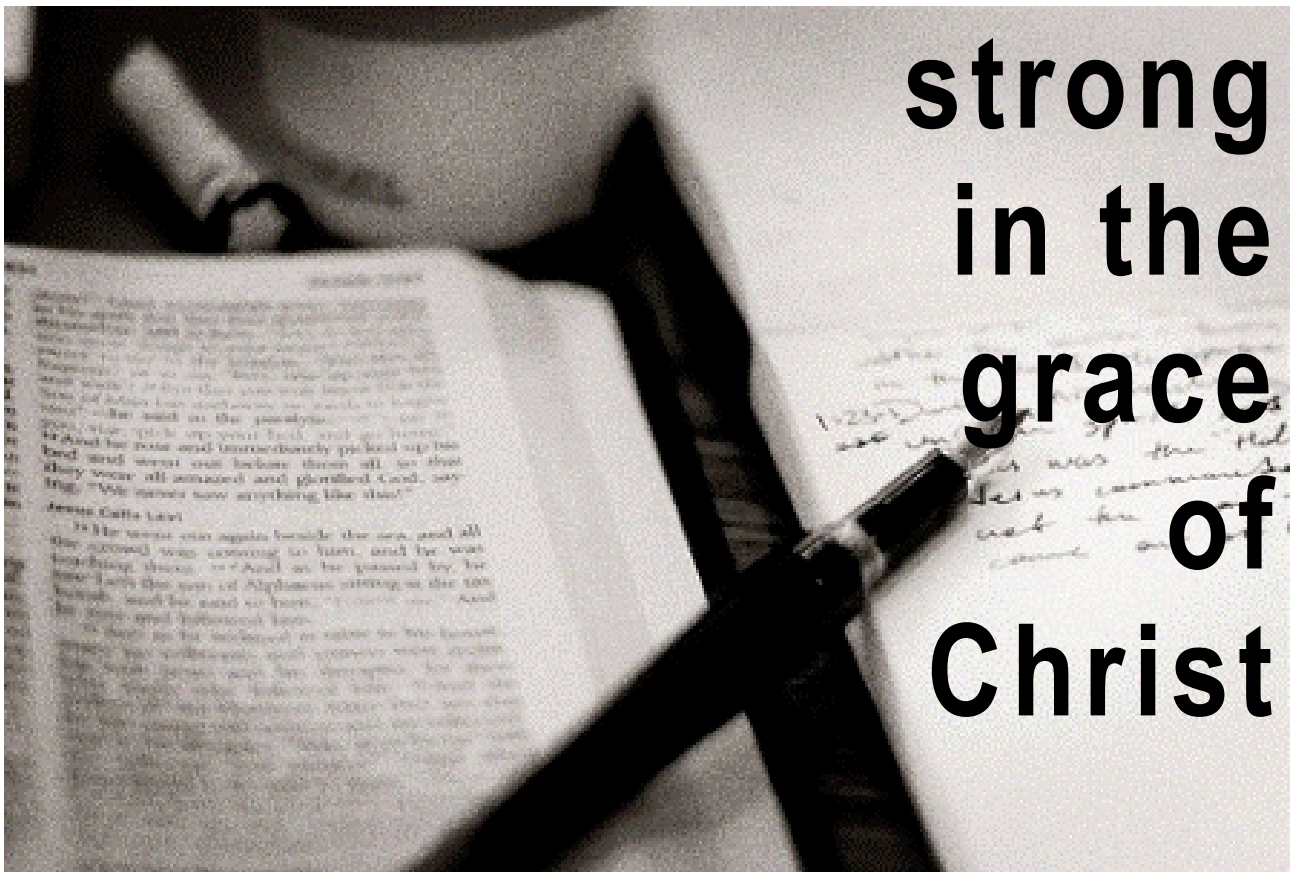


2 Timothy



**strong
in the
grace
of
Christ**

Integrated Bible Study Guide

2 | 2 Timothy

Contents:

How to get the best value out of these studies	Page 3
Study 1: Encouraging Growth 2 Timothy 1	Page 4
Study 2: Approved Workers 2 Timothy 2	Page 7
Study 3: The Godly Life 2 Timothy 3	Page 10
Study 4: Finishing the Race 2 Timothy 4	Page 13

How to get the best value out of these studies...

Welcome to a series of New Testament studies focused on the book of 2 Timothy. **If you're using these Guides in a Small Group**, it is helpful to have done preparatory work **before** you get to your meeting. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but to the other members of your group.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with **prayer**, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommended Commentary:

JRW Stott *The Message of 2 Timothy*, Bible Speaks Today Series/IVP

The Background to 2 Timothy...

The Recipient Timothy

Timothy was a Jew (his mother was Jewish), but also had a Gentile background (his father was Greek). Timothy is sometimes considered “timid” as a result of this letter (especially 1:7) but this would be an incorrect conclusion to make. Timothy accompanied Paul on many of his missionary journeys through Asia to Macedonia and Achaia (Acts 16:6-19; 21) surviving riots, prison and a criminal trial. He went on mission to Corinth where the church had factional difficulties and he was given the task of helping to resolve them. Paul counted him as a trusted friend and fellow worker. Timothy was left to oversee the church in Ephesus (1 Timothy written to him here).

