

A BIBLE CLASS WORKBOOK

2 TIMOTHY

Guard the Good Deposit

Faithful to Christ - Faithful to the Word - Faithful to the End

Theme: Paul's final inspired letter calls every Christian to courageous faith, sound doctrine, holy living, patient teaching, and steadfast service until the crown is received.

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How to Use This Classbook

This workbook is designed for an adult or teen Bible class studying Paul's second letter to Timothy. Ten lessons cover the entire book. A teacher may use one lesson each week or divide longer lessons across two class periods.

A simple class pattern

- Read the assigned passage aloud before discussing the lesson.
- Review the setting and key words so the text is understood in context.
- Work through the teaching notes with an open Bible.
- Use the questions to move from observation to interpretation and application.
- Close by choosing one truth to obey, share, or pray about during the week.

Translation note: Scripture references follow the NASB. Only brief excerpts are printed; students should read each complete passage from their own Bible.

Course Goals

- Understand the historical setting, structure, and message of 2 Timothy.
- Recognize the authority and sufficiency of inspired Scripture.
- Develop courage to suffer for the gospel without shame.
- Learn how sound teaching, godly character, and patient correction belong together.
- Resolve to finish the Christian life faithfully.

Introduction to 2 Timothy

Second Timothy is Paul's most personal New Testament letter and was probably written from Roman imprisonment shortly before his death, around A.D. 66-67. Unlike his earlier house arrest, Paul now describes himself as chained like a criminal and expects his earthly life to end soon (2 Timothy 2:9; 4:6-8).

Paul writes to Timothy, his beloved child in the faith, whom he had trained and trusted in gospel work. Timothy faced opposition, false teachers, discouragement, and the temptation to shrink back. Paul does not offer an easy assignment. He commands Timothy to guard the gospel, endure hardship, handle Scripture accurately, pursue holiness, preach the word, and complete his ministry.

Quick Facts

Item	Summary
Writer	Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus (1:1)
Recipient	Timothy, Paul's beloved child in the faith (1:2)
Location	Paul is imprisoned in Rome (1:16-17; 2:9)
Purpose	To strengthen Timothy for faithful ministry after Paul's departure
Major themes	Courage, sound teaching, endurance, Scripture, holiness, preaching, faithfulness
Key charge	Guard the good deposit; preach the word; fulfill your ministry

Outline

- Chapter 1 - Guard the gospel without shame.
- Chapter 2 - Endure hardship as a faithful worker.
- Chapter 3 - Stand firm in dangerous times through Scripture.
- Chapter 4 - Preach the word and finish the course.

LESSON 1

A Faith Worth Guarding

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Lesson aim: See Christian faith as a treasured gift that must be strengthened and faithfully passed to others.

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. - 2 Timothy 1:7

Paul, Timothy, and a Spiritual Heritage

Paul opens as an apostle by God's will and grounds his ministry in the promise of life found in Christ Jesus. Facing death, he speaks first of life. The gospel does not deny death; it announces the life that conquers it.

Timothy is Paul's beloved child, showing that teaching the gospel creates deep spiritual relationships. Paul remembers Timothy continually in prayer and longs to see him. Christian leadership is not merely the transfer of information. It joins truth, affection, example, and prayer.

Timothy's sincere faith first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Their faith did not save Timothy automatically, but their instruction prepared him to believe personally. Compare Acts 16:1-3 and 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

Fan Into Flame

Timothy is told to rekindle God's gift. A real gift can be neglected. Fear, fatigue, opposition, or disappointment can make a servant withdraw. Paul therefore contrasts timidity with power, love, and discipline. Power provides courage, love governs how courage is used, and discipline keeps the servant steady.

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 16:1-5 - Timothy joins Paul in the work.
- 1 Timothy 4:12-16 - Do not neglect your gift or your example.
- Romans 12:6-11 - Use gifts diligently in service.
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Faith is taught in the home.

Class Discussion

1. What do Paul's prayers and tears reveal about healthy spiritual relationships?

2. What is the difference between inheriting a religious tradition and possessing sincere faith?

3. Which of the three qualities in verse 7 - power, love, or discipline - do you most need right now?

4. What spiritual responsibility or ability may need to be rekindled in your life?

Additional Notes

LESSON 2

Not Ashamed of the Gospel

2 Timothy 1:8-18

Lesson aim: Choose courageous identification with Christ, His gospel, and His suffering servants.

Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. - 2 Timothy 1:14

Saved and Called by Grace

Timothy must not be ashamed of the Lord's testimony or of Paul the prisoner. Shame seeks social safety by hiding our connection to Christ. Paul replaces shame with willingness to suffer for the gospel according to God's power.

