

Contents

1. The Life of the Appointed Preacher	Pages 3-6
2. The Purpose of the Pastor	Pages 7-10
3. A Vessel Unto Honor	Pages 11-12
4. How to Make It in the Last Days	Pages 13-15
5. Paul's Last Words	Pages 16-18

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing by the author. All materials printed by the Bluestone Baptist Printing Ministry are free of charge. Absolutely, no materials are to be sold!

BLUESTONE INDEPENDENT BBAPTIST CHURCH
BLUESTONE BAPTIST PRINTING MINISTRY

PASTOR – DR. RYAN MCGUIRE
PO BOX 987 CLARKSVILLE, VA 23927
CHURCH PHONE: 434 374 8232

“The Life of the Appointed Preacher”
II Timothy 1:1-18

Introduction: Paul, after having been released from his first imprisonment in Rome, is suddenly apprehended again at Troas, for a second imprisonment. This happened so suddenly that he left his cloke, books, and parchments (II Timothy 4:13) with Carpus. Paul, realizing that he was a condemned prisoner awaiting certain death, pulls out his pen for one final epistle written to someone dear to his heart, Timothy. While Paul huddles near a dim light in the cold, dark, and damp dungeon, the Spirit begins to move on him one final time to give his last instructions to someone special. Let us examine this last epistle of Paul realizing that the last words of a man reveal a great deal about the summation of his life.

1. The Amazing Facts
 - a. Paul wrote II Timothy from a prison in Rome around A.D. 67. (Boyd)
 - b. “This letter is also personal; there are references to at least 25 individuals.” (Boyd)
 - c. “The second letter contains 4 chapters, 83 verses, and 1,703 words.” (Boyd)
2. The Apostles Friend
 - a. “Paul’s great concern was not for himself; it was for Timothy and the success of the Gospel ministry. As in his First Letter to Timothy, Paul encouraged his beloved colleague to be faithful.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “Paul sent Tychicus to replace Timothy at Ephesus so that Timothy might join Paul at Rome (2 Tim. 4:9, 12). God would soon move Paul off the scene, and Timothy would take his place and continue to give spiritual leadership to the churches. It would not be an easy task, but Timothy could succeed with the Lord’s help.” (Wiersbe)

Body: Robert Boyd wrote, “First Timothy gives specific attention to the duties and responsibilities of a pastor, while II Timothy is concerned with the preacher.” If this be true, then we see the heart of Paul yearning for a young preacher to pick up the baton that he was about to drop. He desired Timothy to be careful about his own ministry in the last days, being faithful to his calling. The things that Timothy learned and seen in Paul he was now to commit them to faithful men as well. In II Timothy, the continuation of the gospel is Paul’s main desire. Therefore, notice:

- I. The Preacher and His Pupil vs. 1-5- *“To Timothy, my dearly beloved son...”*
 - A. Their Love vs. 1-2- *“...my dearly beloved son...”*
 1. The Promise that Developed their Love v. 1- *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus”*
 2. The Provisions that Developed their Love v. 2- *“To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (The love is stronger now than in I Timothy 1:2.)
 - a. Notice the trilogy reserved for pastors:
 - (1) “Grace, flowing from the wisdom of God, reminds us that God has devised a means to deal with all of our sins.” (Phillips)