The Author Paul

The letter was written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy (possibly in Ephesus) during Paul's second imprisonment (probably 65 AD). In his first imprisonment, Paul was treated more as a political prisoner, on house arrest. This time he was treated more as a criminal, locked in a dungeon, chained to a wall or soldier. 2 Timothy is the last letter that Paul wrote – or at least, the last that remains, before he was executed.

1

STUDY ONE

Encouraging Growth — 2 Timothy 1

Getting Started...

1. What are some key events in your spiritual history? How does recalling these events affect you?

Hearing the Message...

Read 1:1-7

2. How do verses 1-2 tell us what kind of relationship Paul had with Timothy?
3. What does Paul say he remembers in verses 3-5? What significance would these events have for Timothy?
4. Having recalled Timothy's spiritual history, in verses 6-7 Paul then reminds Timothy to do what?
5. What is the "gift of God" that is in you? Why does Paul find it necessary to encourage Timothy to fan this gift into flame?

2

STUDY TWO

Approved Workers — 2 Timothy 2

Getting Started...

1. What motivates you most to endure in serving Christ?

Hearing the Message...

Read 2:1-13

2. What seems to be Paul's overall point in this passage?
3. What is Timothy's two-fold action in verses 1-2 that becomes the foundation for Paul's charge in verses 3-13?
4. In verses 3-7 Paul urges Timothy to "endure hardship with us" (2:3) and uses three similes to motivate him. What point is Paul making about Timothy's work with each of his three similes? To answer, first describe the characteristics Paul says make a soldier, athlete and farmer effective. Then explain how these characteristics apply to the Christian. Use the following table if it helps you.

Characteristic	Application
Soldier (2:4)	
Athlete (2:5)	
Farmer (2:6)	

8 | 2 Timothy

5. Paul's own example should also motivate Timothy. How would you describe Paul's attitude towards circumstances in verses 9-10? According to these verses, what convictions enable and motivate Paul to have this attitude?

6. From verses 8, 11-13, how should Christ's character, actions and promises encourage Timothy?

Read 2:14-26

7. What seems to be Paul's overall point in this passage?

8. According to 2:14, 16, 23 why should Christians avoid speculations and quarrels about words?

9. How should Christians respond to foolish arguments?
 - a. 2:15

 - b. 2:16,23

 - c. 2:21-22

 - d. 2:24-25

- 10. What does it mean to “correctly handle the word of truth”? (2:15)

- 11. In verses 24-26 what attitude does Paul want Timothy to have toward those who oppose him?

- 12. Why is it often hard to be kind, patient, unresentful and gentle with quarrelsome people? How do you usually treat those who oppose you?

How this is relevant...

- 13. Verses 14-26 Make two lists from these verses – “traps to avoid” and another “traits to acquire”.

Traps to Avoid	Traits to Acquire

- 14. What might be your next step toward becoming able to proclaim the gospel and train others to do so?

3

STUDY THREE

A Godly Life — 2 Timothy 3

Getting Started...

1. What motivates you most to endure in serving Christ?

Hearing the Message...

Read 3:1-9

2. What is Paul trying to impress upon Timothy in this passage?
3. In verses 2-4, the first two vices of verse 2 and the last one of verse 4 all point to the deluder's chief error: wrong love that corrupts potentially good things. What do they love? (2,4) What should they love?
4. Paul urges Timothy to have nothing to do with the people of verses 1-4. What is the vulnerability of those who listen with them (verse 7)?
5. In verse 9, what outcome does Paul say will come to those who oppose the truth?

12 | **2 Timothy**

12. What does Paul mean by calling scripture God-breathed?

13. Lists 4 ways in which Scripture changes us. What does Paul say is the intended result of knowing Scripture?

How this is relevant...

13. Does 3:1-9 offer any warnings you think you should take to heart? If so, what are they?

14. List some steps you could take/have taken to allow Scripture to have a greater influence on your life.

4

STUDY FOUR**Finishing the Race — 2 Timothy 4****Getting Started...**

1. If you could sum up the legacy that you pray you would leave to others, what would it be?

Hearing the Message...

2. What are the three pillars that stand behind Paul's charge to Timothy in verse 1? What perspective will they give him for what Paul is about to say?
3. What does Paul urge in verses 2-5? (List as many as you can)
4. Why must Timothy preach patiently and sometimes reprovably? (verses 2, 4)
5. What does Paul urge Timothy to do in all situations (verse 5)? What do you think Paul meant, and how could Timothy be confident he could do this?

14 | **2 Timothy**

6. In verses 6-8, Paul compares his Christian life to a fight and a race. How do these two images reinforce his message?
7. In verse 8, Paul returns to the same hope that he mentioned in verse 1. How is Paul's attitude in verses 6-8 an encouragement for Timothy?

Read 4:9-22

8. What do you learn about Paul's needs from 1:16-18 and 4:9-13, 16?
9. What attitudes towards people and circumstances does Paul show in 4:16-18? What enables him to maintain this perspective?

How this is relevant...

10. Which reasons most motivate you to serve with joy and endurance?

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