

Handout: 2 Timothy Lesson 1

The principal divisions of the Second Letter to Timothy:

- I. Perseverance in Suffering (1:1-2:15)
  - A. Greeting and thanksgiving (1:1-5)
  - B. Reminder of pastoral responsibilities (1:6-2:15)
- II. Perseverance in right doctrine and conclusion (3:1-4:22)
  - A. Charge to preach the truth and warnings of apostasy (3:1-4:5)
  - B. Personal requests (4:6-22)

**SUMMARY OF THE SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY**

BIBLICAL PERIOD	# 12 The New Covenant Kingdom of the Church			
FOCUS	Perseverance in Suffering		Perseverance in Right Doctrine	
COVENANT	The New Covenant in Christ Jesus			
SCRIPTURE	1:1-----1:6-----2:14-----4:9-----4:22			
DIVISION	Greeting and thanksgiving for Timothy's faith	Reminder of pastoral responsibilities	Charge to preach the truth and warning of approaching apostasy	Personal requests and conclusion
TOPIC	Power and perseverance of the Gospel		Protecting and proclaiming the Gospel	
	Reminder and requirements		Resistance and requests	
LOCATION	Prison in Rome			
TIME	AD 67			

The main themes of the letter:

1. Encouragement to persevere: Paul urges Timothy to continue the mission of evangelism (4:2) and to hold fast to the traditions in the faith he received (1:3-14; 2:1-9; 3:14-15).
2. Reliance on the authority of Holy Spirit inspired Scripture: From early childhood, Timothy had been trained in the understanding of Old Testament Sacred Scripture by his mother and grandmother (3:14) that helped him to understand its fulfillment in Jesus the Redeemer-Messiah. Paul emphasized the right interpretation of Scripture (2:15), its authority as the Word of God (3:16), and its importance in leading new disciples to Christ (3:16-17).
3. Warning to be aware of false teachers and false doctrines: False teachers stir up discord over senseless controversies, introduce new teachings (2:23), and use their wiles to deceive people with muddled theology delivered by their godless chatter (2:16; 3:6). True servants of the Lord adhere to sound doctrine, present the truth, avoid quarrels, are kind and patient with everyone (2:24-26).

The greeting in Paul's letters follow a standard form based on the common Greco-Roman practice of letter writing, but with the addition of Semitic and Christian elements. The three basic components are:

1. the name of the sender
2. the name of the addressee
3. a greeting, which in Paul's case usually includes a blessing and or a thanksgiving.<sup>2</sup>

1. Timothy was born at Lystra in Asia Minor. He was a convert to Christianity who had a Jewish mother and grandmother who also converted to Christianity and a Greek father (Acts 16:1; 2 Tim 1:5).
2. Young Timothy joined Paul's team on the second missionary journey. Paul asked him to submit to the Jewish ritual of circumcision that was a sign of Old Covenant membership so he could serve as an effective evangelist to the Jews (Acts 16:1-20; Gen 17:9-14; Lev 12:3).
3. He continued to make missionary journeys with Paul and became a trusted and invaluable companion. Paul praised him for his loyalty (Phil 2:19-22) and called him "our brother (2 Cor 1:1; 1 Thess 3:2; Phlm 1), a "fellow worker" (Rom 16:21), and other affectionate terms like "my dear child" (2 Tim 1:2) and "my beloved and faithful son in the Lord" (1 Cor 4:17).
4. Paul lists Timothy as a co-sender of six of his letters (1 Thess 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1; Phil 1:1; Phlm 1; 2 Thess 1:1; Col 1:10).
5. He trusted Timothy with special missions like sending him to Thessalonica to encourage the Christian community (1 Thess 3:2), and to Macedonia to evangelize with Erastus (Acts 19:22). Paul ordained Timothy as the Bishop of Ephesus where his mission was to guide the community that was troubled by false teachers (1 Tim 1:3).
6. Paul described Timothy as having a mild personality (1 Cor 16:10-11).
7. In Hebrews 13:23, Paul mentions that Timothy was imprisoned for a time before he was set free.

Many Biblical scholars believe 2:11b-13 repeat part of an ancient Christian hymn that makes these three theological points:

1. *If we have died with him, we shall also live with him* refers to those baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we die to sin and are resurrected to a new life as a child in the family of God. In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul wrote: *How can we who died to sin yet live in it? Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life* (Rom 6:2-4; see CCC 1262-64).
2. *... if we persevere, we shall also reign with him* refers to our struggle to live the Christian life, where, with God's help, we put to death our selfish and sinful desires to live a holy life that Christ promises will end in glory. The irony is that it is physical death that opens the door that admits us into the presence of Christ our Savior and Judge. St. Paul wrote: *For to me life is Christ, and death is gain* (Phil 1:21, see CCC 1010).
3. The warning is that those who persevere in faith will be resurrected to live and reign with Christ, but those who deny him will be disowned and disgraced when they face Christ on the Day Judgment. In Matthew 10:32-33, Jesus said: *"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."* However, our hope lies in verse 13: *If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.* No matter how many times we fall into to sin, Christ is always ready to forgive us and welcome us back into communion with Him because He cannot deny His mission as Savior.

