

2 Timothy

Bible Studies

Scott Rushby



2 Timothy 1 - 2:17

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

If you were on your deathbed, what words of advice would you share?

What is the best advice you would give to a younger person?

What do we know about 2 Timothy?

- Paul is like the biggest evangelist in the NT, he planted most of the NT churches and wrote most of the NT. And out of all the churches and people in the world at the time, Timothy is the recipient of Paul's last letter (2 Timothy)
- Paul's last words of advice on his deathbed to continue the growth of the church and the discipleship of Jesus.

1: 1-10

- Who is Paul? V1
- Who is Timothy? V2-8
- Why does his upbringing matter?
- How much does Paul know/love/trust Timothy?
- What do V9-10 teach us about the gospel?
- What is the gospel?

1: 11-18

- V11-14, What does Paul do with this gospel?
- What should Timothy do with it?
- V15-18, what has happened to Paul?
- How do you think he would be feeling?

2: 1-14

- What does Paul want Timothy to do now? FOCUS
- What images does he use to explain this?
- Is it going to be easy?
- What do 11-13 teach us?

Chapter 1 is guard the gospel; Chapter 2 is suffer for the gospel - John Stott

2 Timothy 2:14-19

What is feeling ashamed?

What might we do if we feel ashamed?

What should we look for in a church leader?

What do we know about 2 Timothy so far?

2:14-15

- How important are Timothy's words?
- What should the Church avoid?
- Do we need to hear that?
- What's Paul saying in V15?
- What is Timothy's key role to be?
- Do we judge our Christian leaders?
 - Avoid quarrelling!
 - Judge on the teaching of the Word only!

2:16-18

- What does godless chatter mean?
- When can we be guilty?
- What happens to people like that?
- Why does godliness matter?
- What are these false teachers doing and saying?
- How much does teaching stuff right matter?
- What happens to people who sit under false teaching?
 - Be careful with godless chatter; it's poison and will lead us away from Christ!
 - Always check what you are being taught!

2:19

- Who gets to say who are real believers and who are not?
- What must we do?
- How is that challenging?

We can't judge!

Link between godless chatter and judge!

God alone is the judge!

2 Timothy 2:20-26

How do you deal with conflict?

How do you think the Church deals with conflict?

What advice would you give about conflict?

What do we know about 2 Timothy so far?

Chapter 1 – Paul reminds us of the gospel and how everything must be central to it.

Chapter 2 – Paul reminds us AGAIN not to settle for a false gospel and how to deal with false teachers and church conflict.

- It is all about avoiding quarrelling in the church (V.14 & V.23)
- First, present ourselves as righteous and pure before God (V.15 & V.22) – Inside matters
- Then, learn to deal with opposition correctly (V.17 & V.20) – Outside matters
- Verse 19 is the pinnacle, the turning point. Everything that Paul has said in 14-19, he will now reinforce in verses 20-26.

2:20-22

- What do you think Paul is going on about in V.20? (What's the connection in V.17?)

- What is the goal in V.21? And how do we get there?

- Subsequently what does Paul urge in V.22?

- Are these challenging words?

- How do Jesus' words in Matthew 7:5 illustrate this point to first cleanse our own hearts?

- We need to be the best we can for God and always be prepared to serve Him.
- We need to be humble and accept that we are not perfect before God or man.
- And we need to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace and make sure we first purify our own hearts before we approach other people's.

2:23-26

- What are we to avoid? Why? (V.23)

- What does Paul state that a servant of the Lord must be? (V.24)

- How are we to deal with our opponents? (V.25)

- What does this approach lead to? (V.25)

- Do we find this hard?

- What does V.26 reveal?

- Avoid pointless arguments and discuss things that actually matter. Be kind and gentle to people who rebuke us.
- And we are to hope and pray that God will change hearts and grant repentance.
- Don't get distracted in this spiritual battle from the commission that Jesus gave us to make disciples of all nations!

How have you been challenged?

How do you need to change?

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Imagine you meet someone with amnesia who needs advice about how to live in the world, how would you tell them to act?

What would you tell them not to do?

Is living life as a Christian meant to be easy? Does the Bible say it will be easy?

How do we describe what the Bible is?

Is it all true?

Why do we need it?

Why are we so bothered about Bible centred?

What do we know about 2 Timothy so far?

2 Ways to live: 1-9 & 10-15

3:1-9

- What has Paul just been saying at the end of Chapter 2 (26)?
- What does he mean last days? When is that?
- What will people be like? Are people like that now?
- What threat do these people pose to the Church v6?
- What do these people do? v8
- What does Jesus say will set us free? Truth.
- Why is v9 comforting?
 - Do people today oppose the truth of the Bible?
 - What sort of things do they do that with?
 - How much of the Bible should we try and follow?

3:10-15

- What is Paul like? What's he been through?
- What has kept him going in really hard times?
- What does v12 say? What do you think about that?
- So what should Timothy do v14?
- What should he stay true to v15?
- What can scripture do for us v15?

