

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

We once again refer you to our introduction for a preparation in understanding the circumstances of the writing of this letter. Suffice it to say here that this epistle is far more personal in style and content than Paul's first letter, and that it was written from Rome in the year A.D. 67. It is a letter written under the long shadow of death; probably not more than a few months before Paul's martyrdom. Paul wants once more to see his son in the faith. He urges him to make haste to his side—we like to believe Timothy reached Paul before he died.

Without analysis, there can be no synthesis. In other words, if you do not understand the structure of this letter, you will have great difficulty with any conclusions from it. It is *imperative* that you have a useable outline of this letter.

Here are four outlines from men who have thought through the structure of the letter. Read Paul's second letter to Timothy once for each outline—notice carefully each outline as you read.

1. Russell Bradley Jones — from *The Epistles To Timothy* — A Study Manual — Baker Book House, 1959.

INTRODUCTION (1:1-5)

- A. The Writer (1:1).
- B. The Addressee (1:2a).
- C. The Blessing (1:2b).
- D. The Thanksgiving (1:3-5).

I. EXHORTATIONS (1:6—2:26)

- A. "Stir Up the Gift of God" (1:6-10).
 1. The Exhortation.
 2. The Reason for this Exhortation.
 3. The Basis of the Exhortation.
- B. "That Good Thing . . . Guard" (1:11-14).
 1. The Example of Paul.
 2. The Duty of Timothy.
- C. "Suffer Hardship with Me" (1:15—2:13).
 1. Paul's Experience with Fellow-workers.
 - a. The Failures.
 - b. The Faithful.
 2. Paul's Appeal to Timothy.
 - a. The Urgent Duty.
 - b. The Glorious Example.
 - c. The Saving Purpose.
 - d. The Faithful Saying.

II TIMOTHY

- D. Be an Unashamed Workman (2:14-26).
 - 1. Reminding Others.
 - 2. Seeking Approval.
 - 3. Shunning Babblings.
 - 4. Confident in the Lord.
 - 5. Forsaking Unrighteousness.
 - 6. Exercising a Restrained Gentleness.
 - 7. Correcting Others.

- II. WARNINGS (3:1—4:5)
 - A. Perilous Times Shall Come (3:1-13).
 - 1. Decadent Men.
 - a. Characteristics.
 - b. Actions.
 - c. End.
 - 2. Delivered Men.
 - a. Paul.
 - b. All the Godly.
 - 3. Deception's Power.

 - B. "Fulfill Thy Ministry" (3:14—4:5).
 - 1. Abide in the Things Learned.
 - a. From the Apostle.
 - b. From the Sacred Writings.
 - 2. "Preach the Word."
 - a. The Charge.
 - b. The Manner.
 - c. The Need.
 - d. The Duty.

- III. TESTIMONY (4-6-18)
 - A. Paul's Confidence as He Faces Death (4:6-8).
 - 1. The End.
 - 2. The Record.
 - 3. The Reward.

 - B. Paul's Request that Timothy Come to Him (4:9-15).
 - 1. Paul and His Fellow-workers.
 - a. Timothy
 - b. Demas

II. TIMOTHY

- c. Crescens
- d. Titus
- e. Luke
- f. Mark
- g. Tychicus

2. Paul and His Cloak, Books, and Parchments.
3. Paul and an Enemy.

C. Paul's Praise of His Faithful Lord (4:16-18).

1. The Lord Delivered.
2. The Lord Will Deliver.

CONCLUSION (4:19-22)

A. Added Personal References (4:19-21).

1. Salutations.
2. News.
3. Renewed Appeal.
4. Greetings.

B. Benediction (4:22).

2. David Lipscomb and J. W. Shepherd, *New Testament Commentaries*—Gospel Advocate, 1942.

PERSONAL APPEAL FOR LOYALTY TO THE GOSPEL

(1:1—2:13)

1. Apostolic Greeting.
2. Thanksgiving for Timothy's Past and Exhortation That He May Be Zealous and Willing, Like Paul, to Suffer for the Gospel.
3. Deserters and Loyal Friends.
4. Renewed Appeal to Transmit to Others the Gospel, Even at the Cost of Suffering.

THE MINISTERS OF GOD AND FALSE TEACHERS

(2:14—4:8)

1. He Dissuades from Unprofitable Discussion.
 2. Grievous Times Impending.
 3. Charge to Timothy to Fulfill His Ministry.
 4. Requests and Personal Details.
 5. Salutations and Benedictions.
3. Leslie G. Thomas, *An Introduction To the Epistles of Paul*, Gospel Advocate, 1955.

SALUTATION (1:1,2)

I. A PERSONAL PLEA FOR LOYALTY TO THE GOSPEL IN THE FACE OF A GRAVE CRISIS (1:3-18).

- A. Thanksgiving for Timothy's Past (1:3-5).
- B. An Exhortation to follow Paul's Example in Suffering, Willingly, and Zealously, for the Gospel (1:6-14).
- C. Deserters and Loyal Friends (1:15-18).

