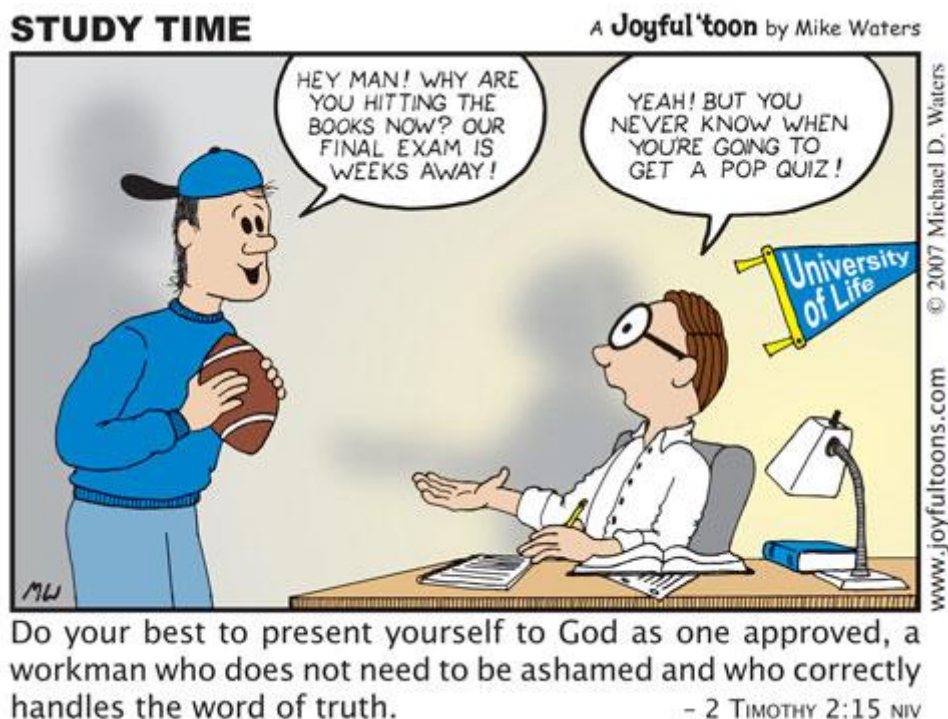


2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..”

**Course Text: Second Timothy**

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy is the second letter from Paul to a young pastor he was mentoring. In the previous lesson we looked at the first letter and the man Timothy as found in the book of Acts. In this lesson we will look at the second letter Paul wrote to his right hand man. It is believed to be written from Rome when Paul was a prisoner there. (See verses 2Tm 1:8, 1:17, and 2:9) Because of some of the things Paul says in this letter many believe he was "passing the torch of leadership" to Timothy in this letter. 2Tim 2:2 and 2Tim 4:6-8 tend to give this impression.



**Suggested methodology:**

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 7. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Second Timothy.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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## Second Timothy Chapters 1 to 2

CHAPTER 1- Paul expresses his fondness for Timothy. Paul compliments Timothy on his faith. Paul reminds Timothy of the power of God working in him. Paul gives a two line summary of the Gospel and affirms his own apostolic calling. He tells Timothy to be careful with the Gospel message. Paul mentions some people who have turned against him and someone who has been kind and useful.

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

[1A] How does Paul characterize his relationship with Timothy? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Paul names two other believers in Timothy's family. Who? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] How did Paul say he imparted the gift of God to Timothy? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] How does Paul characterize his current situation or circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Who does Paul praise for his service towards him in Ephesus and Rome? \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER 2 - Paul encourages Timothy to be strong and faithful in carrying the Gospel message to others. Paul uses several analogies to other callings to underline the importance of doing the work of the Gospel very well. He warns Timothy to avoid evil people and useless arguments. In addition, to the various callings Paul also likens the minister of the Gospel to a dish or vessel in God's house that is used for honorable things. He urges Timothy to be virtuous.

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter 2 and answer the questions that follow. As you read, notice the little poem in 2Tm 2:11-13. Some versions set it off in special type to show it is a poem.

To what five occupations does Paul liken his ministry and that of Timothy?