**THE LIFE OF PAUL: “Apostle to the Goyim (Gentiles)”**

EVENT	YEAR AD
Born at Tarsus (in modern Turkey) sometime between AD 7 and AD 12, of Jewish parents who are Roman citizens and traced their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin (Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5)	8/10?
Arrival in Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)	30
Sent as an officer of the Sanhedrin to arrest Christians in Damascus & conversion (Acts 9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18)	36
3-year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Galatians 1:17)	36-39
Visit to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18)	39
Sojourn in Tarsus (Acts 9:30)	?
Arrival in Antioch in Syria to serve the Christian community (Acts 11:25)	43-44
1 <sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14); name change to Latin “Paulus”	45-49
Visit to Jerusalem for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Great Council of the Church (Acts 15)	49-50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:21): -at Athens & Corinth (Greece); meets Roman governor Gallio* -wrote 1 & 2 Thessalonians	50-52 50?52 51-52
3 <sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:14) -visited Phrygia & Galatia -at Ephesus (Turkey) -wrote Galatians -wrote 1 Corinthians -mission to Macedonia -wrote 2 Corinthians -at Corinth (Greece) -wrote letter to the Romans	53-58 53 54-57 54 54 57 57?58 57-58 57/58
Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22)	Spring of 58
Hearing with Roman Governor Felix = 2-year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea (Acts 24-25)	58-60
4 <sup>th</sup> Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)	60?61
Paul’s first imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28) -wrote letters to the churches at Colossus, Philemon, Ephesus, Philippi	61-63
Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? voyage to Britain?): letters 1 Timothy & Titus	63-67
Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy	67
Martyrdom by beheading	67

## THE JOURNEYS OF ST. PAUL: CHRIST'S APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

ST. PAUL'S CALL TO CONVERSION and NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN	
Witnessed St. Stephen's martyrdom	Acts 8:1
Mission to arrest Christians for the Sanhedrin	Acts 8:3
Conversion experience on the Road to Damascus	Acts 9:1-19
Paul preaches in Damascus	Acts 9:20-25
Spends 3 years in Arabia	Galatians 1:17-18
Returns to Damascus	Galatians 1:17
Meets with the Apostles Peter, James (Bishop of Jerusalem) , and John in Jerusalem	Acts 9:26-30; Galatians 1:17-19
Goes to Caesarea and from there home to Tarsus	Acts 9:30; Galatians 1:21
Called by Barnabas to join him in Antioch, Syria	Acts 11:26
Takes a famine relief contribution to Jerusalem	Acts 11:3
Returns to Antioch, Syria	Acts 12:25

ST. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Approximate dates: AD 45 – 49 Companions: Barnabas, John Mark Mission field: Cyprus and Asia Minor (Turkey) Approximate miles traveled: 1,400 miles Sent by Paul's church in Antioch, Syria	
Mission to Cyprus by way of Seleucia	Acts 13:4-12
Antioch in Pisidia	Acts 13:13-51
Iconium	Acts 14:1-5
Lystra in Lycaonia	Acts 14:6-19
Derbe	Acts 14:20
Back through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch Pisidia	Acts 14:21-26
Return to home church at Antioch, Syria	Acts 14:27-28
Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15

ST. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Approximate dates: AD 50 – 52 Companions: Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke Mission field: Syria, Turkey, Greece Approximate miles traveled: 2,800 miles Sent by Paul's church in Antioch, Syria	
Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia was Paul's hometown)	Acts 15:23
Derbe and Lystra in Lycaonia (Timothy's home)	Acts 16:1-5
Phrygia and Galatia	Acts 16:6
Mysia to Troas	Acts 16:6-10
Samothracis and Neapolis	Acts 16:11
Philippi in Macedonia	Acts 16:12-40
Amphipolis and Apollonia	Acts 17:1
Thessalonica	Acts 17:1-9
Beroea (Berea)	Acts 17:10-15
Athens	Acts 17:16-34

Corinth	Acts 18:1-17
Cenchrea (Cenchreae)	Acts 18:18
Ephesus	Acts 18:19-21
Caesarea	Acts 18:22
Jerusalem	Acts 18:23
Antioch, Syria	Acts 18:23

<b>ST. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY</b> Approximate dates: AD 53 – 58 Companions: Timothy, Luke, and other disciples Mission field: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Judea-Samaria-Galilee Approximate miles traveled 2,700 Sent by Paul's church in Antioch, Syria	
Galatia and Phrygia	Acts 18:23
Ephesus	Acts 19:1-20; 23-40
Macedonia	Acts 19:21; 20:1
Greece (Achaia)	Acts 20:2-3
Macedonia, Philippi, and Troas	Acts 20:3-12
Assos, Mitylene; near Chios, Samos, Trogyllium, Miletus	Acts 20:13-38
Cos, Rhodes, Patara	Acts 21:1-2
Tyre and Ptolemais	Acts 21:3-7
Caesarea	Acts 21:8-16
Jerusalem	Acts 21:17-23:22
Caesarea (imprisoned 2 years)	Acts 23:23-26:32

<b>ST. PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME</b> Approximate date: AD 60/61 Companions: Luke, Roman guards, others By way of Lebanon, Turkey, Crete, Malta, Sicily, Rome Approximate miles traveled: 2,250 miles Sent by Roman Governor Festus	
Caesarea	Acts 27:1-3
Sidon, Myra, Cnidus	Acts 27:4-7
Fair Havens (Crete)	Acts 27:8
Clauda (Cauda)	Acts 27:15
Malta (Melita)	Acts 28:1-10
Syracuse, Rhegium, Puteoli	Acts 28:11-11-13
Forum of Appius and Three Taverns	Acts 28:15
Rome	Acts 28:16
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**OTHER TRAVELS—YEAR OF TRAVEL UNKNOWN:**

Macedonia to Illyricum (1 Timothy 1:3); Troas and Miletus (2 Timothy 4:13, 20); Crete (Titus 1:5); 4<sup>th</sup> Missionary journey to Spain: circa AD 63-66 (Romans 15:28); Nicopolis (Titus 3:12)

**MARTYRDOM:** Back to Rome and martyrdom on June 29, AD 67