

*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



II Timothy

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INTRODUCTION:

1. Starting out in Ephesians 6:10-13



EPHESIANS 6:10-13

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"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

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Paul's message: "Don't be Naïve!"

A. Our diabolical enemy

B. Our personal weakness

C. Our coming crisis: "the day of evil"

2. This, in essence, is what Paul wrote to Timothy in the N.T. epistle of 2nd Timothy.

3. The baton was being passed to a reluctant young man.



This, then, was Timothy—young in years, frail in physique, retiring in disposition—who nevertheless was called to exacting responsibilities in the church of God. Greatness was being thrust upon him, and like Moses and Jeremiah and a host of others before and after him, Timothy was exceedingly reluctant to accept it. He was disposed to lean rather than to lead. Is someone who is reading these pages in a similar situation? You are young and weak and shy, and yet God is calling you to leadership? This letter has a special message for all timid Timothy's.

JOHN R. W. STOTT

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4. What were the "appalling difficulties" Timothy would face?



PERSECUTION

1. Paul's situation

- A prisoner in Rome's Mamertine Prison
- He was "chained like a criminal" (2:9; 1:16)
- Many had deserted him (1:8-9a; 4:16-18)

2. IDOP Video

3. Update from Myanmar

APOSTASY

Earlier, Paul had warned the Ephesian elders (Acts 20)



ACTS 20:29-32

ACTS

"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

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1. Two definite prophetic utterances:

A. The First: 3:1-9

B. The Second: 4:3-4



Five duties regarding “the word”:

1. Suffer for it bravely (1:8-9a)

2. Handle it accurately (2:15)

Literally: “cut it straight”.

“The workman handles the word with such scrupulous care that he both stays on the path himself, keeping to the highway and avoiding the byways, and makes it easy for others to follow.”

3. Guard it carefully (1:13-14)

4. Entrust it to faithful men (2:2)

5. Preach (communicate) it unceasingly (4:1-2)

Here's God's Promise:

What God is asking you & me to do, He'll enable us to do!