- (2) “Mercy, which flows from the love of God, reminds us that God can still all of our fears.” (Phillips)
 - (3) “Peace flows from the power of God. The word reminds us that God can put down all of our foes.” (Phillips)
 - b. “It is worth noting that Paul added “mercy” to his greetings when he wrote to the pastors—1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4.” (Wiersbe)
 - c. “Paul knew that pastors need mercy!” (Wiersbe)
 - d. Timothy would also need mercy for his imprisonments as well. Hebrews 13:23
 - B. Their Loyalty vs. 3-5- “...*the unfeigned faith...*”
 - 1. Loyalty in Prayers v. 3- “*I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day*” I Thessalonians 3:10, 5:17
 - 2. Loyalty in Pondering v. 4- “*Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy*”
 - 3. Loyalty in Parents v. 5- “*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*” 3:15 (Keep in mind Acts 16:1)
- II. The Preacher and His Power vs. 6-8- “...*according to the power of God...*”
 - A. The Power of Fire v. 6- “*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*” Acts 6:6, 13:3
 - 1. “We must not conclude that Timothy was backslidden or lacked spiritual fire. Rather, Paul was encouraging his associate to keep the fire burning brightly so that it might generate spiritual power in his life.” (Wiersbe)
 - 2. “Timothy did not need any new spiritual ingredients in his life; all he had to do was ‘stir up’ what he already had.” (Wiersbe) I Timothy 4:14
 - B. The Power Over Fears vs. 7-8- “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*” I John 4:18 (The perfected love for our enemies will cast out our fears. Matthew 5:44)
 - 1. The Fear of being Ashamed v. 8- “*Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner...*” 1:12, 1:16, Romans 1:16
 - 2. The Fear of being Afflicted v. 8- “...*but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God*”
- III. The Preacher and His Protection vs. 9-14- “...*I know whom I have believed...*”
 - A. The Protection of Salvation vs. 9-11- “*Who hath saved us...*”
 - 1. The Call to Salvation v. 9- “*Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began*”
 - 2. The Conquering of Salvation v. 10- “*But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*” Colossians 2:15, I Corinthians 15:55, Hebrews 2:14-15

3. The Commitments after Salvation v. 11- *“Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”* I Timothy 2:7, Ephesians 4:1
- B. The Protections of Serving vs. 12-14- *“...Hold fast...keep”*
1. The Protection of Our Past v. 12- *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*
 2. The Protection of the Precepts v. 13- *“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”* I Timothy 6:20, II Timothy 2:2
 - a. “The word ‘form’ (2 Tim. 1:13) means ‘a pattern, an architect’s sketch’.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “There was a definite outline of doctrine in the early church, a standard by which teaching was tested. If Timothy changed this outline or abandoned it, then he would have nothing by which to test other teachers and preachers.” (Wiersbe)
 3. The Protection of the Preaching v. 14- *“That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.”* (There were some in Paul’s ministry that did not “keep” that good thing. Galatians 1:6, 3:1)
- IV. The Preacher and His People vs. 15-18- *“...all they which are in Asia be turned away from me...Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me...”*
- A. The Deserters v. 15- *“This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.”*
1. Paul had almost won all of Asia, but now they were turning their backs on him. Acts 19:9-10, 17-20
 2. The Asian believers deserted Paul in the first stage of his trial. II Timothy 4:16
 3. Notice all the people forsaking Paul:
 - a. Phygellus and Hermogenes II Timothy 1:15
 - b. Hymenaeus and Philetus II Timothy 2:17-18
 - c. Demas, Crescens, and Titus II Timothy 4:10
 - d. Alexander the Coppersmith II Timothy 4:14-15
 - e. All Men II Timothy 1:15, 4:16
- B. The Devoted vs. 16-18- *“...Onesiphorus...”*
1. Onesiphorus
 - a. Onesiphorus Satisfied v. 16- *“The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain”*
 - (1) “The word translated ‘refreshed’ means literally ‘to make cool again’.” (Phillips)
 - (2) “Probably Onesiphorus brought the apostle some refreshing fruit and drink.” (Phillips)

- b. Onesiphorus Searched v. 17- *“But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.”*
 - (1) He searched to serve.
 - (2) “In his first imprisonment, Paul was in his own house (Acts 28:30); but now he was in a Roman prison under careful guard.” (Wiersbe)
 - (3) “Evidently, the authorities were hushing up the arrest, trial, and imprisonment of this notable prisoner; possibly they feared that Paul or his followers might instigate a riot.” (Phillips)
 - (4) This was a dangerous thing to do. Acts 10:28
 - (5) “It was a risky business to travel all over Rome—to the market, to the forum, to the barracks, to the wealthy residential areas, to the courthouse, to the squalid slave quarters—asking for information regarding the whereabouts of Paul.” (Phillips)
 - (6) Onesiphorus may have been killed according to the language of Paul. II Timothy 1:16, 18, 4:19
- c. Onesiphorus Served v. 18- *“The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”*
- 2. Others
 - a. Luke II Timothy 4:11
 - b. Mark II Timothy 4:11
 - c. Tychicus II Timothy 4:12
- 3. Omnipotent II Timothy 4:17-18

Conclusion: Even though Nero tried to eradicate the ministry of Paul, his fruit remains. C.H. Spurgeon commented in one of his books that to live beyond your years you must train preachers and write books. Paul accomplished this in his life. Even now, 2,000 years later, we are still reading the writing of the aged man of God to his “preacher boy”, Timothy. Certainly, Timothy heeded to the apostle Paul, and the church continues to this day.

