

**The 2nd letter that Paul
wrote to Timothy
(The book in the Holy Bible
called 2 Timothy)
About this letter**

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy about 2,000 years ago, more than 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven, and it is now in the Holy Bible.

God sent Paul to lots of countries to tell people about Jesus. Timothy heard what Paul said, and he believed in Jesus. After that, he went with Paul and helped him do his work (see Acts 16:1-3). At a town called Ephesus, Paul told Timothy to stay and be the pastor of the church there.

At that time, the Roman people were the bosses over lots of nations. They didn't like Paul telling people about Jesus, so they grabbed him, and they put him in jail, in Rome. Paul wrote this 2nd letter to Timothy from jail. Paul knew that the Roman bosses were going to kill him, and he wanted to see Timothy again before he died.

Paul wrote this 2nd letter to Timothy a few years after he wrote the 1st letter to Timothy.

This letter has important messages for us Christians today, especially for ministers and pastors. It can help church leaders work out how to properly look after the people in their churches.

1-2 Dear Timothy,

I am Paul, and this letter is from me. God picked me out to be Jesus Christ's special worker. He gave me this job, to tell other people that they can believe in Jesus, and then they will live with God for ever. God promises to do that for us.

Timothy, I love you like you are my own son. I pray to God our father, and to Jesus Christ our leader, that they will show you that they love you. I am asking them to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourself.

Keep using the power God gave you

³ I thank God for you, Timothy, and I pray for you all the time, in the day time and also at night. I work for God, and I really want to work properly for him so that I always feel good about it. (My father wanted to work for God properly too, and so did my grand-father, and my family that lived a long time ago.) ⁴ I remember that you cried the last time we left each other, so now I really want to see you again so that I will be happy. ⁵ I also remember that you really believe in Jesus. First your grand-mother Lois believed in him, then your mother Eunice believed in him. And I know that you believe in Jesus now too, just like they do.*

⁶ Remember the time that I laid my hands on you and prayed for you. God's spirit gave you special power at that time. Well, now I want you to remember that, and you have to keep on using that power in your work for God. If you have not used it for a while, you need to start

* **1:5** Acts 16:1

using it again. ⁷ God's spirit in us doesn't make us frightened, but he helps us be strong so that we do great things, and he helps us love people, and he helps us control ourselves.

⁸ You have to tell people about our leader Jesus. Don't feel shame about that. And don't feel shame about me because I'm in jail. I'm here because I told people about Jesus. But don't worry. Just go ahead anyway and tell people about our leader Jesus. And then maybe some people might make trouble for you, just like they made trouble for me. But God will make you strong, and you will not worry about that trouble. ⁹ It is God that saved us, and he picked us to be his own specially good people. We didn't do anything to get him to like us, but he was good to us anyway. He sent Jesus Christ to come and save us. God planned all that a long time ago, even before time started, ¹⁰ and now he makes it clear for us all to see. Jesus came to save people, so that if they believe the good news about him, they will not stay dead after they die, but they will live for ever.

¹¹ And God gave me this job, to tell everyone that good story, and to teach everyone that Jesus can save them.* ¹² So I tell everyone about him. Those people that don't like Jesus, they make trouble for me. But I know God, and I believe in him, so I don't feel shame when I get that trouble. I know that he will look after me right up until the day when Jesus will come back.

* **1:11** 1 Timothy 2:7

¹³⁻¹⁴ Whenever you teach people, you have to make sure that you tell them the same true message that I told you before. Don't let anyone get you to change it into a wrong message. That message is something really special, and you really have to look after it properly. The Holy Spirit lives in us, and he will help you look after it properly. So you have to make sure you keep on believing in Jesus Christ, and keep on loving people just like he does. You are joined to him now, so you can do that.

¹⁵ You probably know about the people that came here from Asia. They all left me now. Even Figelus and Hermogenes left me. It is like they don't want to know me any more. ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ But Onesiforus wasn't like that. He came here to Rome and looked everywhere for me. And when he found me here in jail, he didn't feel shame. He often came and cheered me up. So I pray that Jesus, our leader, will be really good to his family. And you already know about that time that he was over there in Ephesus with me, and he helped me in lots of ways. One day our leader will judge everyone, and I pray that he will be good to Onesiforus and his family on that day.