[2A] \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] How does Paul say we should handle people who disagree with us? \_\_\_\_\_

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



For those mornings when getting out of bed is as terrifying as walking on water, the answer is still Jesus. **|| Timothy 1:7; Psalms 23**

----- ANSWERS -----

## Second Timothy Chapters 1 to 2

[1A] How does Paul characterize his relationship with Timothy?

Father of a beloved son 2Tm 1:2, 2Tm 2:1

[1B] Paul names two other believers in Timothy's family. Who?

Grandmother Lois & Mother Eunice 2Tm 1:5

[1C] How did Paul say he imparted the gift of God to Timothy? Laying on of hands 2Tm 1:6

[1D] How does Paul characterize his current situation or circumstances? He is a prisoner 2Tm 1:8

[1E] Who does Paul praise for his service towards him in Ephesus and Rome?

Onesiphorus 2Tm 1:16-18

To what five occupations does Paul liken his ministry and that of Timothy?

[2A] Soldier (2Tm 2:3-4),

[2B] Athlete (2Tm 2:5),

[2C] Farmer (2Tm 2:6),

[2D] Workman (2Tm 2:15) and

[2E] Bond-servant (2Tm 2:24).

[2F] How does Paul say we should handle people who disagree with us?

Gently correct them (2Tm 2:23-26)

The King James Version of 2nd Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Modern versions do not use the word "Study." NASB says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." The NIV says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

This difference is frequently criticized by people who love the King James Version. I love the King James Version, too. However, in this case the modern versions are better. The critics say things like, "The word 'Study' has been omitted from the modern versions and without question changes the meaning of the verse." However, the modern translations do nothing to change the meaning of the verse in this case. Instead they make it more understandable.

In 1611, when the King James Version was translated, the word "study" did not always mean what it does today. The word comes from the Latin *studium* meaning "to devote oneself." In 1611 it could be taken in the sense that we take it today, but it more often retained its older sense of "considered endeavor towards some objects, earnest and reasoned effort, desire, or thought." (Webster's Unabridged 1933 "*spoudason*" is the underlying Greek word and is no different in the various Greek versions. (i.e. There is no textual problem causing the difference in translation.) *Spoudason* means, "1. To hasten, make haste, or 2. to exert one's self, endeavor, give diligence." Thayer's 1885. Clearly, "Be diligent" or "do your best" is a much better translation of *spoudason* than "study."

## Second Timothy Chapters 3 to 4

CHAPTER 3 - Paul says that difficult times will come because of evil people. He describes these people and tells us to avoid such people. He compares them to some of the people who gave Moses so much trouble. He exhorts us to be better people. While others are becoming worse and worse, we are to become better and better. The means for doing this is God's word.

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

[3A] Paul says that difficult times will come because, among other problems, men will become lovers of what three things:  
\_\_\_\_\_

[3B] What are we to do about men such as the one Paul describes? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] These men hold on to a form of godliness but \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] These men are always learning but \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Who rescued Paul from persecutions and sufferings? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] What will happen to all who desire to live godly? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] What is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER 4- Paul tells Timothy some specific things to do in order for Timothy to fulfill his calling as an evangelist. Paul seems to suggest that he does not expect to live much longer and that he hopes that Timothy can come soon and bring some specific things that Paul needs and person he wants to see. He gives some information about several different people, sends greetings to others, and closes his letter with a blessing.

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter 4 and answer the following questions:

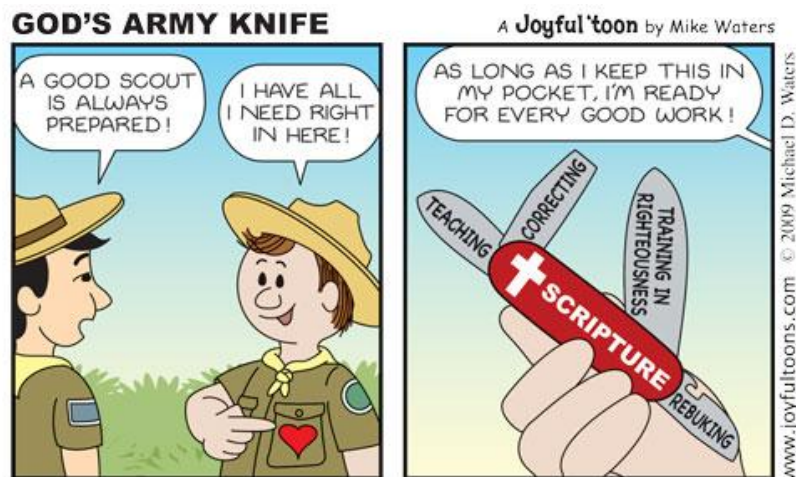
In verses 1 through 5 Paul instructs Timothy to do nine things. What are they?

