

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

This was probably the last epistle that Paul wrote. He was in prison awaiting execution. He was abandoned by all except Luke and was betrayed by Alexander.

Chapter 1

1. 2 Tim 1:2-4. Paul was dying to see his disciple, Timothy, who was also his beloved son in the faith.
2. 2 Tim 1:7-8 say that we believers are not given a spirit of fear but of power. Timothy was timid but he was made bold by the Spirit. In verse 8, Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of him as a prisoner but to share in the sufferings of Paul for the Gospel's sake. The word "suffering" appears many times in this epistle. It is not just to do practical work but more inclined towards sacrifice and suffering. This is very different from modern Christianity which tells one to study but never to dirty one's hands.
3. 2 Tim 1:15 says that many in Asia turned away from Paul. He was faithful yet he was abandoned. Such suffering is alien to modern Christianity especially to the "prosperity gospel" seeking "Christians". Whosoever is not interested in finding the truth will never know the truth. Paul clearly showed that the prosperity gospel was not true.

Chapter 2

1. 2 Tim 3:3-7 say that we should share in the suffering of Christ, if we are truly soldiers of Christ. Athletes brutally train themselves, farmers work extremely hard to reach their goals. Christian soldiers must never expect life to be smooth-sailing like on a cruise ship, unlike that of the prosperity gospel.
2. 2 Tim 2:10, the word "endure" appears many times in this epistle.
3. 2 Tim 2:20 says that we are like vessels being used to carry God's glory. If we are prepared, we will be used for God's honour, otherwise, we will become vessels for His dishonour. Some Christians are never used by God because they have never prepared themselves. Beautiful vessels take longer time to construct compared to vessels used for carrying waste materials.

Chapter 3

1. 2 Tim 3:1-9 describe the signs of the last days.
 - a) People will be lovers of self, money, etc. which we are seeing it to be increasingly true these days.
 - b) Verse 6 says that these people will creep into the households of God and will fool many people, especially women. Women, particularly those who are weak to passions, are always inclined towards learning but they never get the truth. They learn more but have become less Christ-like.
 - c) Jannes and Jambres were the magicians of Pharaoh who battled against Moses. Such people cannot go far and will fall into sins that are obvious.

Even men of God from some other denominations are like that and yet they are leaders!

2. 2 Tim 3:10-13 direct that we are to follow Paul.
 - a) All who desire to live a godly life will be persecuted.
 - b) Paul taught Timothy through his life, his persecution and sufferings, and not through classroom training.
 - c) Even our LOL (Life-on-Life) discipleship class is not outside of the classroom; and it is not really life-on-life but more like "lesson upon lesson".
 - d) Verse 13 warns that evil teachers will get the worst punishment, yet many even believe they are teaching the truth.
3. 2 Tim 3:16-17 say that all scripture is good, and not just certain verses only. This includes the Old Testament which many Christians today avoid.

Chapter 4

1. 2 Tim 4:3-4. The problem is that people want false teachers. Doctrines are not appreciated especially those that are from the books of the Minor Prophets. These people are particularly interested in fables and they have itching ears desiring to hear falsehood.
2. 2 Tim 4:7 says it is more important to end well and to finish our own race. We are not to compete with each other as we are all of the same faith. Our race is personal to each of us.
3. 2 Tim 4:9. Paul pleaded with Timothy to go and see him quickly with his coat and documents, as Paul wanted to hand over the ministry to Timothy. But we do not know if Timothy reached him in time.
4. 2 Tim 4:17 says "But the Lord stood with me & strengthened me". It illustrates that when we are all alone, we sense God's presence most! When there is too much support from people, we cannot see nor sense the presence of our invisible God because of the people visible around us. We have to get into trials to realise and enjoy the real presence of God.

What do we learn from Second Book of Timothy?

1. Suffering is expected in a Christian life.
2. Endurance is needed.
3. Our God is a sacrificial God and He gave His Son to us! Jesus left heaven for 33 years to come to Earth and stay. He went back to heaven as the Son of God and the Son of Man. He is 100% God & 100% Man. It is a permanent sacrifice. To be with us, He became Man. In eternity, He is both God and Man with us. Henceforth, He is God-Man, not just 100% God!