2

Good workers for Jesus Christ

¹ So Timothy, you are like my own son now. I want you to be strong. And if you always stay joined up to Jesus Christ, you can do that. You see, he is always good to you, and he will help you.

² You heard me tell those true things about Jesus to lots of people, so you have to teach those things to more people. Pick good people that everyone respects, then teach them those things, so that they can go to other people and teach them those same things.

³ Remember that you belong to Jesus Christ. You are like his soldier. If soldiers get hurt, they don't stop fighting. They just forget their pain and keep going. Well, you have to be like that now. If people see that you belong to Jesus, and then they hurt you, you just have to forget it and keep going, just like a good soldier, and like other good Christians.

⁴ And you know that soldiers don't get other jobs while they are in the army. They just work for their army captain and try to make him happy. Well, just like that, Jesus is your captain, so you have to just do the things that Jesus wants you to do, and don't get mixed up with anything that he doesn't want.

⁵ And you are also like a sportsman. You know that sportsmen have to follow the rules of their game. If they don't, they can't win. Well, just like that, you have to follow the rules that God set down, so that in the end God will tell you that you won.

⁶ And I will use another picture story, about a gardener. He works hard, and then he is the first person to eat the food he grows in the garden. Well, like that gardener, if you work hard for God, he will quickly pay you.

⁷ Now think about those things that I just told you, and Jesus, our leader, will help you to properly understand them all.

⁸ So if people make trouble for you, just remember that they made trouble for Jesus Christ. He was born into the family of David, the man that was the big boss a long time ago. But people gave Jesus a lot of trouble, and they killed him. But then God made him alive again. That is the good news that I always tell people about Jesus. ⁹ But some of them don't like me telling everybody that message, so they make trouble for me. They even treat me like a criminal. They tied me up and put me here in this jail. But nobody can tie up God's word or keep it in jail. Anyone out there now can still go around and tell people God's message. ¹⁰ So I reckon it's all right for me to stay here in jail so that other people will hear that message and believe in Jesus. They are the people that God picked out. He will save them and make them great, and they will live happy with him for ever. ¹¹ Listen to these things that you sometimes hear Christians say. They are very true. They say,

“If we follow Jesus and stop doing bad things, it is like we die with him, and so we don't do anything bad any more, and then later we will live with him.

¹² If we follow him and people give us trouble, and if we keep on following him and don't let that trouble stop us, then we will become important leaders with him.

Or if we say that we don't know him, then later, he will say that he doesn't know us.*

¹³ But if we break our promise to him, that is different. He is not like us. He can never break his promise to us. He will always do what is right. That's the sort of person he is."

The sort of worker God likes

¹⁴ So talk to your mob there, and don't let them forget about those things. Tell them not to argue with anyone about words. Let them know that God is listening as you tell them that. If they argue like that, nobody wins, and anyone that listens to those arguments gets all messed up in the end.

¹⁵ Try your best to be the sort of teacher that God likes. He likes teachers that teach the true message, and that help people understand it properly. That's how you have to work for God. ¹⁶ Stay away from people that teach useless stories that give God no respect, because if somebody talks like that, they just push people away from God. ¹⁷ Their message is like a bad sore on a man that will not heal, and in the end it kills him. Those 2 men, Hymenayus and Filetus, they are bad teachers like that. ¹⁸ They say that God already raised up the dead people and made them alive again. But their message is wrong. Some people listened to them, and now these people don't believe in Jesus any more.

* **2:12** Matthew 10:33; Luke 12:9

¹⁹ But God gave us the true word that can't ever change. It is like a solid slab of concrete that builders put a house on. And it is like they wrote some words in that concrete. It is like they wrote this,

"God knows those people that belong to him,"

And like they also wrote,

"If anyone says that they belong to God, they have to stop doing bad things."

So God's people have to live that way.*

²⁰ Let me use another picture story. In a big house there are lots of things that people use all the time. Some of those things are really special, like gold bowls and silver spoons, and people use those things for good clean jobs. But for dirty jobs, they use pots made from the ground, or from wood. ²¹ Well, it is like that too with people that belong to God. If you stop doing bad things, you are like gold things or silver things, and God will use you for the good jobs. You will live in a clean way, and you will be ready for God to use you any way he wants to.