[4A] \_\_\_\_\_ [4B] \_\_\_\_\_ [4C] \_\_\_\_\_

[4D] \_\_\_\_\_ [4E] \_\_\_\_\_ [4F] \_\_\_\_\_

[4G] \_\_\_\_\_ [4H] \_\_\_\_\_ [4I] \_\_\_\_\_

[4J] Who is Timothy to bring with him when he comes? \_\_\_\_\_



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

— 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NIV



----- ANSWERS -----

**Second Timothy Chapters 3 to 4**

[3A] Paul says that difficult times will come because, among other problems, men will become lovers of what three things:

Lovers of self, lovers of money, and lovers of pleasure 2Tm 3:2 and 2Tm 3:4

[3B] What are we to do about men such as the one Paul describes? Avoid them 2Tm 3:5

[3C] These men hold on to a form of godliness but deny its power. 2Tm 3:5

[3D] These men are always learning but are never able to understand the truth. 2Tm 3:7

[3E] Who rescued Paul from persecutions and sufferings? The Lord 2Tm 3:11

[3F] What will happen to all who desire to live godly? Persecution 2Tm 3:12

[3G] What is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness? All Scripture 2Tm 3:16

In verses 1 through 5 Paul instructs Timothy to do nine things. What are they?

[4A] preach the word;

[4B] be ready in season and out of season;

[4C] reprove;

[4D] rebuke;

[4E] exhort;

[4F] be sober in all things,

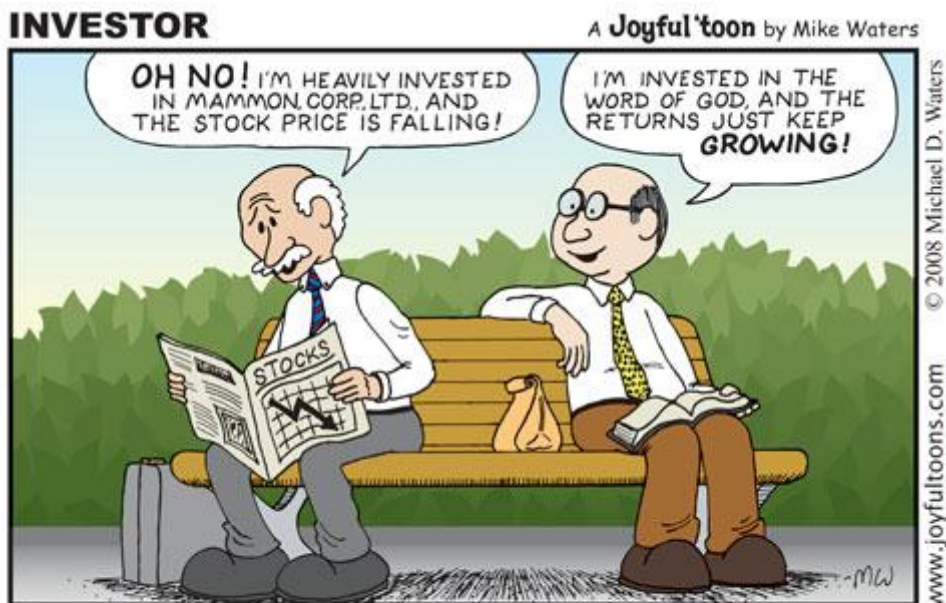
[4G] endure hardship,

[4H] do the work of an evangelist,

[4I] fulfill your ministry.

