BEST

‘CAREFUL Instruction” – Do not be SLOPPY or UNPREPARED

Pastor is a TEACHER of God’s Word > Not Entertainer or Counselor

Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Acts 20:27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

Bible – like NILE RIVER – Wide – Safe at Edges, Deadly at Center

KNOW your LIMITS – Time, Resources, Education, BE REALISTIC

Luke 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"

4.1.3-8 The Need for our Gospel

Paul encourages young, weak, timid Timothy with 3 Great Incentives

The Coming of Christ (v. 1)

He’s COMING even if Paul dies first: v. 8 ‘longed for his appearing’

Appearance, Judgment, Kingdom > SOLEMN MOTIVATION

Courage and Confidence: ‘preach in the PRESENCE of God’

AUTHORITY of Christ Himself > He and DAD sitting in FRONT Row

(If they’re LISTENING, you better be WELL PREPARED!)

The World

(Vs. 3-5) Dark and Difficult days ahead > People REJECT the Truth

Negatively: ‘not put up with sound doctrine’ / ‘turn away from truth’

Positively: ‘gather teachers they want to hear’ / ‘turn aside to myths’

NOT People w/ NO Beliefs > People with WRONG BELIEFS

Rom 1:18-29 > Rejection and Replacement of God’s Clear Truth

18 men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

19 what may be known about God is plain

20 his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen... men are without excuse.

21 although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him

23 exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts

25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator

28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Don’t confuse me with the facts, MY MIND IS MADE UP!

‘itching ears’ > insatiable CURIOSITY for SOMETHING NEW!

v. 3 ‘sound doctrine’ > ‘own desires’

v. 4 ‘the truth’ > ‘legends’

How should Timothy RESPOND to the Challenge?

1. Be Steady – ‘keep your head’ / Don’t REACT, RESPOND Wisely

Be WELL BALANCED, Self-Controlled, ‘calm and sane’

2. Endure Suffering – ‘open minded’ Liberals HOSTILE to TRUTH

Everyone/thing is WELCOME into the Public Square, except JESUS

3. Preach the Gospel – Counter Falsehood with Calm, Patient, Truth

Spurgeon: ‘Defend the Bible? I just let the lion out of his cage!’

‘do the work of an evangelist’/ Bible is for Salvation & Sanctification

4. Fulfill your Ministry: ‘discharge all the duties of your ministry’

Soldier on! Press on! > No Surprise that there is Trouble, Jesus Died!

‘The more determined men become to despise the teachings of Christ, the more zealous should godly ministers be to assert it’ John Calvin

The Faithful Apostle

Transition > ‘Timothy, DO YOUR work, because MINE is OVER’

v. 6-8 Paul ENCOURAGES Timothy with his OWN EXAMPLE

1) Sacrifice – ‘poured out like a drink offering’ > Life on Altar of God

2) Sailing – ‘time for departure’ / Ship is Untied / Tent taken Down

v. 7 Paul Reviews 30 years of Ministry

1) Done my BEST in RACE – ‘athlete competes by the rules’ 2.5

2) Run the Full DISTANCE

Acts 20:24 I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

3) Kept the FAITH > He GUARDED the Gospel > Not drop BATON

v. 8 Paul’s Reward

Nero/Caesar declares Paul > ‘Guilty’ because he is ‘Unrighteous’

God declares Paul > ‘Not Guilty’ because He is ‘Righteous’

Olympic Games – Victorious Athlete returns to their Hometown

Entered by NEW GATE > Hole Opened to Town Wall for THEM

SAME PRIZE for ALL who ‘Love His appearing’

World DREADS His Appearing: The kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" Rev 6:15-17

4.9-22 The Life of God’s Servant

Surveyed the PAST > Looks at PRESENT NEEDS, God with him now

Human Needs

Paul is REAL MAN > Hurts, Needs, Anxieties > OPENLY Shares

1. SPIRIT – Needs Friends ‘come quickly’ – Feeling Alone
2. BODY – v. 13 ‘bring the cloak’ / v. 21 ‘get here before winter’
3. MIND – ‘my scrolls’ (books of papyrus) / ‘parchment’ (notebooks)

How many books have you read this month? Year? FILL MIND UP

Friends

DIFFICULTIES show who are your REAL FRIENDS

- **Faithful Friends**

Crescens and Titus – Companions in Travel and Ministry

Luke – a convert of Paul, author of Luke/Acts

Col 4:14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor

Mark (John Mark) – RESTORED ‘he is helpful to me in my ministry’

Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

Acts 13:13 John left them to return to Jerusalem

Acts 15:36-40 Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and left

1 Peter 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

Tychicus – Carried Paul’s Letters

Eph 6:21 Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything

Col 4:7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

Priscilla and Aquila

Rom 16:3-4 Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

Acts 18:1-3 Paul...went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla...he was a tentmaker as they were

Onesiphorus

2 Tim 1:16-18 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. 18 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.

Erastus

Rom 16:23 Erastus, who is the city's director of public works (Corinth?)

Trophimus

Acts 20:4 He (Paul) was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

Eubulus – Pudens – Linus – Cladiua / New Friends/Disciples with Paul

(Linus may have become the FIRST BISHOP of ROME)

- **Faithless Friends** > Very PAINFUL to be ABANDONED, Betrayed

Demas – Former partner in Ministry

Col 4:14 Demas send greetings.

Philem 23-24 sends you greetings...Demas...my fellow workers.

v. 10 Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

Vs. 14-15 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

1. Not clear WHO he is or WHAT he did

2. Maybe FALSE WITNESS against Paul in 1st Defense (v. 16)
3. Paul did NOT take REVENGE > Trusted God his DEFENDER
4. WARNED Tim to be CAREFUL

Faithfulness

Roman Trials had TWO APPEARANCES / 1st Defense & Final Verdict

v. 16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me.

Some of TYPICAL Charges made AGAINST Christians included:

Atheism – because Caesar is God! And Christians do NOT BELIEVE

Insurrection – because Caesar is Lord! Christian disrespect destabilizes

Cannibalism – because Christians eat the body and blood of Jesus

Hatred of Human Race – Christians oppose pleasures & Roman Games

John 16:32 A time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

Vs. 17-18 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength...And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

LION – Circus Games? / NERO? at his death 'Lion is Dead' sent out

1 Peter 5:8 Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

GREATEST CONCERN > Be Faithful to Jesus and His Gospel

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

STRENGTHENED by Word of Lord in Prison, Paul PERSEVERED

v. 17 so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

NOT Brief Word > FULLY > All the Gentiles > Heart of Rome!

GRACE from Jesus – v. 22 Grace be with you.

Salvation – Service – All of Life > Undeserved Gifts of God

GLORY to Jesus – v. 18 to him be glory forever and ever!