²² Lots of young people just follow their own feelings, and then they do bad things. But you have to keep away from anything like that. Keep away from anything that will push you into doing something bad. Instead of that, you have to try to do good things, and always trust God, and love people, and don't fight anyone. Some people live like that. They pray to God, and they only want to do good things. Well, make those

* **2:19** Numbers 16:5

people your good friends, and you live like that too.

²³ But you can't argue about stupid things that are not important. If you argue like that, you might get into a fight. ²⁴ And anyone that works for God can't get into fights, but they have to be good to everybody. So don't get angry with people that give you trouble. You have to teach people in a good way. ²⁵⁻²⁶ If somebody doesn't agree with the true message, you have to straighten them out, but do it quietly, in an easy way. You know, the devil, the boss over the bad spirits, he tries to trick people. It is like he sets a trap for them. He catches people in his trap, then he makes them do whatever he wants them to do. But if you teach people properly, they can wake up, then God will help them turn around, and he will get them to think straight, and they will understand that true message, and God will get them out of the devil's trap.

3

Bad people in the last days

¹ You have to understand this. In the last days of this world, things will be tough for people. ² Most people will only love themselves, and they will love money. They will think that they are smart, and they will tell everyone they are smart. They will say bad things about other people. They will never do what their parents tell them to do. They will never thank anyone for anything. They will not respect things that belong to God. ³ They will be hard and

cruel. They will remember the wrong things that other people do, and they will do payback to them. They will get wild easily, and they will never control themselves. They will always hate everything that is good. ⁴ They will turn against their friends. They will do stupid things that will make problems for other people, but they will not care. They will think they are really good, but they are not. They will not love God, but instead they will only love to have fun. ⁵ They will reckon they respect God, but they will reckon that he hasn't got any power. So I'm telling you, keep right away from those people.

⁶⁻⁷ They are the sort of people that trick some women that are stupid. They find women that always do anything they feel like doing, women that really went wrong, women that know that they did lots of bad things. That sort of woman is always ready to listen to a teacher that has a new idea, but they can never understand the true message. Those bad men get those women to let them into their homes, then they trick them with their talk, until the women really believe them. ⁸⁻⁹ Those men have sick and dirty minds, and they don't really believe in God. Think about the story from a long time ago, that story about Jannes and Jambres. They stood up against Moses and argued with him. In the end God killed those 2 men, and everyone saw that they were fools, and that they were wrong. Well, those tricky men are just like those 2 men that lived a long time ago. Those tricky men stand up and argue against anyone that tells the true

message, but in the end everyone will know that they are fools, and that they are wrong.*

¹⁰ But Timothy, you are very different from them. You believe the message I always teach, and you know the good way I always live. You know that I don't get angry when I get trouble, and I keep on loving people. You know that I believe really strongly in Jesus, and you agree with me about the things I live for. ¹¹ You know that bad people in some towns gave me a lot of trouble. They did that at Antioch, and at Iconium, and at Listra.

You know that they hurt me a lot at those places. But Jesus, our leader, saved me from them, and they didn't kill me.*

People that make trouble

¹² And it is always like that. If you belong to Jesus Christ and want to live God's way, bad people will always make trouble for you. ¹³ And those bad liars will get worse and worse. They will go on tricking people, and just like that, other people will trick them too.

¹⁴ But as for you, we taught you lots of things about God, and now you really believe those things. And you know us. We only teach the true message, so you know that those things we taught you are true. So keep on believing and following our message. ¹⁵ And remember that a long time ago you were a kid, and your mother taught you things from God's book, and

* **3:8-9** Exodus 7:11 * **3:11** Acts 13:14—14:20

that gave you enough sense to believe in Jesus Christ. Now you believe in him, and he saves you. ¹⁶ Everything in God's book comes from God himself. It was God that sent the message to people to write down, and God uses it now to teach us his true word, and he uses it to get us to understand the things that are wrong with our lives, and he uses it to fix us up, and he uses it to teach us to do the things that are right.* ¹⁷ That's how God properly trains his workers. He uses the words in his book to teach them, so they can do all those good things that he wants them to do.