(2Tm 4:2 and 4:5)

[4J] Who is Timothy to bring with him when he comes? Mark (2Tm 4:11)



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

- 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 NIV

(1) 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 1:5 Paul mentions some relatives in Timothy's family who are Christians. Are there Christians in your family who are praying for you? Are you praying for the lost in your family? What else can you do to help your family members come to know Christ or to grow more mature in Him?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:3-4 compares Christian ministry with being a soldier. Explain what you think Paul means.

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:5 compares Christian ministry with being an athlete. Explain what you think Paul means.

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(4) 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:6 compares Christian ministry with being a farmer. Explain what you think Paul means.

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(5) In 2nd Timothy 4:1-5 Paul gives some instructions in such a way that some think they are more important because he uses phrases like, "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus." Did Paul mean for some of his things to be taken more seriously than others? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(6) If someone asked you what Second Timothy was about what would you say?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(7) How can the lessons of Second Timothy be applied to our own life?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(8) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Second Timothy? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about Second Timothy, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

**(1) Lost Loved Ones:** Sometimes it is very difficult to effectively witness to close family members—; they can see all of our "wrinkles" and "warts", and other flaws. The standards we set for ourselves are seldom set as high as those which other people set for us. But, when we are in "glory" with Christ; we shall be like Him (I John 3:1,2). My experience and the Bible both teach me that persistent prayer is powerful prayer. I believe we should pray for all the lost, but I find I pray more for the lost people I know and love – my family and friends. There are other things that I do to try to lead them to the Lord from time to time, but I have learned that it is only the ones the Lord shows me to do during my prayers that are effective. As with all good things, the salvation of others must begin and end with prayer. The prophet Samuel said to his fellow Israelites, God forbid that I should sin against Jehovah in ceasing to pray for you (I Sam. 12:23).

**(2) Soldier:** Being a "soldier", or an "athlete", or a "farmer" is not easy. Many times we seem to be running an obstacle course; but it is also very rewarding when we hear the Lord say, Well done, thou good and faithful servant (Mat. 25:21). 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:3-4 – A soldier must endure suffering and discipline to win the war. Those in the ministry must be prepared to suffer difficulties. They need to distance themselves somewhat from the regular things we all face so that they can have their minds focused on God alone.

**(3) Athlete:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:5 – An athlete must submit to the Rules and Rigor to win the game. Those in the ministry must expect to be scrupulously attentive to doing things rightly because they will be held to a higher standard.

**(4) Farmer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:6 – A farmer must know What to plant, Where to plant and When to plant to reap a harvest. They should not be ashamed to benefit directly from the work that they do.

**(5) All the Same?:** All "Scripture" is (equally) given by inspiration of God (II Tim. 3:16). The Word of Truth must be rightly divided (II Tim. 2:15)—: All is for us (Rom. 15:4), but all is not "to" us. Certainly we need to take the entire Bible seriously, but I do think Paul did not mean for everything he wrote to be taken with equal solemnity. Compare this verse in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy to 1st Corinthians 11:16 "But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God," where he says what he is saying is not worth arguing about. Compare 1st Thessalonians 4:8 So, "he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you" where Paul claims to be speaking for God with 1st Corinthians 7:40 "But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God," where he says he is just giving his own opinion. As with anything, we must look carefully at the context in order to understand the meaning and application of what is being said. (See also 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:7.)

**(6) Second Timothy Summary** Paul encourages Timothy to be strong and faithful in carrying the Gospel message to others. He talks about how to remain faithful to God in difficult times. Paul was giving the young preacher Timothy a "charge" and "instruction" that are badly needed even today.

- [a]. Charge and Instructions concerning the Gospel (2:1-26).
- [b]. Charge and Instructions concerning the Apostasy (3:1-4:8).

**(7) Second Timothy Life Application** Paul is emphasizing that,

- [a]. Our "Salvation" is of God (II Tim. 1:9).
- [b]. Our "Studying" is to be for God's approval (II Tim. 2:15), and
- [c]. Our "Service" is to proclaim the Word of God (II Tim. 3:14-4:4).

**(8) Something to Remember** 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," and 2 Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth," are my choices.