

2 Timothy

I. Introduction.

A. Theme of 2 Timothy: Faithfulness to the pastoral task. A strong sub-theme: Faithfulness to sound doctrine (Hendriksen).

B. Introductory Notes.

1. Paul as an example. Along with all of the encouragements, instruction, exhortations, Paul constantly blends in his own pastoral life as an example of the principle of faithfulness. Machen pointed out, “He does so without a touch of vainglory, in the simple consciousness of a divine commission.”
2. Paul passing the baton. He is about to die. Imprisoned for the second time for the sake of the gospel, he doesn’t expect to be released this time. He knows he is near the end of his life (4:6-8).
3. Timid Timothy. Timothy, at Ephesus, has been struggling with fears, pressures, temptations, lack of confidence, to the point, perhaps, of wanting to quit or falter in ministerial tasks, or water down the message, etc. Even if he was not on the verge of faltering, his timidity was endangering his continuing faithfulness to his pastoral task. It is all too easy an obstacle to stumble over, and all too important to stand firm. It thus requires, at times, a lot of encouragement.
4. Paul’s introduction. Address and salutation. Then comes Paul’s report of his faithful service to Timothy in prayer.

II. Faithfulness to the Gospel. Chapter 1.

A. The Basis on Which Timothy Can Remain Faithful to It.

1. His faith, and God’s covenant faithfulness to His promises to the children of believers. This

gives him encouragement as part of a covenant line.

2. God's gift—bestowal of the ministry and office, as well as any spiritual gifts that might accompany it: teaching, preaching, etc. The bestowal also of the spirit of power, love, and discipline.

#### B. Exhortation and Example to Faithfulness to the Testimony of the Gospel.

1. Do not be ashamed of the gospel.
2. Join with Paul (and all others) in suffering for it.
3. God has saved us. This is the reason we should be faithful to the gospel. Note the presentation of the gospel.
4. Paul's example of suffering, yet not letting that drive him to such timidity that he would stop testifying to the gospel, as though he were ashamed for anyone to hear it, or ashamed that it calls people who will then be required to suffer for its sake.
5. Exhortation to retain the standard of sound words and guard the gospel entrusted to him. I.e., do not let it be corrupted, watered down, or simply halted. Timothy is not alone or without resources. He has the Holy Spirit.
6. The value of faithful companions, and the likelihood of some unfaithful companions. 1:15-18.

### III. Faithfulness to the Pastoral Work. Chapter 2.

#### A. Faithfulness to Endure. 2:1-13.

1. The need for grace to have strength, and faithfulness to train others that future pastors and elders will be prepared.
2. Faithful to engage in and endure hard work. Pastoral work is not always physically strenuous, but spiritually taxing. It takes its toll in body as well, for sometimes physical as well as spiritual endurance is necessary.
3. Faithful to endure and continue on through suffering. It presents a big temptation to quit, but we remember the basis of the ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the beneficiaries of the

ministry, the elect.

4. The outcome of perseverance. 2:11-13.

B. Faithfulness to Truth. 2:14-26.

1. Faithful to halt useless disputes born of inaccurate and worldly doctrines and philosophies, or inaccurate understanding of the Bible.
2. Faithful to the work of accurately handling (interpreting for teaching and preaching) the Bible.
3. Faithful to the ongoing work of guarding against false or misleading teaching and ideas, and their spread in the church.
4. Faithful to guard one's own doctrine and holiness, and to pursue growth in the same; there is especially an emphasis on doctrine here.
5. Faithful to deal in godly ways with those who bring falsehood against the church—patiently, gently, not quarrelsome.

IV. Faithful to Hold to the Power of Godliness. Chapter 3.

A. Warning Against the Ways of Unbelief.

1. In the last days, in which some who call themselves Christians and godly are still entrenched.
2. The immoral ways and incapability to truth of those who deny the power of godliness. This serves as a warning to pastors against the same.

B. Encouragement to Timothy. For past endurance of persecutions, etc. Paul's example that Timothy followed; credit goes to the Lord for deliverance from troubles. This is all-important for our dependence and encouragement.

C. Scripture. The same Word of our salvation through faith is the pastor's answer to and protection from the world described previously, and the end of men who have denied godliness. It is that by which the pastor, and every Christian, is equipped for every good work that should stem from faith in Christ.

V. Faithfulness to the Word of God.

- A. The Work of the Word.
  - 1. Faithfulness to preaching the Word.
  - 2. Faithfulness to sound doctrine.
  - 3. Faithfulness to evangelism and the work of the ministry.
  
- B. The Transition from the Extraordinary Ministry to the Ordinary. Shown in the transition from Paul and the apostolic period to Timothy and those who come after him and the post-apostolic age.
  - 1. Taking over from Paul, and his example of fighting the good fight, finishing his course, as all pastors should be able to say at the end of their lives.
  - 2. Paul's wishes for companionship and familiar things.
  - 3. Paul's recounting of difficult trials, especially connected with Ephesus where Timothy was pastoring at that time, and Paul's current situation. The Lord faithfully delivered him out of it all; shouldn't he have been faithful to the Lord, as we see in his life? The Lord gave him strength for his ministry of the gospel until his course was done and he was brought to glory. Paul gave praise to the Lord for keeping him faithful.
  - 4. Greetings and benediction.

## VI. Management