

## 2 TIMOTHY

### Paul encourages Timothy (1:1-14)

**1** From Paul, whom God has made an apostle because this was His will, and because I live in the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my dear son in the faith.

May grace, mercy and peace be imparted to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank God for, like my forefathers, I serve Him with a clear conscience and pray for you unceasingly by day and night. <sup>4</sup>I remember your tears and long to see you so that I might be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I recall your strong faith. It is like the faith that was obvious in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and that I now realise is in you also.

<sup>6</sup>So I remind you to fan the flame of God's gift that is in you, that was imparted to you when I laid my hands on you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a Spirit of cowardice but a Spirit of power and love that enables us to exercise self-discipline and right thinking.

<sup>8-9</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed to testify about the Lord nor of me his prisoner; rather be prepared to suffer for the gospel. For by God's power He has saved us and has given us a holy calling that cannot be outworked through our own works, but only by being one with His purpose, through His grace and divine enabling that He chose before the beginning of time to give us in Christ Jesus. <sup>10-11</sup>That purpose and grace have been revealed when our Lord Jesus Christ came. He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, this same gospel for which I was appointed by God to be a herald, an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup>This is why I suffer as I do!

But I am not ashamed, for I know the One in whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what He has entrusted to me until that great Day when He comes again.

<sup>13</sup>Follow the pattern of sound teaching which you received from me, in the faith and love you have in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Through the

Holy Spirit who lives in us, guard the deposit of truth entrusted to you.

### **Paul rejected in Asia (1:15-18)**

<sup>15</sup>You know that in the province of Asia everyone has rejected me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup>May the Lord give mercy to the household of Onesiphorus because he has often encouraged me and is not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup>When he arrived in Rome he searched for me with great determination until he found me, and you know well the way he served me in Ephesus. <sup>18</sup>May the Lord grant that we will receive His mercy on that Day when He comes again.

### **Further exhortations (2:1-26)**

**2** Therefore, my dear son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And the things you have heard me say before many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others. <sup>3</sup>Be prepared to suffer adversity as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier is involved in civilian life, so he can be free to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup>And no athlete will win the gold medal unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup>The first to receive his share of the crop should be the hard working farmer.

<sup>7</sup>Think about what I am saying, for the Lord will give you all the understanding you need. <sup>8-9</sup>Remember Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and was descended from David, according to the gospel I preach, the same gospel for which I suffer and am imprisoned as if I was a criminal. <sup>10</sup>But all these things I endure for the benefit of God's chosen ones, so they can obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and that leads to eternal glory.

<sup>11-12</sup>God's Word is true and is to be trusted: "If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we persevere we shall also reign with Him; but if we deny Him He will also deny us. <sup>13</sup>If we are without faith He will still remain faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."

<sup>14</sup>Keep reminding the believers of these things, warning them before God not to fight over words. Such disputes achieve nothing and only have a negative affect on those who hear them. <sup>15</sup>Do your very best to present yourself before God as one who is approved of, a workman who has nothing of which to be ashamed and who handles the Word of truth with care.

<sup>16</sup>Avoid ungodly conversation; it only produces more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup>Those who indulge in it spread disease like gangrene. Hymenaeus

and Philetus are prime examples of this. <sup>18</sup>They have departed from the truth by saying that the resurrection of all believers has taken place already. As a result they have destroyed the faith of some people.

<sup>19</sup>However, the firm foundation God has laid still stands, for He has placed His seal on it. “The Lord knows those who belong to Him,” and “Let everyone who calls on the Lord’s Name turn away from sin.”

<sup>20</sup>Now in a house there are not only gold and silver objects but also utensils made of wood and pottery. Some things are for special purposes, others are for common use. <sup>21</sup>If anyone cleanses himself of whatever produces evil he will be fit for special use that will honour the master, for he is devoted to him and is prepared to do anything good his master asks of him.

<sup>22</sup>Timothy, run from the evil desires of youth and run after righteousness, faith, love and peace, together with all the other believers who pray to the Lord with clean hearts. <sup>23</sup>Refuse to have anything to do with foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing they only promote quarrels. <sup>24</sup>And the Lord’s servant should not be involved in such quarrels, but should be gentle in his dealings with everyone. <sup>25</sup>He shall be able to teach others, to be patient with them, to bring correction sensitively to those who oppose him, trusting that the Lord will work in them, causing them to repent and come to a full acceptance of the truth. <sup>26</sup>Then they will escape the devil’s trap that captures people, causing them to do his will.

