

## **Preface To The Second Epistle Of Saint Paul To Timothy (1546 and 1522)**

This Epistle is a farewell letter, in which St. Paul exhorts Timothy to continue laboring for the Gospel, as he has begun. This is needful, since there are many who fall away, and false spirits and teachers are rising all around. Therefore it behooves a bishop always to watch, and to work at the Gospel.

But he prophesies especially, in chapters 3 and 4, concerning the perilous time at the end of the world, in which a false spiritual life will lead all the world astray with an outward show, under which all kinds of wickedness and wrong will have its being; and, sad to say! we now see this prophecy of St. Paul all too abundantly fulfilled in our clergy.