

2 Timothy: *Famous Last Words*

Introduction

I. The Author—The Apostle Paul.

II. The Audience— Second Timothy contains the final inspired words of the Apostle Paul that have been preserved in the Bible. It has often been called Paul's last will and testament. It was written about 2-4 years after 1 Timothy. Paul wrote these words during his final imprisonment in the Mamartine dungeon at Rome while awaiting execution (4:6-8). About six years earlier, during his first imprisonment in Rome, Paul had been under house arrest where he was able to receive visitors and preach and teach (Acts 20:30-31).

After his release from house arrest he visited Crete leaving Titus there (Titus 1:5). He then went to Ephesus leaving Timothy to handle the problems there. He may have gone on to Colosse to visit Philemon as planned (Philemon 22). Paul certainly reached Macedonia (1 Tim. 1:3) and probably Philippi (Phil. 2:24). From Macedonia he wrote 1 Timothy and probably Titus. Timothy was to remain in Ephesus, but Titus was to be replaced by Artemas (Titus 3:12). Paul possibly ventured to Spain (Rom. 15:24, 28) and possibly revisited Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 3:14-15). At what point he touched base in Corinth and Miletus is not clear (2 Tim. 4:20). Eventually, Paul came to Troas where he stayed with Carpus and was probably re-arrested as a result of the persecution under Nero. This explains why he left his cloak and books there (2 Tim. 4:13).

When Paul penned 2 Timothy he was in chains (2 Tim. 1:16) in a dungeon languishing as a criminal (2:9). To make matters even worse Paul had been deserted by everyone in Asia Minor but Onesiphorus (1:16) and only Luke was with him (4:11). As Paul was waiting to die, he wrote his final inspired letter to his beloved friend Timothy in about A.D. 67. Not long after this letter was written the apostle Paul was beheaded in Rome.

III. The Aim—Second Timothy was written to Timothy in Ephesus summoning him to Rome and stimulating him to courage and faithfulness in the face of fear and discouragement in his ministry.

IV. The Arrangement

- I. Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1-5)
- II. The Perseverance of a Man of God (1:6-18)
- III. The Portraits of a Man of God (2:1-26)
- IV. The Perils of a Man of God (3:1-17)
- V. The Preaching of a Man of God (4:1-5)
- VI. Final Remarks (4:6-18)
- VII. Final Farewell (19-22)

V. The Analysis

Key Words: *su de* (“but you” 2:1; 3:10, 14; 4:5)

I. Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1-5)

II. The Perseverance of a Man of God (1:6-18)

A. The Exhortation (6-11)

B. The Examples (12-18)

III. The Portraits of a Man of God (2:1-26)

A. A Steward (1-2)

B. A Soldier (3-4)

C. An Athlete (5)

D. A Farmer (6-7)

E. Jesus (8-13)

F. A Worker (14-19)

G. A Vessel (20-22)

H. A Servant (23-26)

IV. The Perils of a Man of God (3:1-17)

A. The Prophecy Concerning Apostasy (1-9) The Symptoms

B. The Power to Withstand Apostasy (10-17) The Solution

V. The Preaching of a Man of God (4:1-5)

A. The Charge to Preach the Word (1-2)

B. The Need for Preaching the Word (3-5)

VI. Final Remarks (4:6-18)

VII. Final Farewell (19-22)

VI. The Application