

# The Last Words of An Old Soldier

## Chapter 17

### Audio Lesson: New Testament #71



Objective: To introduce 2 Timothy, Paul's final instructions to Timothy and to us.



*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.*

– 2 Timothy 1:7-9

*And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.*

– 2 Timothy 1:11-12

*Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

– 2 Timothy 2:22

The epistle of 2 Timothy was Paul's last written word. Church history tells us that after Paul's first imprisonment in Rome, he went to Spain and then came back to Ephesus. When he was in Troas, Roman Emperor Nero burned the city of Rome and blamed it on the followers of Christ. This began a period of intense cruelty and persecution against Christians in the Roman Empire. Paul was among those who were imprisoned, and he knew he would not survive this imprisonment.

Paul exhorted Timothy to be ready to suffer for and to stand up for the Lord. He reminded Timothy of the Gospel to which they were called. He used three illustrations to underscore how important steadfastness, faithfulness, and hard work are in staying true to Christ. He encouraged Timothy to exert and to discipline himself as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, and who can correctly handle the truth. As in his other letters, Paul called Timothy his son, and then gave him three powerful examples: a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer.

1. True or False? Paul thought he would be released from prison again.
2. True or False? Paul died while under house arrest in Rome.
3. True or False? Paul wrote that, as long as he was in chains, the Gospel was in chains too.



4. True or False? Paul admitted that he was ashamed of Christ.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

5. Everyone deserted Paul except for these people: (Choose all that apply)

- a. Luke
- b. Philip
- c. Onesiphorus
- d. Lydia

6. How is this prison epistle different from the others? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Timothy wrote it in Paul's honor.
- b. Paul did not ask Timothy or the church to pray for his release.
- c. Paul complains about his situation and how God has abandoned him.
- d. Paul gave Timothy his last instructions.

7. In chapter 2, what were the illustrations that Paul told Timothy to imitate? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Tentmaker
- b. Soldier
- c. Athlete
- d. Farmer

8. What did Paul mean when he said, "serving as a good soldier"?

- a. We should be ready to fight for our commander, Jesus Christ.
- b. We should not become entangled with civilian life but stay focused on serving our commander.
- c. We should attack our enemies.
- d. We should wear uniforms.

9. What was Paul teaching Timothy when he said to reflect on the farmer? (Choose all the apply)
- a. Be willing to work hard.
  - b. Be faithful to plant the seed.
  - c. Be careful to enjoy the good life in the country.
  - d. Be interested in only the harvest.
10. What does Paul exhort Timothy to do? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Know that God gave us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline.
  - b. Do not be ashamed of Christ Jesus or of Paul.
  - c. Hide out with the brothers until this persecution passes.
  - d. Join Paul in suffering for the Gospel by the power of God.
11. In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul writes, *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* What does it mean to correctly handle the Word of truth?
- a. Do our best to know and live according to the truth of the Bible.
  - b. Do our best to carry the Bible everywhere we go.
  - c. Do our best to get a good education at a Bible School.
  - d. Do our best to point out whenever someone is wrong.



If you had been in Paul’s place, do you think you would have been ashamed of the Gospel? What illustration challenges your life the most? What can you do this week to be a better “soldier,” more disciplined “athlete,” and a harder working “farmer” in serving the Lord?

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Praise God that Paul was able to stay strong in his faith until the end. Praise Him for Paul’s example of courage, strength, and faith. Thank God for His final instructions to Timothy, which are important for us today. Ask God for help when you are called upon to stand strong in the faith. Ask Him to give you a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). Ask Him to help you to work hard to present yourself as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)



## Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply the reality that something apparently happened to Timothy when Paul laid his hands on him, and he is to stir up that gift, or happening, as described (in 2 Timothy 1: 6, 7), knowing that God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, of love, and of a sound mind? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How do you personally apply the three examples Paul gives Timothy (in chapter 2: 3-7) of the soldier, the athlete and the farmer? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How are you personally applying the great instruction of Paul to Timothy (in 2 Timothy 2:2), which is one of the greatest teachings this world has ever heard about how to make disciples for Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How do you personally apply the teaching of Paul in chapter 2 that, even when we are so weak that we deny the Lord (perhaps under torture), He will not deny us because He cannot deny Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. In applying Paul's instruction about pastoral counseling (in 2 Timothy 2: 23-26), what are the three fruit of the Spirit you must experience? What is the problem of the people you are counseling? What is your objective? When are they delivered from their problem? What is the one thing you must never do? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How do you personally apply the charge of Paul to Timothy to "Preach the Word," in the first two verses of chapter 4? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How do you personally apply the last words of Paul in Timothy 4:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 to your life goals and priorities? \_\_\_\_\_

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