

The 2nd letter that Paul wrote to Timothy

This page tells a bit more about Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy

God sent Paul to many countries to tell people about Jesus. Timothy was the minister of the church in Ephesus. At that time the Roman people were the bosses of many countries. They didn't like Paul telling people about Jesus so they grabbed him, took him to court and then they put him in jail. Paul wrote this 2nd letter to Timothy from jail. He knew that the Roman bosses were going to kill him and he wanted to see Timothy again before he died.

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

This letter has good messages for Christians and especially for Christian ministers.

¹⁻² Dear Timothy

This letter is from me, Paul. God picked me out to be his special messenger to tell people about Jesus Christ. He gave me this job, to tell other people that they will live for ever if they believe in Jesus. God promises to do this for us.

Timothy, I love you like you are my own son. I pray to God, and to our leader, Jesus Christ, 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, every day and every night. I work for God, and I really want to work properly for him. (My father wanted to work for God properly, too, and so did my grandfather and my family from 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 and be really happy. ⁵ I also remember that you really believe in Jesus. First your grand-mother Lois believed in him, then your mother Eunice. And I know that you too believe in Jesus now, just like they do.

⁶ Do you remember the time that I laid my hands on you and prayed for you? God's spirit gave you special power at that time. It is God's special present to you. Well, now I want you to remember this. You have to keep using that power in your work for him. If you have not used it for a while you need to stir it up again. ⁷ His spirit in us doesn't make us frightened but he makes us strong so that we do great things, and he makes us love people, and he makes us stay cool and think properly.

⁸ So don't be ashamed to tell people about our leader, Jesus. And don't be ashamed of me. I told people about him and now I'm in jail. But you 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 don't worry about it. 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 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 this right from before time started, ¹⁰ and now he makes it clear for us all to see. Jesus came

to save us, so that if we believe the good news about him we will not stay dead after we die but we will live for ever.

¹¹ And God gave me this job, to tell everyone this 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 make trouble for me. But I know God, and I believe in him, so I'm not ashamed to get that trouble. I know that he will look after me right up till that last day, the day when Jesus will come back.

¹³⁻¹⁴ Whenever you preach to 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 dear and you have really got 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 loving people just like he does. You joined up 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 Phygelus and Hermogenes left me. It is like they don't want to know me any more. ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ But Onesiphous wasn't like that. He came here to Rome and looked everywhere for me and then he found me here. I'm in jail, but he wasn't ashamed of me. 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, Jesus, will judge everyone and I pray that he will get God to be really good to Onesiphous 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 you can do this if you always stay joined up to Jesus Christ, so that he will always help you.

² You heard me tell those true things about Jesus to many people, so you have to teach those things to more people. Pick good people that everyone respects then teach them those things, so 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 quit but they just forget their pain and keep on fighting. 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 do just 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 sport, otherwise they can't win. Well, just like that, you have to follow the rules that God set down, so that in the end you will win and he will give you the prize.

⁶ And I will use another picture story about a gardener. He works hard, 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 the things I just told you, and Jesus, our leader, will help you to properly understand it all.

⁸ So if people make trouble for you just remember that they made trouble for Jesus Christ. He was born into King David's family, but people gave him 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 if I say that, so they make trouble for me. They even treat me like a crook. They tied me up and put me here in 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, all right, I'm happy 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,

If we follow him and stop doing bad things, it is like as if we died and so we can'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, and then later, we will become important leaders with him.

But if we say that we don't know him, and then later, he will say that he doesn't know us. ¹³ Or if we break our promise to him, he isn't like us, he will never break his promise to us. He will always do the right thing. He is like that.

The kind of worker God likes

¹⁴ So talk to your mob there, and don't let them forget about these things. And tell them not to argue with

anyone about words. Let them know that God is listening as you tell them this. If they argue like that, nobody wins, and anyone that listens to those arguments gets all messed up in the end.

¹⁵ You try your best to be the kind of teacher that God likes. He likes one that teaches only the true message, and explains it the right way. That's the way 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, Hymenaeus and Philetus, they are that kind of wrong teacher. ¹⁸ They say that God already raised up the dead people and made them alive again, but they are wrong. Some of those that listen to them don't believe in Jesus any more.

¹⁹ But God gave us that 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 they also wrote, "If anyone says that he belongs to God he has 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 the people use all the time. Some of those things are really dear things, like gold bowls or 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 to do 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. Live like this with those people that pray to God and only want to do good things. Make them your good friends.

²³ But you can't argue about stupid things that are not important, otherwise you might get into a fight. ²⁴ And anyone that works for God can't get into fights, but he has to be good to people, and keep on quietly teaching them in a good way. ²⁵⁻²⁶ If somebody doesn't agree with the true message you have to straighten them out, but do it gently. Maybe God will help them turn around and get them to think straight and understand that true message. Then they will wake up, and God will get them out of the devil's trap. That devil catches people like that in his trap and makes them do whatever he wants them to do.