“The Purpose of the Pastor”
II Timothy 2:1-26

Introduction: According to Philippians 1:1, there are three positions in the local church. These are the “*saints*” (The Saints), “*bishops*” (The Shepherds), and “*deacons*” (The Servants). Each of these roles plays an important part in the function of the body of Christ. However, the pastor is the most important figure in the assembly of believers. He has an awesome responsibility laid on his shoulders to develop the congregation into a spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:12). Also:

1. He is to Guide the Flock I Corinthians 11:1, I Thessalonians 1:6, II Thessalonians 3:7
2. He is to Give to the Flock I Peter 5:1-4
3. He is to Guard the Flock John 10:10-15
4. He is to Govern the Flock Acts 20:28, Hebrews 13:7, 17

Body: This is the emphasis of the second chapter of II Timothy. Paul is revealing to Timothy his responsibilities as pastor of the church at Ephesus. In addition, he explains to him what he is to undergo as their leader in the faith. In the context of chapter two, we find the pastor as:

- I. A Steward vs. 1-2- “...*the things that thou hast heard of me...commit thou...*”
 - A. The Strength of the Steward v. 1- “*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*” Acts 9:22, I Corinthians 15:10
 - B. The Schooling of the Steward v. 2- “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*”
 1. “The ministry is not something we get for ourselves and keep to ourselves.” (Wiersbe)
 2. “It is our responsibility to guard the deposit and then invest it in the lives of others.” (Wiersbe)
 3. “Just as Paul had poured himself into Timothy, Timothy was to pour himself into others.” (Phillips)
- II. A Soldier vs. 3-4- “...*endure hardness, as a good soldier...*”
 - A. The Afflictions of the Soldier v. 3- “*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*”
 - B. The Abstinence of the Soldier v. 4- “*No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*” Genesis 5:22, Hebrews 11:5
- III. A Success v. 5- “...*yet is he not crowned...*”
 - A. His Contest- “*And if a man also strive for masteries...*”
 - B. His Crown- “...*yet is he not crowned...*”
 - C. His Conditions- “...*except he strive lawfully.*”
 1. “Paul had already urged Timothy to exercise like an athlete.” (Wiersbe)
 2. “Now Paul admonished him to obey the rules.” (Wiersbe)

- IV. A Sower vs. 6-7- *“The husbandman that laboureth...”*
- A. The Sower’s Constant Work v. 6- *“The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.”* I Corinthians 3:5-9
1. “A farmer deserves his share of the harvest.” (Wiersbe)
 2. “Paul is stating here that a faithful pastor ought to be supported by his church.” (Wiersbe) I Corinthians 9:7, 11, I Timothy 5:18
- B. The Sower’s Consideration of Words v. 7- *“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”*
1. “The Word is a treasure that the steward must guard and invest.” (Wiersbe)
 2. “It is the soldier’s sword and the farmer’s seed. But it is also the workman’s tool for building, measuring, and repairing God’s people.” (Wiersbe)
- V. A Sufferer vs. 8-13- *“...I suffer trouble...I endure all things...”*
- A. The Reasons for Suffering vs. 8-10- *“...I endure all things for the elect's sakes...”*
1. Because of His Confession vs. 8-9- *“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.”* Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 55:11
 2. Because of His Converts v. 10- *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”*
- B. The Rejoicings in Suffering vs. 11-13- *“...yet he abideth faithful...”*
1. He is Faithful because of Our Life v. 11- *“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him”*
 - a. There are five faithful sayings in the pastoral epistles. (Phillips)
 - b. I Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:9, II Timothy 2:11-13, Titus 3:8
 2. He is Faithful because of Our Liberty v. 12- *“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us”*
 3. He is Faithful because of His Loyalty v. 13- *“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”*
 - a. “What a pair of paradoxes! Death leads to life! Suffering leads to reigning in glory! We have nothing to fear!” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “Paul makes it clear that even our own doubt and unbelief cannot change Him: ‘he abideth faithful’.” (Wiersbe)
- VI. A Student vs. 14-18- *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God...”*
- A. The Student’s Students v. 14- *“Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.”* II Corinthians 4:2
- B. The Student’s Studies v. 15- *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*
1. “We cannot be approved unless we are tested.” (Wiersbe)
 2. “Rightly dividing means ‘cutting straight’.” (Wiersbe)
 3. “It can be applied to many different tasks: plowing a straight furrow, cutting a straight board, sewing a straight seam.” (Wiersbe)

