

# 2 TIMOTHY

## THE SECOND LETTER FROM PAUL TO TIMOTHY

### Greeting and thanksgiving

**Rm 1:1+** **1** From Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus in his design **1**  
**Ac 16:1+** to promise life in Christ Jesus; •to Timothy, dear child of mine, wishing you **2**  
grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Rm 1:9+** Night and day I thank God, keeping my conscience clear and remembering **3**  
**Ph 3:5** my duty to him as my ancestors did, and always I remember you in my prayers;  
**4:9,21** I remember your tears<sup>a</sup> •and long to see you again to complete my happiness. **4**  
Then I am reminded of the sincere faith which you have; it came first to live in **5**  
**Ac 16:1** your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I have no doubt that it  
**3:14-15** is the same faith in you as well.

### The gifts that Timothy has received

**Ac 4:20-21** That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift that God **6**  
**Rm 8:15** gave you when I laid my hands on you. •God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, **7**  
**1 Tm 4:14+** but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. •So you are never to be **8**  
**1:16** ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner;  
**Lk 9:26** but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the  
**Rm 1:16;** power of God •who has saved us and called us to be holy<sup>b</sup>—not because of **9**  
**5:3f** anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace.  
**Ep 3:13** This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning  
**Tt 3:5** of time, •but it has only been revealed by the Appearing<sup>c</sup> of our saviour Christ **10**  
**Rm 8:28** Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through  
**Rm 16:25** the Good News; •and I have been named its herald, its apostle and its teacher.<sup>d</sup> **11**  
**Tt 2:11; 3:4** It is only on account of this that I am experiencing fresh hardships here **12**  
**Rm 6:9; 8:2** now;<sup>e</sup> but I have not lost confidence, because I know who it is that I have put  
**Heb 2:14-15** my trust in, and I have no doubt at all that he is able to take care of all that  
**1 Tm 2:7** I have entrusted to him<sup>f</sup> until that Day.

**1 Tm 6:20+** Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the **13**  
**1 Co 1:8+** faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. •You have been trusted to look after **14**  
**1 Tm 1:10+** something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.  
**1 Tm 6:20+** As you know, Phygelus and Hermogenes and all the others from Asia refuse **15**  
**Rm 5:5+** to have anything more to do with me. •I hope the Lord will be kind to all the **16**  
**4:19** family of Onesiphorus, because he has often been a comfort to me and has never  
**1:8+** been ashamed of my chains. •On the contrary, as soon as he reached Rome, he **17**  
really searched hard for me and found out where I was. •May it be the Lord's **18**  
will that he shall find the Lord's mercy on that Day.<sup>g</sup> You know better than  
anyone else how much he helped me at Ephesus.

### How Timothy should face hardships

**3:14** **2** Accept the strength, my dear son, that comes from the grace of Christ Jesus. **1**  
**1 Tm 4:14;** You have heard everything that I teach in public; hand it on to reliable **2**  
**6:12** people so that they in turn will be able to teach others.

- 3 Put up with your share of difficulties, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.<sup>a</sup>  
 4 In the army, no soldier gets himself mixed up in civilian life, because he must  
 5 be at the disposal of the man who enlisted him; •or take an athlete—he cannot  
 6 win any crown unless he has kept all the rules of the contest; •and again, it is  
 7 the working farmer who has the first claim on any crop that is harvested. •Think  
 over what I have said, and the Lord will show you how to understand it all.  
 8 Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead,  
 9 sprung from the race of David'; •it is on account of this that I have my own  
 hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal—but they cannot chain  
 10 up God's news. •So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that  
 in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal  
 glory that comes with it.  
 11 Here is a saying that you can rely on:<sup>b</sup>
- If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.  
 If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.  
 If we disown him, then he will disown us.  
 We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,  
 for he cannot disown his own self.

4:8  
 1 Co 9:25+  
 1 Co 3:6-9  
 Heb 6:7  
 1 Co 9:7,10  
 Ac 13:22-23  
 Rm 1:3,4  
 Ep 3:1  
 Ph 1:13-18  
 Col 1:24+  
 1 Th 2:12  
 1 Tm 1:15+  
 Rm 6:5+  
 Ac 14:22  
 Rm 8:17  
 Mt 10:33  
 Rm 3:3  
 1 Co 1:9+  
 Nb 23:19+  
 Tt 1:2  
 Heb 6:18