4

Keep on telling people God's word

¹ You know, Jesus Christ will come back, and he will judge everyone. He will judge everyone that is alive at that time, and everyone that is already dead. So listen to what I'm telling you now. God and Jesus Christ are also listening to what I'm saying. It is this. ² You've got to tell people God's word. You have to be ready to tell it at any time, no matter if it seems to be the right time or not. Teach it carefully to people, and be ready to wait for them to understand it. If they are going wrong, show them the right way to live, and help them to live that way. If they are going the right way, say good words to them to help them to keep going strong.

* **3:16** 2 Peter 1:20-21

³ You see, people are getting less interested in true stories. One day, they will not listen to good people that teach the true message, but instead they will listen to somebody that says strange things. And they will find teachers that will just say whatever people want to hear. ⁴ Those people will stop listening to the true story, and instead they will listen to stories that are all lies. ⁵ Don't be like those people. You have to control yourself all the time, no matter what happens to you. If they get tough on you, don't get upset, just keep going. You have to keep on telling people the good news about Jesus, and you have to finish all the work that he gave you to do.

⁶ As for me, the time has come for me to leave my life here on earth, so I will die some time soon. I will give my life to God. ⁷ I did my job properly, and I finished all the work God gave me to do. I always told the true message about Jesus. I'm like a man that runs a long race and keeps going hard right up to the finish line. ⁸ I followed Jesus all the way, and very soon he will give me a prize, like a sportsman gets a medal after he wins. Jesus will make me properly good, that will be my prize. Jesus, our leader, is a fair judge, and he has got that prize ready to give me on the day that he comes back. And not just to me. He will give that prize to everybody that wants him to come back again, he will make them all properly good.

Paul wanted Timothy to come to him

⁹ Timothy, please come and see me as soon as you can. ¹⁰⁻¹² Almost all my friends went away to somewhere else. Demas just likes the things of this life, so he left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia country, and Titus went to Dalmatia country. And I told Tikicus to go to Ephesus. Only Luke is here with me now. If Mark was here, he could help me a lot in my work, so get him and bring him with you.* ¹³ You will probably go through Troas as you come to me here. When I was in Troas, I left a coat there with Carpus. So I want you to get that coat and bring it with you. And bring my books too. I especially want those leather books.*

¹⁴ Remember that man called Alexander, that makes things out of metal. He gave me a lot of trouble, and he really hurt me. But I will leave it to our leader, Jesus, to punish him for that.*

¹⁵ You look out for him too. He doesn't like the message we tell people about God, and he will try to do anything to stop us.

¹⁶ And here, in this city, when they took me to court that first time, and I tried to tell the judge my story, nobody else said anything to back me up. They all left me. I hope God will not punish them for that. ¹⁷ But God stood there beside me, and he made me strong, so that I could tell his message properly to everybody in that court. Those people there were not Jews, so maybe that

* **4:10-12** Acts 20:4; Galatians 2:3; Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-8, 14; 2 Corinthians 8:23; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:24 * **4:13**
 Acts 20:6 * **4:14** 1 Timothy 1:20; Psalm 62:12; Romans 2:6

was the first time they heard about God. In the end the judge didn't sentence me to death, so they didn't give me to the lions to eat. ¹⁸ And God will always look after me, no matter what bad things people do to try to hurt me, and he will take me up into heaven to be with him in his family. Everybody has to praise him and say that he is great, for ever and ever. Yes, that's right.

The last words Paul wrote

¹⁹ Now I want you to say *hello* from me to Aquila and Priscilla. And say *hello* also to Onesiforus and everyone at his place.*

²⁰ And I'll tell you about 2 of the men that were with me. Erastus is not with me now, he stayed in Corinth. And Trofimus was with me at Miletus, but he got sick, so I had to leave him there until he gets better.*

²¹ By the way, I want you to try to get here before the cold weather time comes.

All the Christians here say *hello* to you, especially Yubulus, Pudens, Linus and Claudia.

²² That's all. I pray that our leader, Jesus, will be with your spirit, and that he will be really good to you.

From Paul

* **4:19** Acts 18:2; 2 Timothy 1:16-17 * **4:20** Acts 19:22; Romans 16:23; Acts 20:4; 21:29

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