Salvation rests on God's purpose and grace, not on our works of merit. Yet grace calls us to a holy life. Christ brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. The proper response is not passive admiration but faithful obedience and service; compare Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 2:11-14.

Know, Believe, Guard

Paul can suffer without shame because he knows the One he has believed. His confidence is personal and evidential: Christ is able to guard what Paul has entrusted to Him until that day. Timothy, in turn, must retain the pattern of sound words and guard the entrusted treasure through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Phygelus and Hermogenes represent desertion. Onesiphorus represents courageous loyalty: he searched for Paul, refreshed him, and was not ashamed of his chains. Faithfulness is often revealed by whether we stay near God's people when association becomes costly.

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 1:16 - The gospel is God's power for salvation.
- Mark 8:34-38 - Do not be ashamed of Christ and His words.
- 1 Peter 4:12-16 - Suffer as a Christian without shame.
- Jude 3 - Contend for the faith once delivered.

Class Discussion

1. What pressures make Christians tempted to hide their faith today?

2. How do grace and a holy calling fit together in verses 9-10?

3. What is the pattern of sound words, and why must it be retained?

4. What specific actions made Onesiphorus an encouraging disciple?

Additional Notes

LESSON 3

Strengthened by Grace

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Lesson aim: Accept the discipline and endurance required of a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. - 2 Timothy 2:3

Entrust the Truth

Timothy must be strengthened by grace and entrust Paul's teaching to faithful people who will teach others also. Four generations appear in one verse: Paul, Timothy, faithful people, and others. The church remains strong when truth is transmitted accurately rather than reinvented.

Three Pictures of Commitment

The soldier avoids civilian entanglements and seeks to please the one who enlisted him. The athlete competes according to the rules rather than inventing his own path. The farmer works hard before enjoying the harvest. Together they teach focus, obedience, patience, and labor.

Paul's own endurance is centered on Jesus Christ: risen from the dead and descended from David. The messenger may be chained, but God's word is not chained. Paul endures for the elect so that others may obtain salvation in Christ with eternal glory.

The Trustworthy Statement

Paul introduces verses 11-13 as a trustworthy statement. These balanced lines join the believer to Christ, promise the reward of endurance, warn against denying Him, and affirm that Christ never acts contrary to His character or His word.

Verse 11 - Dying and Living with Christ

“If we died with Him, we will also live with Him.” Christians are united with Christ's death and resurrection. In baptism the old life of sin is buried with Christ, and the believer is raised to walk in newness of life. This death is not merely physical death; it is the decisive surrender of the old self to Christ. Because He lives, those who remain in Him possess the sure hope of eternal life.

Verse 12 - Enduring, Reigning, and the Danger of Denial

“If we endure, we will also reign with Him.” Faithfulness to Christ must continue through hardship. Scripture repeatedly joins perseverance with the promised crown, glory, and victory with Christ. Endurance does not earn salvation as a work of merit; it is the continuing faith of one who refuses to abandon the Lord.

“If we deny Him, He also will deny us.” Jesus gave the same warning in Matthew 10:32-33. A person cannot deliberately reject Christ and still expect Christ to acknowledge him as faithful. Denial may occur through words, but Titus 1:16 shows that people may also profess to know God while denying Him by their deeds.

Verse 13 - Christ Remains Faithful

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.” This does not promise salvation to someone who abandons Christ; verse 12 has just warned that Christ will deny those who deny Him. It means that human unfaithfulness cannot make Christ unfaithful. He remains true to His holy nature, His promises, and His warnings.

Christ cannot lie, contradict His word, approve what He has condemned, or fail to fulfill what He has promised. His faithfulness comforts the repentant because He faithfully forgives those who confess and return to Him. It also warns the rebellious because He will judge exactly as His word declares.

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 6:3-8 - Baptized into Christ's death and raised to new life.
- Galatians 2:20 - The old self is crucified, and Christ lives in the believer.
- Matthew 10:22, 32-33 - Endure to the end; Christ acknowledges or denies us according to our response to Him.
- Romans 8:17 - Those who suffer with Christ will also be glorified with Him.
- James 1:12 - The one who perseveres under trial receives the crown of life.
- Hebrews 10:36 - Endurance is necessary to receive what God has promised.
- Titus 1:16 - God may be denied by sinful deeds as well as words.
- 1 John 1:9 - God is faithful and righteous to forgive those who confess their sins.

- Revelation 2:10; 3:21 - Be faithful until death and share Christ's victory.