### The struggle against the immediate danger from false teachers

- 14 Remind them of this; and tell them in the name of God<sup>c</sup> that there is to be  
 no wrangling about words: all that this ever achieves is the destruction of those  
 15 who are listening. •Do all you can to present yourself in front of God as a man  
 who has come through his trials, and a man who has no cause to be ashamed  
 of his life's work and has kept a straight course with the message of the truth.  
 16 Have nothing to do with pointless philosophical discussions—they only lead  
 17 further and further away from true religion. •Talk of this kind corrodes like  
 18 gangrene, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus, •the men who have gone  
 right away from the truth and claim that the resurrection has already taken  
 place.<sup>d</sup> Some people's faith cannot stand up to them.  
 19 However, God's solid foundation stone is still in position, and this is the  
 inscription on it: '*The Lord knows those who are his own*' and '*All who call on  
 the name of the Lord must avoid sin*'.<sup>e</sup>  
 20 Not all the dishes in a large house are made of gold and silver; some are  
 made of wood or earthenware: some are kept for special occasions and others  
 21 are for ordinary purposes. •Now, to avoid these faults that I am speaking about  
 is the way for anyone to become a vessel for special occasions, fit for the Master  
 himself to use, and kept ready for any good work.  
 22 Instead of giving in to your impulses like a young man, fasten your attention  
 on holiness, faith, love and peace, in union with all those who call on the Lord  
 23 with pure minds. •Avoid these futile and silly speculations, understanding that  
 24 they only give rise to quarrels; •and a servant of the Lord is not to  
 engage in quarrels, but has to be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and patient.

1 Tm 1:4+  
 1 Tm 4:6-7  
 1 Tm 1:20  
 Ep 2:20+  
 Nb 16:5,26  
 Is 26:13  
 Is 29:66+  
 Rm 9:21  
 1 Tm 6:11  
 Ga 5:22+  
 1 Tm 1:4+  
 1 Tm 3:2f  
 Tt 1:7

1 a. When Paul left Timothy at Ephesus, 1 Tm 1:3.

b. Lit. 'and called us with a holy call': this may be taken in two ways here: the calling of Christians to salvation, cf. Rm 1:6-7; 8:28; 1 Co 1:2,24; Col 3:15; Ep 1:18; 4:4; Ph 3:14; etc., or (by metonymy) the state ('vocation') to which Christians have been called.

c. The 'Appearing' ('epiphany'), cf. 1 Tm 6:14+, here refers to the incarnation and redemption.

d. Add. (Vulg.) 'to the pagans'.

e. The second imprisonment at Rome.

f. Either Christian doctrine (by keeping it intact, 1 Tm 6:20+) or the good that Paul has done and his consequent merit, cf. 1 Tm 6:19; 2 Tm 4:7f.

g. 'Lord' can be taken in either case as a reference either to the Father or to the Son.

2 a. Vv. 4-6 are three short parables: the soldier, the athlete, the farm labourer.

b. Vv. 11-13 are part of a Christian hymn, cf. 1 Tm 3:16+.

c. Var. (Vulg.) 'the Lord'.

d. The Greek mind found the resurrection particularly hard to accept, Ac 17:32; 1 Co 15:12. Hymenaeus and Philetus may well have given it a purely spiritual interpretation by analogy with the mystical resurrection that occurs in baptism, Rm 6:4+; Ep 2:6+.

e. Details about a building were often inscribed on its foundation stone: as the building here is the Church, the foundation stone could be either Christ himself, 1 Co 3:11, or the apostles, Ep 2:20, cf. Rv 21:14, or faith in the unbreakable promise of God, cf. 2 Tm 2:13.

Is 42:3 He has to be gentle when he corrects people who dispute what he says, never 25  
Mt 12:20 forgetting that God may give them a change of mind so that they recognise the  
Ga 6:1 truth and •come to their senses, once out of the trap where the devil caught 26  
1 Jn 2:14+ them and kept them enslaved.

### The dangers of the last days

1 Tm 4:1+ 3 You may be quite sure that in the last days there are going to be 1  
Rm 1:29+ some difficult times. •People will be self-centred and grasping; boastful, 2  
arrogant and rude; disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious; •heartless 3  
and unappeasable; they will be slanderers, profligates, savages and enemies of  
everything that is good; •they will be treacherous and reckless and demented 4  
by pride, preferring their own pleasure to God. •They will keep up the outward 5  
appearance of religion but will have rejected the inner power of it.<sup>a</sup> Have nothing  
Mt 17:15 to do with people like that.  
24:4f,24  
Col 2:23

Ti 1:11 Of the same kind, too, are those men who insinuate themselves into families 6  
in order to get influence over silly women who are obsessed with their sins and  
follow one craze after another •in the attempt to educate themselves, but can 7  
Ac 17:21 never come to knowledge of the truth. •Men like this defy the truth just as 8  
Jn 8:32 Jannes and Jambres defied Moses:<sup>b</sup> their minds are corrupt and their faith  
1 Tm 2:4 spurious. •But they will not be able to go on any longer: their foolishness, like 9  
that of the other two, must become obvious to everybody.

