

2 Timothy

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul

THEME: "Paul's Farewell Letter to Timothy"

INTRODUCTION: In this letter the Apostle Paul calls Timothy his "dearly beloved son." Read 2 Timothy 1:2. He writes to this dearly beloved son shortly before he is martyred. He is admonishing Timothy concerning his ministry after the coming death of the Apostle Paul. Actually, he is saying, "Timothy, I am leaving. I want you to take up where I left off. Carry on my work."

I. THE THINGS THAT PAUL WANTS TIMOTHY TO BE.

1. A Soldier.

2 Timothy 2:3, 4. Paul admonishes Timothy to fight. He is to be a soldier for Jesus Christ. He warns him not to entangle himself with the affairs of this world, because no soldier entangleth himself with the things of the enemy. He keeps himself separate from the enemy in order that he may go to battle against him. The Apostle also reminds Timothy that a good soldier tries to please the one who chose him to be a soldier.

In Ephesians 6:11-17, we have the uniform of the soldier. The wise teacher could bring a soldier to class and dress him with these things; or, he could use the chalkboard to draw a picture of a soldier with his armor. (Note to teacher: Discuss everything that a soldier is supposed to do and be, and apply it to the Christian life. For example, the soldier is supposed to wear a uniform; a soldier fights; a soldier stays in shape; a soldier is obedient to the commanding officer, etc.)

2. Husbandman.

2 Timothy 2:6. The husbandman was the one who took care of the vineyard. It was he who saw to it that the vine bore fruit. In other words, the Apostle Paul is saying to Timothy, "Bear fruit."

3. Athlete.

In 2 Timothy 2:5, notice the words, "strive for masteries." What this means is, "run in the Olympic games." (Teacher, mention all the things that an athlete does and is, and compare them to the Christian. For example, the athlete trains, is separate from certain practices and eating habits, runs with all his might, desires to win, is watched by a crowd, etc. Notice in Hebrews 12:1 the phrase, "so great a cloud of witnesses." All of the saints in Heaven watch those of us who continue serving Christ on earth.)

4. Student. 2 Timothy 2:15.

5. Vessel.

2 Timothy 2:21. (Teacher, take a vessel, a glass, a cup, a flower vase, or something of that nature to class. Discuss the importance of the vessel. The vessel is no good if it leaks. The vessel is no good if it is dirty. The vessel is no good unless it contains what it is meant to contain. We are vessels for Christ. The Apostle Paul was called a "chosen vessel." We are to carry forth the Word of Life and to be clean vessels as we do so.)

6. Servant.

2 Timothy 2:24. The word here is "bondservant." A "servant" was a slave to a master. A "bondservant" was one who had finished his time or sentence as a slave and could go free, but chose to continue as a servant. In other words, the bondservant was one who had been a slave and loved it enough to choose to continue as one.

II. PAUL'S FAREWELL STATEMENT.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Here Paul is giving his farewell address to Timothy. He reminds us that he has "fought a good fight." Notice here he is a good soldier. Then he said he had "finished his course." Notice here he is a good athlete; he has run the prescribed course. Then he said, "I have kept the faith." Notice here he is a good vessel, a good student and a good servant.

The Apostle Paul is saying to Timothy, "You be what I have been. Continue the work that God has called me to do, the work that I have begun."

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:1 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."