Class Discussion

1. What qualities identify a faithful person who can teach others?

2. Which of Paul's three illustrations most challenges you, and why?

3. How can a servant avoid entanglement without neglecting ordinary responsibilities?

4. What does 'the word of God is not imprisoned' teach us during opposition?

5. Why does verse 13 not teach that an unfaithful person will be saved anyway?

6. How are Christ's promises and warnings both expressions of His faithfulness?

Additional Notes

LESSON 4

An Approved Worker

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Lesson aim: Handle God's word accurately and refuse teaching that produces spiritual ruin.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15

Words That Ruin and Words That Heal

Timothy must remind believers of the gospel truths already stated and solemnly warn against useless word battles. Such quarrels do not build faith; they ruin hearers. Avoiding empty disputes does not mean avoiding doctrinal truth. The contrast is between reverent, accurate teaching and irreverent chatter.

The approved worker is diligent before God. Accurately handling the word pictures cutting a straight course. The teacher must respect context, distinguish truth from assumption, and apply the message honestly. The goal is not applause but God's approval.

The Spread of Error

Hymenaeus and Philetus taught that the resurrection had already occurred. Their error spread like gangrene and upset some people's faith. False doctrine is not harmless simply because it sounds spiritual. It can destroy hope and distort the gospel; compare 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

Human error does not overturn God's firm foundation. The Lord knows those who are His, and everyone who names His name must turn away from wickedness. Divine knowledge and human responsibility stand together.

Study Practice

- Read the paragraph before isolating a verse.

- Identify the writer, recipients, situation, and purpose.
- Observe repeated words, commands, contrasts, and reasons.
- Compare clear related passages without forcing a contradiction.
- Ask what the text meant, what timeless truth it teaches, and how it must be obeyed.

Class Discussion

1. How can religious arguments ruin rather than strengthen hearers?

2. What habits help a Bible student handle the word accurately?

3. Why was denying the future resurrection a serious gospel error?

4. How do God's knowledge and our duty to depart from wickedness complement each other?

Additional Notes

LESSON 5

A Vessel for Honor

2 Timothy 2:20-26

Lesson aim: Join personal purity, peaceful character, and patient correction in service to God.

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skillful in teaching, patient when wronged. - 2 Timothy 2:24

Cleansed and Useful

A large house contains vessels used for honorable and dishonorable purposes. The servant who cleanses himself from wickedness becomes sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work. Usefulness begins with consecration, not merely talent.

Timothy must flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with others who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Biblical holiness is both negative and positive: flee what corrupts and pursue what reflects Christ. Isolation is not the goal; pure-hearted fellowship is.

Correcting Without Becoming Quarrelsome

Foolish controversies generate fights. The Lord's servant must be kind, able to teach, patient under mistreatment, and gentle in correction. Gentleness does not weaken truth. It keeps the teacher from contradicting the message by sinful behavior.

The aim is repentance leading to the knowledge of truth and escape from the devil's snare. A teacher supplies truth and a godly manner, but God grants repentance. Correction is therefore hopeful, prayerful, and serious rather than proud.

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee immorality; glorify God in the body.

- 1 Timothy 6:11-12 - Flee evil and pursue godliness.
- Galatians 6:1 - Restore gently while watching yourself.
- 1 Peter 3:15 - Defend the hope with gentleness and reverence.

Class Discussion

1. What is the difference between being gifted and being useful to the Master?

2. Why must fleeing sin be paired with pursuing righteousness?

3. How can someone correct error firmly without becoming quarrelsome?

4. What does this passage teach about repentance, truth, and Satan's influence?

Additional Notes

LESSON 6

Faithful in Difficult Times

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Lesson aim: Recognize counterfeit godliness and resist the character of a world centered on self.

Holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these. - 2 Timothy 3:5

The Last Days

The 'last days' were already present in the apostolic age and describe the era inaugurated by Christ; compare Acts 2:16-17 and Hebrews 1:1-2. Difficult seasons arise because people reject God's rule. Paul's list begins with lovers of self and money and ends with lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

These sins corrupt relationships: boasting, arrogance, disobedience, ingratitude, brutality, betrayal, and lack of self-control. The greatest deception is a form of godliness that denies its transforming power. Religious appearance cannot substitute for repentance and obedience.

Always Learning, Never Arriving

False teachers exploit vulnerable people burdened with sin and driven by impulses. Their hearers accumulate information without surrendering to truth. Bible study succeeds when it produces faith and obedience, not merely familiarity with religious ideas.

