

Teaching through 2 Timothy

Studies in Sound Doctrine

Lesson: Topic and Chapter:

1. Sound Doctrine Must Be Held Fast (2 Timothy 1)
2. Sound Doctrine Must Be Taught (2 Timothy 2)
3. Sound Doctrine Must Be Followed (2 Timothy 3)
4. Sound Doctrine Must Be Preached (2 Timothy 4)

Lesson 1: Sound Doctrine Must Be Held Fast (2 Timothy 1)

Key Verse: "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 1:13)

Introduction: In a day when persecution was strong, martyrs died for their faith, and the fearful turned away from Christ, Paul encouraged Timothy to hold fast to sound doctrine. Timothy had genuine faith and excellent spiritual gifts, but he needed courage to suffer for Christ and to resist turning aside.

Salutation: Paul greeted Timothy his son in the faith (1:1-2)

I. Paul Thanked God for Timothy's Faith (1:3-5)

A. He thanked God whom he served (3-4)

1. He served God with a pure conscience (3)
2. He served God with regular prayer (3-4)

B. He remembered Timothy's genuine faith (5)

II. Paul Encouraged Timothy to Hold Fast to Sound Doctrine (1:6-18)

A. Fearlessly stir up spiritual gift (6-7)

1. Stir it up into a flaming fire (6)
2. Fear is not a spiritual gift (7)
3. God gives power, love, sound mind (7)

B. Willingly suffer for the gospel (8-12)

1. Do not be ashamed of the gospel or Paul (8)
2. Powerfully suffer for the gospel (8-11)
3. Paul unashamedly suffered for the gospel (12)
4. Paul was fully confident in Christ (12)

C. Diligently hold fast to sound doctrine (13-18)

1. Hold fast the pattern of sound words (13)
2. Keep the precious commitment of the gospel (14)
3. Some have turned away (15)
4. The faithful are worthy of God's mercy (16-18)

Conclusion: Christians face new problems today, but fearless witnessing and diligent guarding of sound doctrine are still required.

Lesson 2: Sound Doctrine Must Be Taught (2 Timothy 2)

Key Verse: "And the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."
(2 Timothy 2:2)

Introduction: As pastor of the church at Ephesus, Timothy was instructed to be a strong, saintly teacher of sound doctrine. Teachers must develop strong characteristics, keep their doctrine sound, and be clean vessels for honorable service of God.

I. Be a Strong Teacher (2:1-13)

- A. Be strong in grace (1)
- B. Build strong teachers of sound doctrine (2)
- C. Develop good teaching characteristics (3-7)
 - 1. Endure hardship as a good soldier (3-4)
 - 2. Compete lawfully as a good athlete (5)
 - 3. Work hard as a good farmer (6-7)
- D. Be ready to suffer for the gospel (8-13)

II. Be a Sound Teacher (2:14-19)

- A. Remind people not to strive over profitless issues (14)
- B. Study Scripture to be approved by God (15)
- C. Avoid false doctrines (16-19)
 - 1. Shun profane and vain babblings (16)
 - 2. They tend to increase ungodliness (16)
 - 3. They spread like cancer (17)
 - 4. They cause some to stray from the faith (18)
 - 5. But God knows true believers (19)

III. Be a Saintly Teacher (2:20-26)

- A. Be a vessel for God's honor (20-21)
- B. Flee lusts; pursue godliness (22)
- C. Avoid quarrels and strife (23)
- D. Be a gentle, patient, humble teacher (24-25)
- E. Help people escape Satanic snares (25-26)

Conclusion: Teaching God's Word is a sacred trust that requires the teacher to be diligent and walk close to God.

Lesson 3: Sound Doctrine Must Be Followed (2 Timothy 3)

Key Verse: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Introduction: Timothy was instructed that the church must be protected from false doctrine and must be taught to follow sound doctrine. False doctrine must be isolated and exposed for what it is. Sound doctrine is derived from the Holy Scriptures as taught by the apostles

I. Isolate and Expose Apostate Doctrine (3:1-9)

- A. Isolate apostate doctrine (1-5)
 - 1. Perilous times will come in the last days (1)
 - 2. Depravity will openly abound (2-4)
 - 3. Apostate religion will abound (5)
 - 4. Separate from such people (5)

- B. Expose apostate doctrine (6-9)
 - 1. The apostates deceive the gullible (6)
 - 2. The apostates are void of truth (7)
 - 3. The apostates resist the truth (8)
 - 4. Their folly will be exposed (9)

II. Carefully Follow Sound Doctrine (3:10-17)

- A. Follow sound doctrine in spite of opposition (10-13)
 - 1. Follow Paul's doctrine and example (10-11)
 - 2. Godly men will suffer persecution (12)
 - 3. Deception will grow increasingly worse (13)

- B. Continue in sound doctrine without change (14-15)
 - 1. Continue the doctrine as taught from Scripture (14)
 - 2. Be mindful of the authority of the teacher (14)
 - 3. Be mindful of the authority of Scripture (15)

- C. The Scripture is the source of sound doctrine (16-17)
 - 1. All Scripture is divinely inspired (16)
 - 2. All Scripture is profitable for doctrine and practice (16)
 - 3. All Scripture perfects and equips the man of God (17)

Conclusion: Christians must courageously expose apostasy and remain unwaveringly true to sound Biblical doctrine.

Lesson 4: Sound Doctrine Must Be Preached (2 Timothy 4)

Key Verse: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Timothy 4:2)

Introduction: In anticipation of his own martyrdom, Paul charged Timothy to continue preaching and to fulfill all the duties of the ministry. He then gently informed Timothy of his impending death and urged him to bring important provisions before the fateful hour. After warning him of potential danger, he bade farewell.

I. Paul Charged Timothy to Preach and Persist (4:1-5)

- A. Paul gave Timothy a solemn charge (1)
- B. Powerfully preach the Word (2-4)
 - 1. Always be prepared (2)
 - 2. Use powerful preaching methods (2)
 - 3. Expect men to reject sound doctrine (3-4)
- C. Diligently fulfill the ministry (5)

II. Paul Prepared Timothy for His Death (4:6-8)

- A. Paul was ready to depart this life (6)
- B. Paul had fulfilled his own ministry (7)
- C. Paul anticipated a crown of righteousness (8)

III. Paul Urged Timothy to Bring Important Provisions (4:9-13)

- A. He urged Timothy to come quickly (9-12)
- B. He urged Timothy to bring Mark for the ministry (11)
- C. He urged Timothy to bring important supplies (13)

IV. Paul Warned Timothy of Potential Danger (4:14-18)

- A. Beware of Alexander the adversary (14-15)
- B. All had forsaken Paul at his trial (16)
- C. But the Lord helped him (17-18)

Final Farewell and Benediction (4:19-22)

Conclusion: Sound doctrine must continue to be preached in these last days of apostasy. Christians should so fulfill their ministry that they would be unashamed to meet the Lord.