

Who wrote the book?

1 TIMOTHY overview

The first of Paul's final series of letters—which along with 2 Timothy and Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles—1 Timothy offers practical and pastoral advice from the ageing apostle Paul to a young pastor named Timothy working in the church at Ephesus. More than a decade prior to writing this letter, Paul had first met Timothy in the city of Lystra—in Asia Minor—where Timothy was known and respected by the Christians ([Acts 16:1–4](#)). Upon recognizing Timothy's impressive qualities, Paul recruited the young man to travel with him as he continued his second missionary journey. The presence of Timothy would have met an important need for Paul, their friendship coming on the heels of Paul's split with his close friend and partner in missions, Barnabas ([Acts 15:36–41](#)).

Where are we?

The Bible's silence on the ultimate fate of Paul has engendered a great deal of debate in modern times. The book of Acts ends with Paul sitting in a Roman prison awaiting his hearing before the Roman emperor, a privilege of appeal that all Roman citizens possessed. However, the writing of the Pastoral Epistles clearly dates to a time after the events of Acts. So where was Paul when he wrote 1 Timothy? Paul had expected the Romans to release him from prison, something that likely happened near the end of AD 62 ([Philippians 2:24](#)). His release allowed him the opportunity to travel to Ephesus and eventually place Timothy in ministry at that church. Paul then went on to preach in Macedonia, where he heard reports of Timothy's work at Ephesus that prompted him to write 1 Timothy, probably in AD 63.

Why is First Timothy so important?

First Timothy presents the most explicit and complete instructions for church leadership and organization in the entire Bible. This includes sections on appropriate conduct in worship gatherings, the qualifications of elders and deacons, and the proper order of church discipline. Paul advised Timothy on these practical matters in a way that would have helped the young pastor to emphasize the purity that should characterize Christian leaders and the gatherings they oversee.

A basic idea of this letter!

Timothy's youth no doubt served him well, allowing for the energy and vigour he needed to serve his people. However, it also caused inevitable difficulties with older Christians who may not have taken quickly to the leadership of such a young man because of his lack of knowledge and experience in leadership. It was important to Paul that Timothy set an example of consistent faith and a good conscience, remaining above reproach and exercising the spiritual gifts that God had given him ([1 Timothy 4:12–16](#)).

However, Paul knew that such a task would not be easy for the young man. Therefore, on two occasions Paul encouraged Timothy to "fight the good fight" ([1:18](#); [6:12](#)).

Perseverance in what was good often became a slog for Timothy, one that required thick skin and a clear purpose.

How do I apply this?

The leaders of our churches fill important roles as they participate in encouraging the spiritual growth of Christians under their care. We know the significance of these men in our churches and in our personal lives, but 1 Timothy helps us to gain a clearer understanding of the proper qualifications and roles for church leaders. Paul's letter shows us those things he hoped Timothy would address in his ministry, providing a template of sorts that our leaders can follow in their own ministries.

How do your leaders implement Paul's exhortations in 1 Timothy? Our churches will be strongest when they are closest to the biblical vision laid out for them. As you look at your church or look for a new one, consider the priorities of the leaders. Look for an emphasis on sound doctrine, on purity within the leaders' personal lives, and on living out the Christian faith by example. Find those qualities, and you will more than likely find a church where you can thrive.

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE Timothy

Lord's Words Red Old Testament reference blue man's words pink

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope,

1:2 To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer

1:4 or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith.

1:5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1:6 Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk.

1:7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

1:8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

1:9 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

1:10 for the sexually immoral, for those practising homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

1:11 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.

1:13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1:18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well,

1:19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

1:20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy

Chapter 2

- 2:1** I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—
- 2:2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.
- 2:3** This is good, and pleases God our Saviour,
- 2:4** who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
- 2:5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,
- 2:6** who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.
- 2:7** And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.
- 2:8** Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.
- 2:9** I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,
- 2:10** but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.
- 2:11** A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.
- 2:12** I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.
- 2:13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve.
- 2:14** And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.
- 2:15** But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

1 Timothy

Chapter 3

- 3:1** Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.
- 3:2** Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
- 3:3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- 3:4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.
- 3:5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)
- 3:6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.
- 3:7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.
- 3:8** In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.
- 3:9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.
- 3:10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

1 Timothy

3:11 In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

3:12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.

3:13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

3:14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that,

3:15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

1 Timothy

Chapter 4

4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

4:2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

4:3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.

4:4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

4:5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

4:6 If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

4:8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

4:9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

4:10 That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.

4:11 Command and teach these things.

4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

4:15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- 5:1** Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers,
- 5:2** older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.
- 5:3** Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.
- 5:4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.
- 5:5** The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.
- 5:6** But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.
- 5:7** Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame.
- 5:8** Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- 5:9** No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband,
- 5:10** and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.
- 5:11** As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry.
- 5:12** Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge.
- 5:13** Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to.
- 5:14** So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.
- 5:15** Some have in fact already turned away to follow satan.
- 5:16** If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.
- 5:17** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.
- 5:18** For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."
- 5:19** Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.
- 5:20** But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.
- 5:21** I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism.
- 5:22** Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.
- 5:23** Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.
- 5:24** The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.