Jannes and Jambres, traditionally associated with Pharaoh's magicians, resisted Moses by imitation. Counterfeit religion may impress temporarily, but its folly will ultimately become evident. God's people must judge teaching by revealed truth, not spectacle or popularity.

Heart Examination

- Do I love God above comfort and pleasure?

- Is my speech marked by gratitude or complaint?
- Does my religion change my conduct at home and in private?
- Am I learning in order to obey, or merely collecting information?
- Do I evaluate teachers by Scripture or personality?

Class Discussion

1. How does self-love feed the other sins in Paul's list?

2. What is a form of godliness without its power? Give a modern example.

3. Why are some people always learning yet never able to acknowledge truth?

4. How can a congregation protect vulnerable people from manipulative teachers?

Additional Notes

LESSON 7

Continue in the Sacred Writings

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Lesson aim: Trust inspired Scripture as God's sufficient equipment for faith, salvation, and every good work.

All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness. - 2 Timothy 3:16

A Life Worth Following

Timothy carefully followed Paul's teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings. Sound doctrine and sound character belong together. Paul does not hide the cost: those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will face persecution.

Evil people and impostors progress from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. Timothy's answer is continuity, not innovation: continue in what you learned and became convinced of, remembering the trustworthy teachers and the sacred writings known from childhood.

Inspired and Profitable

Scripture is 'God-breathed.' Its origin is God, though He used human writers. Because God speaks through Scripture, it is authoritative and trustworthy. The sacred writings make one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The Old Testament leads toward Christ, while the New Testament reveals His fulfilled covenant and apostolic teaching.

Scripture teaches what is right, rebukes what is wrong, corrects by restoring the proper path, and trains believers to live righteously. The result is a servant fully equipped for every good work. Therefore the church must not bind human traditions as divine law or treat personal feelings as equal to revelation.

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 119:97-105 - God's word gives wisdom and light.
- 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 - The Spirit revealed truth in inspired words.
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 - Men spoke from God as moved by the Holy Spirit.

Class Discussion

1. What parts of Paul's example did Timothy observe besides doctrine?

2. How can the Old Testament make someone wise for salvation through Christ?

3. Explain the four functions of Scripture in verses 16-17.

4. What practical decisions would change if we truly believed Scripture equips us for every good work?

Additional Notes

LESSON 8

Preach the Word

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Lesson aim: Accept the urgent responsibility to proclaim God's word faithfully in every spiritual climate.

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction. - 2 Timothy 4:2

A Charge Before God and Christ

Paul delivers his charge in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, the coming Judge and King. Preaching is not performance before an audience; it is stewardship before the Lord. The certainty of judgment gives urgency to the task.

The content is fixed: preach the word. The preacher must be ready when the message is welcomed and when it is resisted. Correcting exposes error, rebuking confronts sin, and exhorting calls hearers forward. All three require great patience and careful teaching.

When People Will Not Endure Sound Teaching

A time comes when hearers reject healthy doctrine and gather teachers who satisfy their desires. Itching ears do not lack information; they demand affirmation. Turning from truth makes people vulnerable to myths.

Timothy must remain sober, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill his ministry. The servant cannot control hearers' choices, but he can remain clear-minded and complete his God-given work.

For Teachers and Hearers

- Teachers must preach the text rather than personal opinion.
- Hearers must desire truth even when it corrects them.

- Patience must not become avoidance of necessary rebuke.
- Boldness must not become harshness or self-display.
- Every ministry should be measured by faithfulness, not popularity alone.

Class Discussion

1. Why does Paul place the charge to preach in the setting of judgment and Christ's kingdom?

2. What does it mean to be ready in season and out of season?

3. How can a congregation develop itching ears?

4. What would it look like for you to 'fulfill your ministry' in your present responsibilities?

Additional Notes

LESSON 9

I Have Finished the Course

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Lesson aim: Live now so that the end of life can be faced with confidence in Christ's righteous reward.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. - 2 Timothy 4:7

A Life Poured Out

Paul sees his approaching death as a drink offering being poured out and as a departure. Rome may execute him, but his life already belongs to God. Death is not ultimate defeat; it is departure to be with the Lord.

Three statements summarize his perseverance. He fought the good fight, not every fight. He finished the course assigned by Christ rather than quitting or changing lanes. He kept the faith - both maintaining personal trust and guarding the gospel entrusted to him.

The Crown of Righteousness

Paul expects the crown of righteousness from the Lord, the righteous Judge, on that day. This confidence is not self-salvation by flawless performance. It rests on God's grace and promise to those who faithfully belong to Christ; compare 2 Timothy 1:9 and 2:1.