II. DETAILED APPEAL FOR A COURAGEOUS EFFORT IN PERPETUATING THE GOSPEL, AND THE TEMPER NEEDED FOR THE TASK (2:1-26).

- A. The Need for Faithfulness, even at the Cost of Suffering (2:1-13).
- B. The Spirit of the True Workman for God in the Church (2:14-26).

III. THE LAST DAYS WILL BE TESTING ONES, BUT TIMOTHY IS PREPARED FOR THEM (3:1-17).

- A. The Principle Features of the Days of Trial (3:1-9).
- B. Timothy's Divine Resources for Meeting Them (3:10-17).

IV. FINAL SUMMARY OF THE CHARGE TO TIMOTHY (4:1-8)

V. PERSONAL REQUESTS AND PAUL'S ASSURANCE OF ABIDING FAITH IN THE LORD (4:9-18). SALUTATIONS AND BENEDICTIONS (4:19-22).

4. W. B. Taylor, *Studies in the Epistles and Revelation*, Standard Publishing Company, 1910.

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-5)

- A. Apostleship declared.
 - 1. An apostle to Christ.
 - 2. By divine approval, through the will of God, according to the promise in Christ Jesus.
- B. Personal greeting.
- C. Thanksgiving: for service, friendship, and faith.

II. DUTY OF A MINISTER (1:6—2:13)

- A. Gifts to God.
 - 1. Charges to.
 - 2. Duty to the saved.
- B. According to grace: the grace of hearing, suffering, endurance, understanding, memory, salvation, and of the new life.

III. DUTY OF THE CHURCH (2:14—3:13)

- A. In the present crisis.
- B. In the coming apostasy.

IV. DUTY TO THE SCRIPTURES (3:14—4:8)

- A. The preacher's duty toward.
 - B. The preacher's work in connection with the Scriptures.
preach the Word.
 - C. Enforced by Paul's experience.
 - 1. His service.
 - 2. His reward.
 - D. A crown for all who love.
- V. CONCLUSION (4:9-22)

- A. His associates.
- B. His enemies.
- C. Salutation.
- D. Final benediction: "The Lord be with thy spirit, grace be with thee."

Read the letter one more time. This time work out your own outline of the letter. This is *very important*—please do it.

Here is the outline we shall follow in our study of this epistle:

INTRODUCTION 1:1-5

- 1. Salutation 1:1,2
- 2. Paul's gratitude 1:3-5

PART ONE

Exhortations 1:6—2:26

- 1. DO NOT BE ASHAMED 1:6-18
 - a. Timothy 6-11
 - b. Paul 12-14
 - c. Onesiphorus 15-18
- 2. BE STRONG IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST 2:1-26
 - a. As a child 1,2
 - b. As a soldier 3,4
 - c. As an athlete 5
 - d. As a farmer 6-13
 - e. As a workman 14-19
 - f. As a utensil 20-23
 - g. As a bondservant 24-26

PART TWO

Warnings 3:1—4:5

- 1. Recognize the coming apostasy 3:1-9

2. Withstand the apostasy 3:10-17
3. Preach the Word 4:1-5

PART THREE**Testimony 4:6-18**

1. Assurance in the face of death 4:6-8
2. Request for Timothy to come to Paul 4:9-15
3. Praise for his Lord 4:16-18

CONCLUSION 4:19-22

1. Personal References 4:19-21
2. Benediction 4:22

INTRODUCTION 1:1-5

SALUTATION 1:1,2

Text 1:1,2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, according to the promise of the life which is in Christ Jesus, 2 to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thought Questions 1:1,2

1. Show how the will of God related to Paul's apostleship.
2. Who made the promise of life? To whom? When? Why?
3. In what sense was this "life" in Christ Jesus?
4. Show *two differences* in the salutations of I and II Timothy.
5. Is "beloved child" different from "genuine child"? Explain.
6. Define each word: (1) grace; (2) mercy; (3) peace.

Paraphrase 1:1,2

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, on account of publishing the promise of eternal life, which, being made to believers of all nations in the covenant with Abraham, is to be obtained, not by obeying Moses, but Christ Jesus.

2 To Timothy, my beloved son in the faith: May gracious dispositions, merciful deliverance, and inward peace, be yours, from God the Father of Jews and Gentiles, and from Christ Jesus our common Lord.

Comment 1:1,2

Vs. 1. Perhaps the opening of this letter sounds a bit formal to our western understanding. Besides the difference in letter style, let us not forget that this epistle was to be read, like the first one, by many in the church at Ephesus, and perhaps in some of the other churches of Asia. This is a personal letter, but it contains inspired, apostolic instruction.