

# 2 TIMOTHY

*Fan into flame the  
gift of God*

## FINISHING WELL

(4 BIBLE STUDIES)

**EXAMINATION APPLICATION**

**BIBLE STUDIES**



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## THE SMALL PRINT

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## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THESE STUDIES

### **Your Commitment**

I would encourage you to make a commitment to attending your group regularly. I realise that sometimes there are things that get in the way, but do prioritise studying the Bible with other. This will involve sacrifice, and effective use of your time, but I really believe that in doing so you will get the most out of studying the Bible and praying together in your small group.

### **Your Contribution**

What you put into the group is going to determine what you get out of the group. I encourage you to contribute honestly to the discussion and workings of the group. I understand people come from different backgrounds with unique personalities & life experiences. But, we all have a big part to play, so I encourage you to be fully present and take ownership of your group.

### **Your Preparation**

These materials are primarily for use in preparing and/or leading group discussions, but they will also be useful in keeping your thoughts together in one place. The materials provide you with the passage so that you can identify and highlight recurring themes and note down your own thoughts and questions. Also, the materials include questions designed to provoke thought, and help you reflect on what the passage meant, both at the time it was written, and also what it means for us now.

I would encourage you to make good use of these materials, as doing so will help you contribute and get the most out of the group discussions. The materials are, however, only “tools” – they are there to help you, and not to restrict you, or force you to think in a certain manner. I want to see God speaking to you through these passages, and if the questions or notes don't help you, simply don't use them!

I have also included within these materials an introduction to the book. Make of this what you will, but I hope that it is helpful in getting you started with these studies!

### **Your Leadership**

Here are some useful pointers in how to lead your Bible study group. Be aware that included in this study guide are more questions than you can possibly ask and/or answer in one session. They are not designed to be used rigidly, and there will rarely be a need to ask every question! Make sure that you spend some time praying at the start and ensure you read & re-read the passages as much as possible. In relation to the passages, then consider the suggested questions with an open mind. There is rarely “a single right answer” and I would encourage you to share your thoughts with your group.

I have also included a number of quotations from relevant Christian literature, most of which are readily available online if you want to do further thinking or study. My prayer is that as you study together you would grow to love Jesus and experience Him more deeply.

I would appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how to make these materials even better!

*Steve McClure  
Spring 2019*

## INTRODUCING 2 TIMOTHY

Shortly before his death Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy. Paul was again imprisoned in Rome under Emperor Nero (see Acts 28 for details of his earlier imprisonment) and scholars appear to date the letter somewhere between AD. 64 to AD 67. His rented house (Acts 28:30) has now become a cold prison cell (4:13) and Paul seems clear that his time was up (4:6-8). This creates a strong clarity of purpose and brings a certain urgency to Paul's writing. The whole letter is really about finishing well both for Paul and in turn for Timothy as he continues to work out the calling God had given him. Despite all that Timothy was facing at that time, Paul urges him to stay true to the gospel.

The New Testament has much to say about Timothy who is first mentioned in Acts 16:1-5. Paul travels to Derbe and Lystra where *a disciple named Timothy lived* (v1). Paul then chooses to take Timothy with him on his onward journey. Timothy served as Paul's representative to several churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19), and he was later a pastor in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3). Timothy is also mentioned as being with Paul when Paul wrote several New Testament letters—2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon.

*"Most readers find Timothy a very congenial character. We feel that he is one of us in all our frailty. A halo would not have fitted comfortably on his head. No, the evidence is plain that he was a real human being like us, with all the infirmity and vulnerability which that entails. To begin with, he was still comparatively young when Paul addressed his first letter to him (1 Tim 4:12) – in his mid-thirties, which was still within the limits of 'youth'. Second, he was temperamentally shy, needing affirmation, encouragement and reassurance (2 Tim 1:7). Third, Timothy was physically infirm and suffered from a recurrent stomach problem (1 Tim 5:23)." John Stott, Fighting the good fight, 1 Timothy & Titus study guide, IVP © 1998*

At the time of writing Paul had been deserted by a number of people while others were serving elsewhere (1:15, 4:9-21). In that context this is a very moving letter and we see the tremendous affection that Paul has for Timothy. He describes Timothy as his *fellow worker* (Ro 16:21) and describes their relationship as *a son with his father* (Philippians 2:22). Paul had no-one like him (Philippians 2:20) and here in 2 Timothy we read that he longed to see him (1:4, 4:9, 21).

The letter is a personal letter to his friend and co-worker. Timothy is really on his heart because he is one of the people he has most invested his life with. Timothy has observed all kinds of things about Paul's life (3:10-11) because of the time that they had spent together. Paul wants him to continue in what he had learned and not be enticed away by false teaching. Paul wants Timothy to imitate him and find faithful people in whose life he could invest deeply as Paul had with him. As Paul seeks to finish well he endeavours to help Timothy to do the same with his life. Whatever periods of transition we are facing Paul's letter to Timothy has much to teach us about how to finish well.