1 Co 4:9 You know, though, what I have taught, how I have lived, what I have aimed 10  
1 Co 13:13+ at; you know my faith, my patience and my love; my constancy •and the 11  
Ac 14:5,22 persecutions and hardships that came to me in places like Antioch, Iconium and  
2 Co 11:23f Lystra—all the persecutions I have endured; and the Lord has rescued me from  
Ac 14:22+ every one of them. •You are well aware, then, that anybody who tries to live 12  
Rm 8:36 in devotion to Christ is certain to be attacked; •while these wicked impostors 13  
1 Th 3:4-5 will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and deceived themselves.  
Ti 1:10

2:2 You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember 14  
1 Tm 6:20+ who your teachers were,<sup>c</sup> •and how, ever since you were a child, you have known 15  
1:5 the holy scriptures—from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation  
Ac 16:1 through faith in Christ Jesus. •All scripture is inspired by God and can<sup>d</sup> profit- 16  
2 Co 3:14-18 ably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and  
Rm 15:4 teaching them to be holy. •This is how the man who is dedicated to God 17  
1 Co 10:6+ becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.  
2 P 1:20-21

### 1 Tm 6:11f A solemn charge

Ac 10:42+ 4 Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the 1  
1 P 4:5 dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom:  
1 Tm 6:14+ proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, 2  
Ac 20:21 correct error, call to obedience—but do all with patience and with the intention  
1 Tm 4:1+ of teaching. •The time is sure to come when, far from being content with sound 3  
1 Tm 1:10+ teaching, people will be avid for the latest novelty and collect themselves a whole  
series of teachers according to their own tastes; •and then, instead of listening 4  
1 Tm 1:4+ to the truth, they will turn to myths. •Be careful always to choose the right 5  
course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's  
work, in thoroughgoing service.

### Paul in the evening of his life

Ph 2:17+ As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation,<sup>a</sup> and the time 6  
Ac 20:24 has come for me to be gone. •I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run 7  
1 Co 9:24 the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; •all there is to come now is the 8  
1 Tm 1:18; crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge,  
6:12 will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed  
2:4-5 for his Appearing.  
1 Co 9:25+  
1 Tm 6:14+

## Final advice

- <sup>9</sup> Do your best to come and see me as soon as you can. •As it is, Demas has  
<sup>10</sup> deserted me for love of this life and gone to Thessalonika, Crescens has gone  
<sup>11</sup> to Galatia<sup>b</sup> and Titus to Dalmatia; •only Luke<sup>c</sup> is with me. Get Mark<sup>d</sup> to come  
<sup>12</sup> and bring him with you; I find him a useful helper in my work. •I have sent  
<sup>13</sup> Tychicus to Ephesus. •When you come, bring the cloak I left with Carpus in  
<sup>14</sup> Troas, and the scrolls, especially the parchment ones. •Alexander the copper-  
smith has done me a lot of harm; *the Lord will repay him for what he has done.*  
<sup>15</sup> Be on your guard against him yourself, because he has been bitterly contesting  
everything that we say.  
<sup>16</sup> The first time I had to present my defence,<sup>e</sup> there was not a single witness to  
support me. Every one of them deserted me—may they not be held accountable  
<sup>17</sup> for it. •But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the  
whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was  
<sup>18</sup> *rescued from the lion's mouth.* •The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts  
on me, and bring me safely to<sup>f</sup> his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever  
and ever. Amen.

1:4  
Phm 24  
Col 4:14  
Col 4:10  
Tt 3:12+  
1 Tm 1:20  
Ps 28:4;  
62:12  
Pr 24:12  
Mt 10:19f  
Ph 1:19f  
Col 4:3f  
Ps 22:21  
Do 6:17  
Rm 16:27+

## Farewells and final good wishes

- <sup>19</sup> Greetings to Prisca and Aquila, and the family of Onesiphorus. •Erastus  
<sup>20</sup> remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus ill at Miletus. •Do your best to come  
before the winter.  
Greetings to you from Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.  
<sup>22</sup> The Lord<sup>g</sup> be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

1:16  
Ac 18:2+;  
19:22; 20:4  
Rm 16:23  
1:4

3 a. This is reminiscent of the 'false prophets' foretold in Mt 7:15; 24:4-5,24. A fresh outbreak of irreligion is one of the characteristics of the 'last times'. cf. 1 Tm 4:1+.

b. Paul gets the names that he gives these magicians (who are mentioned in Ex 7:11-13,22, etc.) from Jewish tradition in which Jannes and Jambres (or 'Mambres'), represented as the leaders of the Egyptian magicians, are said to be the disciples (or even sons) of Balaam. Nb 22:2+.

c. Var. (Vulg.) 'who your teacher was'. These teachers were Lois, Eunice, 1:5, and, above all, Paul himself.

d. Or (less probably) 'all scripture that is inspired by God can...' (Vulg.). This important affirmation about the inspiration of the O.T., cf. 2 P 1:21, probably

includes some Christian writings also, 1 Tm 5:18.

