

THE BIG READ (16)

Jesus in 2 Timothy

A. Introduction

1. Every book of the Bible has one dominating theme – Jesus is the Christ.

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”
(Luke 24:45-47)

Jesus is the Christ who will suffer and die.

Jesus is the Christ who will rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus is the Christ who will forgive the sins of all who repent.

Jesus is the Christ who will be preached to the nations.

2. After the four Gospels that tell the story of Jesus’ earthly life, and Acts which traces the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome, the remainder of the New Testament is made up of epistles or letters that were sent to individual Christians or churches.

These letters address specific situations in the lives of believers and through them we are taught how to live as God’s people.

3. 2 Timothy is the second of three letters that the apostle Paul wrote, which are known as the Pastoral Epistles – these are letters addressed to individuals who were church leaders.

2 Timothy was the last letter Paul wrote, and was written near the end of his life around AD66.

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.” (2 Timothy 4:6)

Paul wrote this letter during his second imprisonment in Rome for preaching the Gospel.

“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel.” (2 Timothy 1:8)

“May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.” (2 Timothy 1:16-17)

B. Why did Paul write this letter?

1. There was a short-term reason why Paul wrote this letter to Timothy.

Paul wanted Timothy to visit him in prison.

“Do your best to come to me quickly.” (2 Timothy 4:9)

“Do your best to get here before winter.” (2 Timothy 4:21)

Paul wanted Timothy to bring to him his cloak and books.

“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.” (2 Timothy 4:13)

2. There was also a long-term reason why Paul wrote this letter to Timothy.

2. In chapter 1, Paul instructs Timothy to guard the gospel.

“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” (2 Timothy 1:13-14)

Timothy is to guard the gospel, making sure it is not altered in any way, because if the gospel is altered, it is lost.

This won't be easy.

Already there have been some who have failed to guard it.

“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel.” (2 Timothy 1:8)

“You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.” (2 Timothy 1:15)

3. In chapter 2, Paul instructs Timothy to pass on the gospel.

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Timothy must teach it to people who in turn can teach it to other people.

This won't be easy.

“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:3)

There are false teachers around who are spreading a false message that is deceiving people.

“Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth.” (2 Timothy 2:16-18)

“Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (2 Timothy 2:25-26)

4. In chapter 3, Paul instructs Timothy to continue in the gospel.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

To keep trusting in Jesus and following His Word to the end.

This won't be easy.

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

There will be persecution and opposition.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:12-13)

5. In chapter 4, Paul instructs Timothy to preach the gospel.

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

This won't be easy.

Most people will not want to hear the true gospel preached.

“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

6. The Gospel: Guard it, pass it, continue in it, preach it and all the time be willing to suffer for it.

D. Jesus in 2 Timothy

1. Jesus is the death crusher.

He is able to undo the curse of sin.

“Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (2 Timothy 1:10)

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.” (2 Timothy 2:11-13)

That's why we must guard the gospel.

That's why we must pass on the gospel.

2. Jesus is the rewarding judge.

He will judge the living and the dead.

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom.” (2 Timothy 4:1)

He will reward all who have kept the faith with a crown of righteousness.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

That's why we must continue in the gospel.

That's why we must preach the gospel.