

2 Timothy

Salutation

¹From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to further the promise of life in Christ Jesus, ²to Timothy, my dear child. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord!

Thanksgiving and Charge to Timothy

³I am thankful to God, whom I have served with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I remember you in my prayers as I do constantly night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I recall your sincere faith that was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I am sure is in you.

⁶Because of this I remind you to rekindle God's gift that you possess through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. ⁸So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me, a prisoner for his sake, but by God's power accept your share of suffering for the gospel. ⁹He is the one who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not based on our works but on his own purpose and grace, granted to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰but now made visible through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus. He has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel! ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher. ¹²Because of this, in fact, I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, because I know the one in whom my faith is set and I am convinced that he is able to protect

what has been entrusted to me until that day. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound words that you heard from me and do so with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Protect that good thing entrusted to you, through the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

¹⁵ You know that everyone in the province of Asia deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my imprisonment. ¹⁷ But when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day! And you know very well all the ways he served me in Ephesus.

2

¹ So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And entrust what you heard me say in the presence of many others as witnesses to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well. ³ Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one in military service gets entangled in matters of everyday life; otherwise he will not please the one who recruited him. ⁵ Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he will not be crowned as the winner unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The farmer who works hard ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think about what I am saying and the Lord will give you understanding of all this.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David; such is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship to the point of imprisonment as a criminal, but God's message is not imprisoned! ¹⁰ So I endure all things for the sake of those chosen by God, that they too

may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus and its eternal glory.

¹¹ This saying is trustworthy:

If we died with him, we will also live with him.

¹² If we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we deny him, he will also deny us.

¹³ If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, since he cannot deny himself.

Dealing with False Teachers

¹⁴ Remind people of these things and solemnly charge them before the Lord not to wrangle over words. This is of no benefit; it just brings ruin on those who listen. ¹⁵ Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately. ¹⁶ But avoid profane chatter, because those occupied with it will stray further and further into ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their message will spread its infection like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are in this group. ¹⁸ They have strayed from the truth by saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are undermining some people's faith. ¹⁹ However, God's solid foundation remains standing, bearing this seal: "***The Lord knows those who are his,***" and "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from evil."

²⁰ Now in a wealthy home there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also ones made of wood and of clay, and some are for honorable use, but others for ignoble use. ²¹ So if someone cleanses himself of such behavior, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. ²² But keep away from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace, in company with others who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

²³ But reject foolish and ignorant controversies, because you know they breed infighting. ²⁴ And the Lord's slave must not engage in heated disputes but be kind toward all, an apt teacher, patient, ²⁵ correcting opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance and then knowledge of the truth ²⁶ and they will come to their senses and escape the devil's trap where they are held captive to do his will.

3

¹ But understand this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, opposed to what is good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, loving pleasure rather than loving God. ⁵ They will maintain the outward appearance of religion but will have repudiated its power. So avoid people like these. ⁶ For some of these insinuate themselves into households and captivate weak women who are overwhelmed with sins and led along by various passions. ⁷ Such women are always seeking instruction, yet never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people – who have warped minds and are disqualified in the faith – also oppose the truth. ⁹ But they will not go much further, for their foolishness will be obvious to everyone, just like it was with Jannes and Jambres.

Continue in What You Have Learned

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, ¹¹ as well as the persecutions and sufferings

that happened to me in Antioch, I endured these persecutions and the Lord delivered me from them all. ¹² Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. ¹⁴ You, however, must continue in the things you have learned and are confident about. You know who taught you ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.

4

¹ I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² Preach the message, be ready whether it is convenient or not, reprove, rebuke, exhort with complete patience and instruction. ³ For there will be a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. Instead, following their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves, because they have an insatiable curiosity to hear new things. ⁴ And they will turn away from hearing the truth, but on the other hand they will turn aside to myths. ⁵ You, however, be self-controlled in all things, endure hardship, do an evangelist's work, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as an offering, and the time for me to depart is at hand. ⁷ I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith! ⁸ Finally the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous

Judge, will award it to me in that day – and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on his appearing.

Travel Plans and Concluding Greetings

⁹ Make every effort to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas deserted me, since he loved the present age, and he went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is a great help to me in ministry. ¹² Now I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring with you the cloak I left in Troas with Carpas and the scrolls, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm. *The Lord will repay him in keeping with his deeds.* ¹⁵ You be on guard against him too, because he vehemently opposed our words. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one appeared in my support; instead they all deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed for all the Gentiles to hear. And so I was delivered from the lion's mouth! ¹⁸ The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever! Amen.

¹⁹ Greetings to Prisca and Aquila and the family of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth. Trophimus I left ill in Miletus. ²¹ Make every effort to come before winter. Greetings to you from Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters. ²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

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