4. "The phrase rightly dividing the word of truth calls for a proper division of the Scriptures." (Phillips) Acts 17:10-11
- C. The Student's Struggles vs. 16-18- "...*profane and vain babblings...*"
1. With Ungodly Discussions v. 16- "*But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*" I Timothy 6:20
 2. With Ungodly Diseases v. 17- "*And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus*" I Timothy 1:20
 - a. "Much as gangrene spreads, infects, and kills other tissue, so false doctrine spreads and infects the body of believers, the church." (Wiersbe)
 - b. "A 'canker' is a spreading sore that produces mortification that, if not dealt with drastically by amputation, will end in death." (Phillips)
 - c. "This infection must be exposed and removed." (Wiersbe)
 3. With Ungodly Deviations v. 18- "*Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*"
 - a. "Perhaps they taught that salvation is resurrection in a spiritual sense, so a believer must not expect a physical resurrection." (Wiersbe)
 - b. "But the denial of a physical resurrection is a serious thing, for it involves the resurrection of Christ and the completion of God's plan of salvation for His people." (Wiersbe)

VII. A Servant vs. 19-26- "*And the servant of the Lord...*"

- A. The Servant's Purity v. 19- "*Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*" Numbers 16:5, 26
- B. The Servant's Price v. 20- "*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.*"
- C. The Servant's Purging v. 21- "*If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*" I Corinthians 5:7
- D. The Servant's Path v. 22- "*Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*"
 1. We are to Flee I Timothy 6:11- "*But thou, O man of God, flee these things...*"
 2. We are to Follow I Timothy 6:11- "...*and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*"
 3. We are to Fight I Timothy 6:12- "*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*"
- E. The Servant's Peace vs. 23-26- "...*the servant of the Lord must not strive...*"
 1. They Resist Controversy vs. 23-25- "...*the servant of the Lord must not strive...*"
 - a. By Elusion v. 23- "*But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.*" Titus 3:9

- b. By Empathy v. 24- *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient” I Timothy 3:2*
 - (1) “Servant is the Greek word ‘doulos’ which means ‘slave.’ So Paul called himself ‘a slave of Jesus Christ’. A slave had no will of his own; he was totally under the command of his master.” (Wiersbe)
 - (2) “Once, we Christians were the slaves of sin, but now we are the slaves of God.” (Wiersbe) Exodus 21:5
 - (3) “A servant’s purpose is not to win arguments but to win souls.” (Wiersbe)
 - (4) “Apt to teach implies apt to learn” (Wiersbe)
 - (5) “So a steward must also be a diligent student of the Word of God.” (Wiersbe)
 - c. By Education v. 25- *“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth”*
2. They Recover Captives v. 26- *“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”*
- a. “The word recover describes a man coming out of a drunken stupor.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “Satan makes people drunk with his lies, and the servant’s task is to sober them up and rescue them.” (Wiersbe)
 - c. John Mark is an example of such a person. Acts 13:13, 15:38, II Timothy 4:11

Conclusion: Although many view the ministry as an easy road to travel, Paul reveals the many hardships that it can bring. The work of the Lord through His local church is an intense labor that requires the man of God’s full attention. There will be many battles, heartbreaks, and casualties, but through prayer (I Thessalonians 5:25, II Thessalonians 3:1, Hebrews 13:18) and the grace of God (II Corinthians 12:9) the pastor can endure and be a vessel unto honor.