Steve McClure  
Spring 2019

**STUDY 1 – 2 TIMOTHY 1 – ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL**

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul begins his second letter to Timothy with a strong encouragement to remain faithful. He urges Timothy to use the gift of God which he had been given, to not be ashamed of the gospel and to guard the good deposit that had been entrusted to him.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** In almost every passage in 2 Timothy, a good way to grasp the main point Paul is making is to highlight his *commands* to Timothy: how do the commands in this first chapter help us to understand Paul's reasons for writing this 2<sup>nd</sup> letter?

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**GETTING TO KNOW TIMOTHY (v1-5):** What do we learn about Timothy in these verses? Why do you think Paul is “persuaded” about Timothy’s faith (v3-5)? What persuades us about the faith of others? Would people be persuaded about your faith?

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**FANNING INTO FLAME (v6-7):** What might this “gift of God” be that Paul mentions in v6? What is Paul communicating with the image he uses in this verse (i.e. instruction to fan into flame)? What might it look like for us to fan into flame the gifts that God has given us?

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Why do you think Paul distinguishes between a spirit of timidity and a spirit of power, love and self discipline (v7)? What are the differences, and how does this relate to Paul's instruction to fan into flame the gift of God?

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**NOT ASHAMED (v8-14):** What makes us ashamed of something? On what basis does Paul urge Timothy not to be ashamed (v9-12)? How is it that Paul can be so bold in saying that he is not ashamed of his Lord (v13)?

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How do you understand this concept of “guarding” that Paul mentions (v12-13)? Why was it so important that Timothy held onto this “sound teaching? What does it mean to ‘entrust’ something? What is the good deposit (entrusted to Timothy) and how does the Holy Spirit help us to guard it (v14)?

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**UNDER PRESSURE (v15-18):** What else do we learn (or know from elsewhere) about Paul and those he refers to in this chapter (i.e. Phygelus, Hermogenes & Onesiphorus)? What do you think caused these other friends to desert Paul (v16)? What can we learn from them?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** Imagine this letter was written to you. How would you respond to these words addressed to you? In what ways are these words an encouragement and a challenge to you in what you are doing now or going to be doing in the next year?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share together about who has been influential in your life and think about how you can influence others (who is your Paul and who is your Timothy). Pray for each other that you would faithfully use the gifts God has given you, make a stand unashamedly for the gospel and guarding the pattern of sound teaching that we have been entrusted with.

**MEMORY VERSES: 2 TIMOTHY 1:11-12**

STUDY 2 – 2 TIMOTHY 2 – CHRISTIAN LIVING BY GRACE

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul continues to develop this theme of endurance in this section has he encouraged Timothy to work generationally to pass on all that he had taught him. Paul uses the illustrations of a farmer, soldier, athlete, workman and household articles to develop his point.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** Think of a time when you have felt like giving up: what were the things that made you feel that way? What things encouraged you to keep going? How do you see these dynamics working in your relationship with Jesus and ministry for Him

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**STRONG IN THE GRACE (v1):** How do you think Timothy would have felt & responded to these words? What do you think it means to be 'strong in the grace' (v1)? What practical things can help and hinder us from being strong in this grace?

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**GENERATIONS (v2):** What do you think it meant for Timothy to 'entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others' the things that Paul had taught him? How do we know if someone is reliable? What qualities do you think are needed to be "reliable" and qualified to teach?

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How many different generations do you see in these verses? What is your experience of passing on to the next generation in such a way that they can do the same with a subsequent generation?

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**SOLDIERS, ATHLETE'S & FARMERS (v3-7):** What do you think Paul is trying to communicate through the images of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer? What is Paul asking Timothy to do here?

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**ENDURANCE (v8-13):** What do you understand Paul to be saying in v10? What is the difference between disowning God and being faithless (v12-13)? Is being faithless the same as being unfaithful; why or why not? What encouragements are there here?

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**AN APPROVED WORKMAN (v14-19):** What are the instructions Paul is giving Timothy these verses, and why do you think Paul says these things? How can we “do our best” to present ourselves as ‘one approved’ and a ‘workman’? What would characterise such an individual?

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**ARTICLES IN A HOUSE (v20-21):** What is Paul trying to communicate through this illustration? What do the different materials represent (i.e. gold, silver, wood, clay)? How do we become cleansed? What are ignoble purposes and what are the consequences of not cleansing ourselves these things? What is our role and God’s role in the process of cleansing, repentance and forgiveness?

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**KNOWING WHEN TO FLEE (v22-26):** What advice and instructions does Timothy receive here and why do you think Paul writes these things? What practical things can we do to help us apply these instructions in our everyday situations?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** How do the various illustrations Paul uses in this chapter help encourage you to persevere? What steps can you take to work more generationally?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Pray together through the passage reflecting on what God has been saying to each of you and asking God to help you put these things into practice. Ask God to help you persevere in the Gospel and pass both the Gospel and the vision to do likewise on to others.

**MEMORY VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:15**

**STUDY 3 – 2 TIMOTHY 3 – WARNINGS AND EXHORTATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION:** In this section Paul addresses the danger of false teaching: its motivations and its consequences. Then Paul charges Timothy to continue in the good things that he had learned from him. Paul wants him to remain true to Scripture and be equipped by it for every good work.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What lengths do you observe that people are willing to go to for the causes they believe in despite opposition? What do you think enables people to stick to such allegiances? In terms of faith what has helped you to stand firm in your faith despite all that life has thrown your way?