5:25 In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden forever.

1 Timothy

Chapter 6

6:1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. Those who have believing masters should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are devoted to the welfare of their slaves.

6:2 These are the things you are to teach and insist on.

6:3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,

6:4 they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions

6:5 and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

6:8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

6:9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

6:13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you

6:14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

6:15 which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

6:16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.

6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

6:18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

6:19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

6:20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,

6:21 which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

Who wrote the book?

2 TIMOTHY overview

By the time Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, the young pastor had been ministering to the church at Ephesus for four years, and it had been almost that long since he had received his first letter from Paul. Timothy had been a faithful servant to Paul since he had left home with the apostle more than a decade earlier. Since then, Timothy had ministered alongside Paul for the duration of both the second and third missionary journeys, in places such as Troas, Philippi, and Corinth. Timothy was not unfamiliar to the Ephesians when he settled in Ephesus to minister, having served there alongside Paul for a period of close to three years on Paul's third missionary journey. Paul wrote again to this young leader in the church at Ephesus to provide him encouragement and fortitude in the face of difficulties and trials.

Where are we?

Paul wrote 2 Timothy from a dark and damp Roman prison cell, just before his death in AD 67. The Roman emperor Nero had been slowly descending into madness since his ascent to the throne in AD 54, a process worsened by the great fire of Rome in AD 64 that burned half the city. With the residents of Rome in an uproar, Christians became a convenient target for Nero, who used believers as scapegoats for his city's own lack of preparedness. Paul was one of those caught up in this persecution and was beheaded by Roman officials soon after writing this letter.

Why is Second Timothy so important?

The second letter to Timothy offers a picture of Paul at the end of his ministry, just before his death. Certain personal details in the letter reveal a man settling his accounts and preparing for the inevitable. At the close of the letter, Paul mentioned a significant number of people—some who had wronged him and others who had served faithfully alongside him (2 Timothy 4:9–21). It is as if Paul were giving Timothy a “state of the church” address, updating Timothy on the current state of their acquaintances and friends so that the young pastor could carry on after Paul's departure.

A basic idea of this letter!

Paul understood that the ministry would only become more difficult for Timothy with the apostle's impending death. Paul knew that Timothy's task of keeping the church within the bounds of sound doctrine while encouraging believers to live their lives well for the sake of Christ would be an often thankless and difficult task. Though hardship would come, Paul wanted Timothy to continue in those things he had learned, drawing on the rich heritage of faith that had been passed down to the young pastor, not just from Paul but also from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5–6; 3:14–15).

The most striking feature of Paul's encouragement comes when the ageing apostle used a phrase that showed up prominently in his letter to Timothy four years prior. In that earlier letter, Paul exhorted Timothy to “fight the good fight” (1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12). But in this letter, Paul turned that phrase on himself, writing that he had “fought the good fight . . . finished the course . . . (and) kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). What a great encouragement it must have been to the young pastor of the church at Ephesus to know that his mentor boldly modelled his perseverance in the faith, even to the point of death. Timothy's death is not recorded in the Bible. It is believed Timothy remained in Ephesus for the rest of his life, until he was martyred for his faith around the year 97AD.

How do I apply this?

Second Timothy brings us to the brink of death, forcing us to consider its reality and how we might react when faced with it. Paul's response instructs us still today. His mind was not on himself, dwelling on the injustice that had befallen him. Instead, trusting that God had him right where He wanted him, the ageing apostle turned his attention to others, specifically to the church and to his young protégé, Timothy.

Where do you hope your thoughts linger as you come to the end of your days?

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO

Timothy

Lord's Words Red Old Testament reference blue man's words pink

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

1:2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1:3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

1:4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

1:8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner.

Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by God's Power **1:9** He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

1:10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

1:11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle and teacher.

1:12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

1:13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

1:14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

1:15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

1:16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

1:17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.

1:18 May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

2 Timothy

Chapter 2

2:1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

2:3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2:4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

2 Timothy

2:5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

2:6 The hard working farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

2:7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,

2:9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2:11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;

2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

2:13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

2:14 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2:16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

2:17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

2:18 who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

2:19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

2:20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.

2:21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2:23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

2:25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

2:26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3:3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

3:4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—

3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

3:6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,

3:7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

3:8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

3:9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

3:10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

3:11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

3:13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom taught you,

3:15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

3:17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

4:2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

4:3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4:4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

4:6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy

4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

4:9 Do your best to come to me quickly,

4:10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

4:12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

4:13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

4:14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.

4:15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

4:16 At my first defence, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

4:17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

4:19 Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

4:21 Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.

4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.