“A Vessel Unto Honor”
II Timothy 2:19-21

Introduction: Paul, in relating to Timothy the responsibilities of the man of God, reveals the variety of people that ministers must deal with. Their bodies are typified as vessels. Some are valuable and others are not. However, they all have a part in the working of God through His church. This has always been the case as we see throughout the Scriptures in the:

1. Descriptions of Vessels

- a. Vessels of Ministering Acts 9:15- *“But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel”*
- b. Vessels of Meaning II Corinthians 4:7- *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*
- c. Vessels of Management I Thessalonians 4:4- *“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour”*
- d. Vessels of Marriage I Peter 3:7- *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*

2. Dealings with Vessels

- a. Vessels of Wrath Romans 9:22- *“What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction”*
- b. Vessels of Wealth Romans 9:23- *“And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory”*
- c. Vessels of Worthlessness Jeremiah 22:28- *“Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?”*
Hosea 8:8- *“Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure.”*
- d. Vessels of Working Jeremiah 18:4- *“And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.”*
Romans 9:21- *“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”*

Body: Although Timothy was fighting many battles as he pastored the church at Ephesus, Paul reminds him that there are some people in the church that are valuable vessels that, one day, will be put on display. It is Timothy’s obligation to develop this select few in the assembly and make them fit for the master’s use. In addition, the dishonorable ones must be dealt with by the way of purging. This would bring, in the end, honor to the one doing the purging. With this in mind, let us notice:

- I. The Foundation v. 19- *“...the foundation of God standeth sure...”*

- A. The Sureness of the Foundation- *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure...”* Ephesians 2:19-22
 - B. The Seal of the Foundation- *“...having this seal...”* Ephesians 1:13-14
 - C. The Safety because of the Foundation- *“...The Lord knoweth them that are his.”* I Peter 2:6
 - D. The Separation of the Foundation- *“...And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”* II Corinthians 6:14-17, Ephesians 5:11, I Thessalonians 5:22, I Peter 1:15-16, I John 2:15-17
- II. The Fortress vs. 20-21- *“...in a great house...”*
- A. The Different Vessels in the Fortress v. 20- *“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.”*
 - 1. The Desired Vessels- *“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver...and some to honour...”*
 - a. In every fortress, you will find vessels of use.
 - b. The different types of material reveal the development, dependability, and display of each vessel.
 - 2. The Dishonorable Vessels- *“...but also of wood and of earth... and some to dishonour.”* (In every church, there are the wheat/tares, John/Judas, and Paul/Demas.)
 - B. The Devoted Vessels in the Fortress v. 21- *“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”*
 - 1. The Purging of Dishonorable Vessels- *“If a man therefore purge himself from these...”* II Timothy 2:16-18, I Corinthians 5:7
 - 2. The Price of the Desirous Vessels- *“...he shall be a vessel unto honour...”*
 - 3. The Purification of the Desirous Vessels- *“...sanctified...”* I Corinthians 6:11
 - 4. The Practicality of the Desirous Vessels- *“...and meet for the master's use...”* II Timothy 4:11, Philemon 1:11
 - 5. The Preparation of the Desirous Vessels- *“...and prepared unto every good work.”*

Conclusion: In the great house known as the church, there are various people of honor and dishonor. The pastor must deal with the vessels of dishonor through purging. Then, the vessels of honor must be sanctified and made ready for the use of the Lord. This must be the mindset of the shepherd as he labors faithfully among the flock.

“How to Make It in the Last Days”
II Timothy 3:1-17

Introduction: Winds of false doctrine were intensifying while Paul was confined in prison for the second time in Rome. Judaism, Gnosticism, and Paganism were spreading like wild fire trying their best to creep into the church. False doctrines were arising amongst the church trying to choke the spiritual life out of the assembly. Was there any hope in salvaging the body of believers known as Christians? This is the emphasis of the third chapter of II Timothy. Paul is instructing Timothy on how to make it in the last days. Things will only get worse, and Timothy must strengthen himself with the Word of God and prayer. The last days will only increase into more ungodliness and it is important that the man of God stand right on the Lord’s Holy Scriptures. In other portions of the Bible, we see the last days as:

1. The Pouring of the Last Days Acts 2:17- *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams”*
2. The Precepts of the Last Days Hebrews 1:2- *“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”*
3. The Piling of the Last Days James 5:3- *“Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.”*
4. The Polluted of the Last Days II Peter 3:3- *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts”*

Body: It appears that evil and sin will intensify toward the coming of the Lord. Dangerous and exceedingly fierce times will be prevalent prior to the rapture of the church. The true depravity of humanity will be made manifest while Christianity will face the horrors of persecution. Nevertheless, servants and disciples of the Lord must be loyal to Him and His Word. Purity must prevail in their lives as they strive together for the advancement of the church. It is this warning that Paul is sending to Timothy, and the future Timothys that are to come. They must wake up and realize the horrible situations that they will face. Paul wanted them to know what the last days would bring. Therefore, they must:

- I. Realize the Seriousness of the Last Days v. 1- *“...perilous times shall come.”*
 - A. We Need To Prepare Our Mind v. 1- *“This know also...”*
 1. For the Character of the People II Peter 3:3-4
 2. For the Closing of the Period Hebrews 1:1-2
 - a. “The last days began with the ministry of Jesus Christ and will continue until He returns.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “Action must be based on knowledge. Too many Christians are like the pilot who informed his passengers, ‘We are lost, but we are making very good time’.” (Wiersbe)
 - B. We Need To Prepare Our Ministries v. 1- *“...that in the last days perilous times shall come.”*
 1. For Stability II Thessalonians 2:2

2. For Separation II Timothy 3:5

- II. Realize the Sins of the Last Days vs. 2-5- *“For men shall be...”*
- A. Sins of Self v. 2- *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy”*
 - B. Sins of Society vs. 3-4- *“Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”*
 - C. Sins of the Sanctuary v. 5- *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” Romans 2:20*
 - 1. “A faithful believer should have nothing to do with the people Paul described in this section.” (Wiersbe)
 - 2. “They are religious but rebellious!” (Wiersbe)
- III. Realize the Strategy of the Last Days vs. 6-9- *“...creep into...and lead captive...”*
- A. The Reprobate’s Recruits v. 6- *“For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts”*
 - B. The Reprobate’s Research v. 7- *“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
 - C. The Reprobate’s Resistance v. 8- *“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.”*
 - 1. “Read Exodus 7-9 for the record of the contest between Moses and the Egyptian magicians. Tradition says that the magicians were Jannes and Jambres, two men mentioned by Paul.” (Wiersbe)
 - 2. “These men opposed Moses by imitating what he did. When Aaron’s rod turned into a serpent, the magicians cast down their rods and they turned into serpents. Moses turned the water into blood, and the magicians followed with the same miracle. When Moses brought up all the frogs, the magicians duplicated the miracle. But when it came to the miracle of the lice, the magicians could not imitate it.” (Wiersbe)
 - 3. “Satan is an imitator; what God does, Satan counterfeits. The religious leaders in the last days will have a counterfeit faith, and their purpose is to promote a lie and resist the truth of God’s Word. They deny the authority of the Bible and substitute human wisdom and philosophy. In their attempt to be ‘modern,’ they deny the reality of sin and people’s need for salvation.” (Wiersbe)
 - D. The Reprobate’s Revelation v. 9- *“But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.”*
- IV. Realize the Servants of the Last Days vs. 10-13- *“...all that will live godly...”*
- A. Their Purity v. 10- *“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience”*
 - B. Their Persecutions vs. 11-12- *“Persecutions, afflictions...”*
 - 1. The Places of Persecutions v. 11- *“Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.”*

- a. Antioch Acts 13:14, 45, 50
 - b. Iconium Acts 14:1-5
 - c. Lystra Acts 14:6-19
 - 2. The Promise of Persecutions v. 12- *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”*
 - C. Their Protestors v. 13- *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”*
- V. Realize the Scriptures in the Last Days vs. 14-17- *“...the holy scriptures...”*
- A. The Continuation in the Scriptures v. 14- *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them”*
 - 1. “The only way to defeat Satan’s lies is with God’s truth.” (Wiersbe)
 - 2. “In these last days, there will be more deception and imitation; and the only way a believer will be able to tell the true from the false is by knowing the Word of God.” (Wiersbe)
 - B. The Conversion of the Scriptures v. 15- *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
 - C. The Counsel from the Scriptures v. 16- *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” II Peter 1:20-21*
 - 1. Doctrine—What is Right
 - 2. Reproof—What is Not Right
 - 3. Correction—How to get Right Titus 1:5
 - 4. Instruction—How to Stay Right Ephesians 6:4 (Wiersbe)
 - D. The Completion of the Scriptures v. 17- *“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” I Timothy 6:11*