3:16-17

- Where does scripture come from?
- How much of it?
- What is it useful for?
- What do all those words actually mean?
- v17 what will happen to the person who knows and reads their Bible?
 - How often do we read our Bibles?
 - How do these verses challenge you?
 - How can we change?

2 Tim 4:1-5

What do you think the most important thing in life is?

What do you think a church leader should do when faced with opposition?

Do you think people WANT to hear the gospel?

What do we know about 2 Timothy so far?

Paul is going to show us 3 things

- In 4:1-2, Paul shows us why preaching is of utmost importance.

- In 4:3-4, Paul shows us why hearing the word is of utmost importance.

- In 4:5, in light of inevitable opposition, Paul shows us why a faithful pastor must persevere in preaching the Word.

4:1-2

Paul wants to address these 4 questions:

- Why preach? (Because Jesus is coming to judge everyone and to establish His kingdom - 4:1).

- What to preach? (Preach the Word and only the Word! - 4:2).

- When to preach? (Be ready to preach at every opportunity and season - 4:2).

- How to preach? (Preach with application to life. Correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction - 4:2).

- Paul is saying that preaching the Word is of utmost importance in light of the coming judgment and kingdom of Jesus Christ. But even great preaching that falls on closed ears and hardened hearts is not effective. Therefore:

4:3-4

- What is Paul warning Timothy of (3)? - Listeners will eventually find teachers who tell them what they *want* to hear, not what they *need* to hear.

- What will they turn from and to? - Turn from truth and to myth - The human's sinful heart naturally wants to turn away from God's eternal truth and embrace what feels good in the moment.

- What does Jesus warn His audience (Luke 8:18)?

- But what if people don't listen? What does a preacher do then? Paul's reply:

4:5 - Paul raises 4 things

- What is Paul saying overall? (5) - Persevere in the Word even in view of opposition.

- What does Paul mean by 'keep your head in all situations'? - Focus on the one truth when others get intoxicated with false doctrines.

- What is the assumption when Paul says 'endure hardship'? - If you preach truth, you're going to receive opposition.

- What does Paul mean by 'do the work of an evangelist'? - Don't get distracted, but keep preaching the gospel and seek the lost.

- What does Paul mean by 'fulfil your ministry'? - Don't bail out on ministry and go into an easier line of work just because you face opposition, but follow me in fighting the good fight (4:7).

- Preaching is of utmost importance.
- Hearing the word is of utmost importance.
- Even in light of inevitable opposition, a faithful pastor must persevere in preaching the Word.
- We've got to be true to scripture, when preaching, hearing and living it out!
- Which of preaching, hearing and living do we need to be more true to?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

What do you want to do before you die?

What do you look forward to?

What do you think it means to finish well?

What do we know about 2 Timothy so far?

Verse 6 - talk's about the present (I am)

Verse 7 - talk's about the past (I have)

Verse 8 - talk's about the future (There is in store for me)

4:6

- What does Paul mean by being poured out like a drink offering? (Num 28:7)
- What is assumed by the word departure? (Arrival destination)
- Do we think of our lives as a sacrifice offering to God?
- Do we view our departure to be with Jesus as an upgrade? (Phil 1:21)

4:7

- What is meant by the good fight? (The gospel of Christ, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls)
- What does Paul liken the Christian life to? (Long enduring race)
- What does it look like to 'keep the faith'? (Endure hard times / focus on the one true gospel)
- Are we challenged by Paul's confidence?

4:8

- What is Paul looking forward to? (Crown of Righteousness) What is that?
- Why do you think Paul talks of the 'righteous Judge'?
- Who should also look forward to *that* day?
- Are we living our lives in view of the day we will meet Jesus?
- What might it look like to live that way?

- Paul viewed his present life as a sacrificial offering to God and his death as an upgraded departure to be with Christ.
- Paul was confident that he had fought for Jesus, finished the Christian life well, and kept the faith of Christ firmly in his heart.
- Paul looked to the future when he would meet the Lord Jesus, and receive his eternal glory that far outweighs anything on earth - live in view of *that* day!

How are we challenged?

How do we need to change?

2 Timothy 4:9-22

How do you feel about dying?

If you could see anyone before you die who would it be?

Do you love the world?

What do we know about 2 Timothy so far?

4:9-13

- Why did Paul say Demas had forsaken him? (10)
- Who did Paul say was with him at the time of this writing? (11)
- Who did Paul want Timothy to bring with him? (11)
- What did Paul want Timothy to bring to him? (13)

- Are we in danger of loving the world too much?

4:14-18

- Who did Paul much harm? (14)
- What does Paul say will happen? (14)
- What does Paul encourage Timothy to do? (15)
- Who stood with Paul, strengthened him and delivered him? (16-18)
- For what great purpose? (17)

- Are there people in our lives that are harming us, even if we don't realise?

- Are we willing to suffer so that to gospel might prevail?

- We must be on guard against opposition.

4:19-22

- To whom did Paul sent greetings? (19)
- Who did Paul leave sick at Miletus? (20)
- When did Paul want Timothy to come? (21) Why then? (12)
- Paul's final ever recorded written words? (22)

How have we been challenged through 2 Timothy?

How do we need to change?