

2 Timothy

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the
promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace,
mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am
grateful to God--whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors
5 did--when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling
your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am
reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother
Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this
reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through
10 the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice,
but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be
ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but
join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who
saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but
15 according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in
Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the
appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life
and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed
a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do.
20 But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust,

and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. You are

5 aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain; when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me - -may the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! And

10 you know very well how much service he rendered in Ephesus. You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the

15 soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David--that is

20 my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained

like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also

5 reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed,

10 rightly explaining the word of truth. Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription:

15 "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness." In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the

20 owner of the house, ready for every good work. Shun youthful passions and

pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting

5 opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient

10 to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them! For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate silly women, overwhelmed by

15 their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires, who are always being instructed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth. As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people, of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith, also oppose the truth. But they will not make much progress, because, as in the case of those two men, their folly will become plain to everyone.

20 Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith,

my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But

5 wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and

10 is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent

15 whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for

20 you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry

out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a
libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good
fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is
reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous
5 judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who
have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for
Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to
Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is
with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.
10 I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left
with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.
Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back
for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our
message. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted
15 me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and
gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed
and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.
The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his
heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet Prisca
20 and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained in Corinth;

Trophimus I left ill in Miletus. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers and sisters. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.*

* From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.