Conclusion: It is interesting to note that the way Paul ended his exhortation to Timothy in continuing in the faith in the last days was by the Word of God. Certainly, the Scriptures are able to keep us from falling into apostasy and the wiles of the Devil. The only way that a Christian can battle error is through the truths of the Bible.

“Paul’s Last Words”
II Timothy 4:1-22

Introduction: The last words of a man are important words. As we come to the last epistle that Paul would write, and the last chapter, we see a final charge that is delivered to Timothy. It reveals the heart of the seasoned man of God as he is burdened that the work of God continues through the ministry of Timothy. His last words are delivered in a charge, or a strong testimony urging others to continue for the cause of Christ. Other charges are:

1. A Charge Concerning Precepts I Timothy 1:3- *“As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine”*
2. A Charge Concerning Prevailing I Timothy 1:18- *“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare”*
3. A Charge Concerning Purity I Timothy 5:7- *“And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.”*
4. A Charge Concerning Partiality I Timothy 5:21- *“I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.”*
5. A Charge Concerning Pride I Timothy 6:17- *“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy”*
6. A Charge Concerning Preaching II Timothy 4:1-2- *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*

Body: Although situations look bleak for Paul in the fourth chapter, he is not discouraged. Unfortunately, many people have forsaken the apostle to the Gentiles in his time of need, but there is one that is immovable by his side. He testifies to the fact that the Lord is standing with him and that he has been delivered out of the mouth of the lion. Timothy will be able to see that the Lord that comforted Paul in his afflictions is the same Lord that will comfort him in his future trials. With this in mind, let us notice:

- I. Paul’s Final Charge vs. 1-5- *“I charge thee...”*
 - A. About the Forthcoming Decision v. 1- *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom”*
 - B. About the Faithful Doctrine vs. 2-4- *“...exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine...they will not endure sound doctrine...”*
 1. The Preaching of Doctrine v. 2- *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*
 - a. “Preaching must be marked by three elements: conviction, warning, and appeal.” (Wiersbe)

all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” I Peter 5:8

2. The Lord’s Preservation v. 18- *“And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

B. The Christians vs. 9-22

1. Timothy v. 9, v. 13
 - a. Where He is to Be v. 9- *“Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me”*
 - b. What He is to Bring v. 13- *“The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments”*
 - c. When He is to Come v. 21- *“Do thy diligence to come before winter.”*
2. Luke v. 11- *“Only Luke is with me.” Colossians 4:14*
3. Mark v. 11- *“Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.” Acts 13:5, 13, 15:36-41*
4. Tychicus v. 12- *“And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.” Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21-22, Colossians 4:7-8, Titus 3:12*
5. Prisca and Aquila v. 19- *“Salute Prisca and Aquila...” Acts 18:1-3, 24-28, Romans 16:3-4, I Corinthians 16:19*
6. Onesiphorus v. 19- *“...and the household of Onesiphorus.” 1:16-18*
7. Erastus v. 20- *“Erastus abode at Corinth...” Romans 16:23, Acts 19:22*
8. Trophimus v. 20- *“...but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.” Acts 20:4, 21:28-29*
9. Others v. 21- *“...Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.”*

C. The Closing v. 22- *“The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.”*

Conclusion: Paul will now be beheaded under the tyranny of Nero. The sun will set on the life of the great apostle. Conclusively, the minister may be dead, but the ministry must continue. This is the highlight of the last epistle that Paul is to write with its emphasis on preaching and protecting the Word of God. It is a charge to the young preacher to pick up the baton and continue the race for the Lord Jesus Christ. The gates of hell will not prevail against the church and it is imperative that there be a man of God to stand in the gap! Will Timothy prove to be this man?