3

Bad people in the last days

¹ Now think about this. In these last days we can expect that things will be tough. ² Most people will only love themselves, and 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 are belong to God. ³ They will be hard and cruel. They will remember the wrong things that other people do to them and pay them back. They will get wild easily and never control themselves. They will always hate everything

that is good. ⁴ They will turn against their mates. They will do stupid things and make problems for other people but they will not care. They will be so proud it will make them crazy. They will not love God but instead they will only love to have fun. ⁵ They will reckon they respect God, but they will not agree that he has any power. So I'm telling you, keep right away from people like that.

⁶⁻⁷ These are the kind 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, and that know that they did lots of bad things. Women like that are always ready to listen to a teacher with a new idea but they can never understand the true message. These men persuade those women to let them into their homes, then they trick them with their talk, till the women really believe them. ⁸⁻⁹ Those men have sick and dirty minds, and they don't really believe in God. Do you remember the story from long ago about Jannes and Jambres? They stood up against Moses and argued with him. In the end God killed those 2 and everyone saw that they were fools, and that they were wrong. Well these tricky men are just like those 2. They 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 live the good way, like I always live, and you agree with me about the things we live for. You know that I believe really strongly in Jesus, and that I'm happy to wait for people and keep on loving them. 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 Lystra.

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

People that make trouble

¹² And it is always like that. Bad people will always make trouble for the anyone that belongs to Jesus Christ and wants to live God's way. ¹³ But 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, that we only teach the true message, so you know that those things we taught you are true. So keep on believing and following our words. ¹⁵ And remember too that a long time ago you were a child and your mother taught you things from the God's book, and this 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 to get us to understand the things that are wrong with our lives, and to straighten us out, and to teach us to do things that are right. ¹⁷ This is the way God properly trains his workers. He gives them everything they need to do all those good things that he wants them to do.

4

¹ You know, Jesus Christ will come back and he will judge everyone, no matter whether they are alive or whether they are already dead at that time. Listen, I'm telling you this with God and Jesus Christ listening. ² You've got to tell people God's word. You have to be ready to tell it at any time, no matter whether it seems

to be the right time or not. As you teach people, be ready to wait for them to understand. If they are doing wrong, show them the right way to live and help them to live that way.

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 those 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 But you have to control yourself all the time, no matter what happens to you. If they get tough on you don't get upset but keep going. You have to keep on telling people the good news about Jesus and finish all the work that he gave you to do.

⁶ As for me, I will die very soon. I will give my life to God. ⁷ I did my job properly and 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, and wins the race. ⁸ I followed Jesus all the way, and very soon he will give me the prize, like a sportsman gets a medal after he wins. 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 he will not give a prize just to me, but he will give one to everybody that wants him to come back again.

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 to have fun with the things that are around these days so he left me and went to Thessalonica.

Crescens went to Galatia country, and Titus went to Dalmatia country. And I told Tychicus 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 travel through Troas as you come to me here. When I was there I left a coat with Carpus in Troas. So I want you to get that coat and bring it with you. And bring my books too. I especially want those leather ones.

¹⁴ Do you remember that man called Alexander, that makes things out of metal? He gave me a lot of trouble and 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 at this place, they took me to court that first time and I tried to tell the judge my story, but nobody else said anything to back me up, but they all left me. I hope God will not punish them for that. ¹⁷ But God stood there beside me anyway and he made me strong, so that I could tell his message properly to all those people there. They were not Jewish people, so they didn't know anything about God. In the end the judge didn't sentence me to death and 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. One day he will take me up into heaven to be with him and his family. Everybody has to praise him for ever and ever. That's right.

The last words Paul wrote

¹⁹ Now I want you to say hello from me to that good couple there, Aquila and Priscilla. And say hello also to Onesiphorus and everyone at his place.

²⁰ If you want to know about Erastus, he stayed in Corinth. And I'll tell you about Trophimus. A while ago he was with me at Miletus and he got sick, so I had to leave him there till he gets better.

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

The people here that follow Jesus all say hello to you, especially Eubulus, Pudens, Linus and Claudia.

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

From Paul

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English Version translation
for Australian Aboriginal people who speak English as a second
language

Copyright © 2019 The Plain English Project

Language: Aboriginal English (English)

Dialect: Australian Aboriginal

This translation is made available to you under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivatives license 4.0.

You may share and redistribute this Bible translation or extracts from it in any format, provided that:

You include the above copyright and source information.

You do not sell this work for a profit.

You do not change any of the words or punctuation of the Scriptures.

Pictures included with Scriptures and other documents on this site are licensed just for use with those Scriptures and documents. For other uses, please contact the respective copyright owners.

2019-08-07

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 27 Sep 2019 from source files dated 8 Aug 2019

838c6f50-4b58-56fb-846b-7becf8890f94