The promise extends to all who have loved Christ's appearing. Loving His appearing means wanting the King to come and living in readiness for Him. The Christian does not merely fear judgment; in Christ, he longs for the Judge.

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 20:24 - Finish the course and ministry received from Jesus.
- Philippians 1:20-23 - To live is Christ and to depart is gain.

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - Run to obtain the imperishable prize.
- James 1:12 - The crown of life is promised to those who love God.
- Revelation 2:10 - Faithfulness unto death receives the crown of life.

Class Discussion

1. How do the pictures of a drink offering and departure shape a Christian view of death?

2. What is the difference between fighting the good fight and merely being argumentative?

3. In what senses did Paul keep 'the faith'?

4. What unfinished spiritual work should receive your attention now?

Additional Notes

LESSON 10

The Lord Stood with Me

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Lesson aim: Remain loyal to Christ and His people, confident that the Lord is present even when others fail.

But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished. - 2 Timothy 4:17

People Around Paul's Final Days

Paul's closing requests are intensely human. Demas deserted him because he loved the present world. Crescens and Titus left for ministry locations. Luke remained. Mark, once the subject of sharp disagreement, had become useful to Paul - a beautiful testimony to restoration and growth (Acts 15:36-40; Colossians 4:10).

Paul asks for his cloak, books, and parchments. Even near death he values ordinary needs and continued study. Alexander caused great harm and opposed the message. Paul leaves final judgment to the Lord while warning Timothy to remain alert.

Alone, Yet Not Alone

At Paul's first defense no one supported him. He asks that this failure not be counted against them, reflecting Christlike mercy. Yet abandonment did not silence him because the Lord stood with him and strengthened him so the proclamation would be completed.

Paul's rescue does not necessarily mean escape from execution. He trusts the Lord to rescue him from every evil deed and bring him safely into the heavenly kingdom. The final victory is not avoiding death but arriving safely with Christ.

Final Greetings and Grace

The letter closes with names, needs, greetings, and grace. Christianity is doctrinally exact and deeply relational. Paul has guarded the gospel without becoming cold. His final blessing - grace be with you - returns Timothy to the divine strength with which the letter began.

Class Discussion

1. What do Demas, Luke, and Mark each teach about choices and spiritual development?

2. Why is Paul's request for books and parchments meaningful at this stage of life?

3. How did the Lord's presence change Paul's experience of human abandonment?

4. What does deliverance into the heavenly kingdom mean for Christians facing death?

5. Which command or promise from 2 Timothy do you most want to carry forward?

Additional Notes

Course Review

Remember, Explain, and Apply

Chapter	Central movement
1	Rekindle the gift; do not be ashamed; guard the treasure.
2	Entrust truth; endure hardship; handle the word accurately; pursue holiness.
3	Expect difficult times; continue in Scripture; trust its inspiration and sufficiency.
4	Preach the word; fulfill the ministry; finish the course; trust the Lord's presence.

Final Reflection

Class Discussion

1. What does 2 Timothy teach about the relationship between grace and faithful effort?

2. How should a Christian respond when truth becomes unpopular?

3. What qualities must accompany accurate teaching?

4. How does Paul's approaching death strengthen rather than weaken the message of the letter?

5. Write a one-sentence personal commitment based on this study.

Key Words and Themes

Grace: God's favor and strength in Christ; the foundation for salvation and service.

Gospel: The good news centered on Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and descended from David.

Guard: Protect the apostolic message from alteration, neglect, and compromise.

Sound teaching: Healthy doctrine conforming to the pattern of inspired words.

Endure: Remain faithful through hardship, opposition, and delay.

Approved worker: A servant seeking God's approval and accurately handling His word.

Last days: The messianic age in which Christ has spoken and the church awaits His return.

Scripture: God-breathed writings able to make one wise for salvation and equip for every good work.

Preach: Publicly proclaim and apply God's word with urgency, patience, and instruction.

That day: The day of Christ's appearing, judgment, and reward.

Personal Commitment Page

After studying Paul's final letter, prayerfully complete these statements. Keep this page where you can review it regularly.

A truth I must guard is...

A fear I must overcome is...

A sinful influence I must flee is...

A Christlike quality I must pursue is...

A person I can help teach is...

A ministry I must faithfully fulfill is...

To finish my course well, I will...

Closing prayer: Lord, strengthen me by Your grace to guard the gospel, live a holy life, handle Your word accurately, serve others patiently, and remain faithful until the end. Through Jesus Christ, amen.