### **The last days (3:1-13)**

**3** <sup>1-4</sup>Understand that in the last days there will be terrible times, for men will fall in love with themselves and with money. They will be boastful and arrogant. They will blaspheme against God, be disobedient to their parents, be ungrateful, unholy and without proper love. They will be impossible to please and will slander others. They will not exercise any self-control themselves, nor will it be possible for others to control them. They will hate what is good, betray the trust others place in them and will act in reckless and conceited ways. In short, they will live for their own pleasure rather than to please God.

<sup>5</sup>Some may put on an appearance of being godly, but they will lack the power that goes with true godliness. Have nothing to do with such people. <sup>6-7</sup>Some of them work their way into the homes of weak-willed women who are weighed down with many sins and who readily yield to their fleshly desires; the kind of people who listen but never seem able to grasp hold of the truth.

<sup>8</sup>These men oppose the truth in the same way as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They are men with depraved minds and false faith. <sup>9</sup>They will not get very far for their foolish sinfulness is obvious to everyone, as was also the case with those two.

<sup>10</sup>However, you are aware of my teaching, the way I believe, the purpose for which I live, my faith, patience, love and endurance. <sup>11</sup>You know of the persecutions and sufferings I have experienced in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra; persecutions I endured but from all of which the Lord delivered me. <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all those who wish to live holy lives in Christ Jesus are bound to be persecuted. <sup>13</sup>At the same time, evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving many while being themselves deceived.

### **Importance of scripture (3:14-4:4)**

<sup>14</sup>But you are to continue in what you have learned and have believed, knowing from whom you learned these things. <sup>15</sup>From early childhood you have been familiar with the holy scriptures which give you revelation about the salvation that comes through faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16-17</sup>God has breathed His life and truth into all scripture which is therefore beneficial for teaching what is right, rebuking what is wrong, bringing correction and instruction and equipping people for righteousness so that the man of God may be ready for every good work.

### **Closing words (4:1-22)**

**4** <sup>1-2</sup>I command you before God and Christ Jesus, the One who will judge the living and the dead when He appears in the full majesty of His Kingly rule: Be prepared to preach His Word at all times, regardless of the circumstances. Correct, rebuke and encourage others, exercising much patience as you teach. <sup>3</sup>For a time is coming when people will not put up with teaching of the truth, choosing instead to listen to those who will teach what they want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will turn away from listening to the truth and will turn instead to myths.

<sup>5</sup>As for you personally, be consistent in everything, even when there is adversity. Do the work of the evangelist who brings people to Christ, and so fulfil your calling from God.

<sup>6</sup>I am already at the point of being poured out like a sacrifice, and it is now time for my departure. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course God had for me and I have been faithful.

<sup>8</sup>Now the crown of righteousness awaits me, 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.

<sup>9</sup>Do all you can to visit me soon. <sup>10-11</sup>Demas has deserted me, for he loves this present life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia; Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry. <sup>12</sup>And I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup>Bring with you the cloak I left with Carpas in Troas, together with my scrolls, especially the parchments.

<sup>14</sup>Alexander the coppersmith did much to harm me; the Lord will deal with him as he deserves. <sup>15</sup>Be careful of him yourself, for he has strongly opposed our words of truth.

<sup>16-17</sup>When I had to make my first defence there was no one to stand with me; they had all left me alone. But may it not be counted against them, for the Lord stood with me and enabled me to proclaim fully the message that all the nations need to hear. And I was saved from the lion's mouth! <sup>18</sup>The Lord will keep me from all evil and will save me for His heavenly Kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! It shall be so!

<sup>19</sup>Give Priscilla and Aquila my greetings, together with the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup>Erastus remained at Corinth, but I had to leave Trophimus in Miletus as he was sick. <sup>21</sup>Make every effort to come before winter sets in. Give my love to Eubulus and Pudens, to Linus and Claudia, and to all the brethren.

<sup>22</sup>May the Lord be with your spirit, and may He impart His grace to you.