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**THE LAST DAYS (v1-4):** What is the tone of these verses of warning? How do you understand the 'last days' (v1), and what will characterise them? How do you react to the strong language Paul uses here to describe the false teachers and their motivations? What is your experience of this today?

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**A FORM OF GODLINESS (v5-7):** What might it look like to have a 'form of godliness' but deny its power (v5)? How do you understand the phrase 'loaded down with sins' (v6), and what are the implications of this? How can we prevent ourselves becoming like this and swayed by evil desires?

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**JANNES & JAMBRES (v8-9):** Who were these guys and what is the point Paul was trying to make by using them as an example (See Exodus 7:10-13)? How can we be encouraged by this?

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**YOU KNOW MY LIFE (v10-11):** In v10 Paul reminds Timothy of the breadth of what he had seen, heard and experienced of his life and ministry: who knows *you* that well? How does this section demonstrate the impact and influence that helping and sharing our lives can have with younger believers? How could you share more of your life and vision with those around you?

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**ROLE MODELS:** What does it tell us of the importance of having older Christian role-models we can learn from? To what extent are you willing to ask others to follow your example as Paul does to Timothy (v14)? Why or why not?

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**SUFFERING (v11-13):** Paul mentions persecution and sufferings several times here: what do you understand persecutions and sufferings to look like both for us and for Christians elsewhere? In light of v12, how would you respond to the statement that “if someone isn’t experiencing persecution, it is because they aren’t living a godly life.”?

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**ROLE OF SCRIPTURE (v14-17):** What do you understand the description ‘God-breathed’ to mean? In the context of this passage what do you think Paul’s purpose is in emphasising the righteousness of Scripture? What does it mean to be made ‘wise for salvation’ (v15)?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** What steps could you take to remember all that you have learned and to allow scripture to equip you for every good work? If Paul was writing to you what contribution do you feel that he would be asking you to make in the contexts that God has placed you in?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Pray for one another using the things that Paul mentions (v14-15). Ask God to help each of you “have nothing to do with” the things that mark the last days (v2-5).

**MEMORY VERSES: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15**

## STUDY 4 – 2 TIMOTHY 4 – FINISHING WELL

**INTRODUCTION:** This final chapter of the letter is particularly personal as Paul urges Timothy to finish well by discharging all the duties of his ministry (v5). A number of examples are given of those who were doing just that and also of those who had deserted or opposed Paul. The challenge here is for us keep on running the race so that one day we can say that we have kept the faith (v7).

**SETTING THE SCENE:** If you were seeing or speaking to someone for possibly the last time what wisdom, thoughts and advice would you want to impart to them? How does this compare with Paul's final thoughts and instructions for Timothy in this final chapter?

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**PREACH THE WORD (v1-5):** Why do you think Paul begins this section in such a dramatic and authoritative way (v1)? What is the nature and basis of the charges that Paul gives Timothy (see v2 and v5)? How can we apply this charge to our lives?

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Why do you think that Paul is so focused on preaching the Word? What do you think Paul means by *in season and out of season*? What does it mean to *not put up with sound doctrine*? What might this look like in our Christian communities? How can we guard against it?

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**FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT (v6-8):** What do we learn of Paul, his situation and his hope? Can you think of people who you have seen *fight the good fight*, *finish the race* and *keep the faith* (v7)? What is it going to take for you to one day make such claims about yourself?

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What is this 'crown of righteousness' which Paul is eagerly awaiting (v8)? How can Paul be so confident that this 'crown' awaits him? In the same way how can we be sure?  
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**FAITHFUL AND FAITHLESS (v9-15, 19-22):** How does Paul describe (positively and negatively) some of the people he had been involved with here? What do we learn elsewhere about them (e.g. 1 Timothy 1:18-20, Acts 15:36-41, Philemon 1:24)?  
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**EXPERIENCING GOD (v16-18):** What was Paul's experience of God during this challenging time? How do you think Paul was feeling at this time, with so many friends deserting him?  
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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** In light of this study (and bearing in mind the previous studies also): what have we learned about the relationship between Paul and Timothy? How would you summarise the lessons that God has been teaching you from this letter?  
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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Pray for one another ahead of the summer. Chat about what you will be doing, the opportunities and challenges that the summer holds for each of you. Pray through the things that God has been saying to you through this letter.

**MEMORY VERSES: 2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8**





# MEMORY VERSES

## **STUDY 1: 2 TIMOTHY 1 – ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL**

<sup>11</sup>And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup>That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

**2 Timothy 1:11-12**

## **STUDY 2: 2 TIMOTHY 2 – CHRISTIAN LIVING BY GRACE**

<sup>15</sup>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.

**2 Timothy 2:15**

## **STUDY 3: 2 TIMOTHY 3 – WARNINGS AND EXHORTATIONS**

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 3:14-15**

## **STUDY 4: 2 TIMOTHY 4 – FINISHING WELL**

<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>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.

**2 Timothy 4:7-8**