

The Second Letter to Timothy

4

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we begin looking at Paul's second letter to Timothy. This letter, although addressed to the same person as the first letter, shows both similarities and marked differences. The primary differences flow from the circumstances in which Paul writes the letter.

Paul is writing from prison. But unlike his first imprisonment in Rome, which was a form of house arrest (**Acts 28:30**), Paul is now chained like a common criminal (**1:16; 2:9**), languishing in a cold dungeon (**2 Timothy 4:13**) so deep and remote that it took diligent searching for his friends to discover where he was imprisoned (**1:17**).

There are several things that flavor this letter:

- ☞ Paul knows that he is at the end of his life (**4:6-8**), and like the last words of a man condemned to die, he is now expressing his innermost thoughts, baring his heart to his "dear son" (**1:2**). In many ways, this letter is special, since it is probably the last recorded writing of Paul before he was executed.
- ☞ Paul is addressing real fears that were plaguing his young disciple (**1:7**), since the writing of Paul's second letter to Timothy is at the height of the persecution of Nero, when Christians were being vilified and mercilessly hounded (**1:8,12**).
- ☞ Paul is feeling lonely and abandoned (**1:15; 4:9-18**), and is longing for Timothy to come and visit him (**1:4; 4:9,21**). Of Timothy, Paul had said, "I have no one else like him" (**Philippians 2:20**).

Yet you will also find many verses which mirror portions of Paul's first letter to Timothy. Just as in his first letter, Paul here brings a charge to Timothy (**4:1-5**) and he warns Timothy against those who would infiltrate the church with heresy (note the similarities between **2 Timothy 3:1-5** and **1 Timothy 4:1-3**).

So sit back, relax, and read through Paul's second letter to Timothy in one sitting.

Memory Verse

You then, my son,
be strong in the grace
that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:1

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!