4 a. Libations of wine, water or oil were poured over the victims not only in pagan sacrifices but also in Jewish ones, cf. Ex 29:40; Nb 28:7.

b. Var. 'Gaul'. At that time the name 'Galatia' was still given both to the Roman province in Asia, and to the country of the Gauls.

c. Luke the evangelist, cf. Col 4:14.

d. Mark the evangelist, Ac 12:12+, His old quarrel with Paul, Ac 15:37-39, seems to have been forgotten.

e. At some recent hearing of his case.

f. Or 'and keep me safe for'.

g. Add. (Vulg.) 'Jesus Christ', and (at end) 'Amen'.

# TITUS

## THE LETTER FROM PAUL TO TITUS

### Address

Rm 1:1+  
 1 Tm 2:4+  
 Nb 23:19  
 Heb 6:18+  
 2 Tm 2:13  
 Ac 1:7+  
 Rm 3:26  
 1 Tm 1:1+  
 2 Co 2:13+

**1** From Paul, servant of God, an apostle of Jesus Christ to bring those whom  
 1 God has chosen to faith and to the knowledge of the truth that leads to true  
 2 religion; •and to give them the hope of the eternal life that was promised so long  
 3 ago by God. He does not lie •and so, at the appointed time, he revealed his  
 4 decision, and, by the command of God our saviour, I have been commissioned to  
 5 proclaim it. •To Titus, true child of mine in the faith that we share, wishing you  
 6 grace and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our saviour.

### 1 Tm 3:1-7 The appointment of elders

Ac 11:30+  
 Rm 12:8  
 Ep 4:12+  
 1 Th 5:12  
 1 Tm 5:17+  
 Heb 13:7+  
 Jm 5:14+

1 Tm 3:15  
 Heb 3:2f

2 Tm 2:24  
 1 P 5:2

1 Tm 1:10+

The reason I left you behind in Crete was for you to get everything organised  
 there<sup>a</sup> and appoint elders<sup>b</sup> in every town, in the way that I told you: •that is, each  
 of them must be a man of irreproachable character; he must not have been married  
 more than once, and his children must be believers and not uncontrollable or  
 liable to be charged with disorderly conduct. •Since, as president, he will be God's  
 representative, he must be irreproachable: never an arrogant or hot-tempered  
 man, nor a heavy drinker or violent, nor out to make money; •but a man who  
 is hospitable and a friend of all that is good; sensible, moral, devout and  
 self-controlled; •and he must have a firm grasp of the unchanging message of the  
 tradition, so that he can be counted on for both expounding the sound doctrine  
 and refuting those who argue against it.

### Opposing the false teachers

1 Tm 4:1  
 2 Tm 3:13

2 Tm 3:6  
 1 Tm 6:10

1 Tm 1:4+  
 10

Mt 15:11.  
 18-20p:23;  
 25-26  
 Rm 14:14-20

And in fact you have there a great many people who need to be disciplined,  
 who talk nonsense and try to make others believe it, particularly among those  
 of the Circumcision. •They have got to be silenced: men of this kind ruin whole  
 families, by teaching things that they ought not to, and doing it with the vile motive  
 of making money. •It was one of themselves, one of their own prophets, who  
 said,<sup>c</sup> 'Cretans were never anything but liars, dangerous animals and lazy': •and  
 that is a true statement. So you will have to be severe in correcting them, and  
 make them sound in the faith •so that they stop taking notice of Jewish myths  
 and doing what they are told to do by people who are no longer interested in the  
 truth.  
 To all who are pure themselves, everything is pure; but to those who have been  
 corrupted and lack faith, nothing can be pure—the corruption is both in their  
 minds and in their consciences. •They claim to have knowledge of God but the  
 things they do are nothing but a denial of him; they are outrageously rebellious  
 and quite incapable of doing good.

### Some specific moral instruction

1 Tm 6:20+  
 1 Tm 5:1-2;  
 6:11

**2** It is for you, then, to preach the behaviour which goes with healthy doctrine.  
 The older men should be reserved, dignified, moderate, sound in faith and