CHURCH IN CHRIST
BIBLE STUDY



The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to
Timothy

Two Timothy *an* introduction:

This is the second known letter written to Timothy by the great Apostle Paul. As we understood from 1 Timothy, they had a special relationship akin to that of father and son.
Paul penned this letter from the confines of a Roman prison cell around AD 67. This would be the last letter he would write. The ruler of Rome, nero (no capital letters for the workers of darkness) would soon have him beheaded after the writing of this Epistle.

Paul seemed aware that his life would be taken by the Roman authorities. In this letter, he reveals to Timothy those who have been faithful servants of the Lord and those who could not be trusted. Timothy faced a real and often thankless task. He would encounter hardships from those struggling with their faith and from those manipulating the truth for personal gain.

In 1 Timothy Paul tells Timothy to fight the good fight, and in 2 Timothy we read Paul telling Timothy that he himself had "fought the good fight, finished the course," and "kept the faith." One can imagine this would cause Timothy to recall the exhortation from the first letter to "fight the good fight of the faith." While Paul was departing, Timothy would continue to carry the gospel message forward. This letter emphasises faith, it is not about the ability of a man, but about Christ's power.

As believers, we should recognise that everything we have comes from the Lord. Like Timothy and Paul, we must place our hope in the hands of Christ. May our faith remain steadfast, anchored in Christ's power and grace. May we gain not just that which we should, but much more from this...

The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy. Amen!

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,
God's will be done.

1:1 Paul, an Apostle In this opening verse, Paul deliberately highlights he is an Apostle. Apostles are men who have been specifically chosen by the Lord Jesus to spread the message of truth through both the spoken and written word (letters). These letters would later become what we call the Epistles.

1:1... by the will of God This emphasises that this calling was not of human design but originated from the Father. It is my personal belief that these men directly heard Jesus' teachings and witnessed the Resurrected Christ, including the Apostle Paul. Galatians 1:12 tells us, "I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

1:1... according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, Paul most certainly understood the power of the word. He understood that death held no power over him, for he believed the promise regarding eternal life which comes through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. The promise is all about Jesus Christ and what He did. This power is provided through Him due to His victory at the cross, and the power that comes through His sacrifice is no other than the blessed Holy Spirit. Praise God, we are washed in the blood of Christ, which allows the Spirit of truth to work within us.

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, a beloved son: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
Timothy was indeed loved by Paul.

1:2 To Timothy, a beloved son: In 1 Timothy, Paul called him "my own son." Such words show us just how close they were.

1:2... grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. It would seem that Paul felt that ministers of 'the word' needed more mercy than other believers possibly due to their line of work. We see in the letters which Paul wrote to the church believers, he uses the words grace and peace, but in the letters written directly to the church pastors being both 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, he added the word grace alongside the words peace the mercy!

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,
Paul prayed a lot!

1:3 I thank God, As we all should. Praise provides great power. When one truly gives thanks to the Father, one shall be lifted in the spirit.

1:3... whom I serve with a pure conscience, Paul was sure about who he served. His conscience offered him the greater freedom to express the truth without doubt.

1:3... as my forefathers did, This speaks of both the members of his own immediate family (father, grandfather, etc.), but also the great patriarchs. Paul points out that his service is to the same God as his family and Jewish ancestors. Let's remember that Jesus Christ did not come to change God's plan, but rather to fulfil the plan God had from the beginning, which the forefathers wrote of.

1:3... as without ceasing I remember you Paul was not pondering his future demise but rather remembering his past joys.

1:3... in my prayers night and day, The words night and day was a common Jewish way of describing continual prayer. Paul carried Timothy before God with steady, faithful intercession. He rejoiced in the genuine faith he had seen in Timothy, yet he knew that only prayer could strengthen him for the unknown challenges ahead.

2 Timothy 1:4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,
Paul continue to show Timothy his fatherly love!

1:4 greatly desiring to see you, Paul was going to be, in the near future, beheaded. Did Paul know he was about to die? The answer is yes! As we shall soon see in 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

1:4... being mindful of your tears, At their parting, Timothy shed tears as he farewelled his teacher, spiritual father, and friend. Paul's memory locked onto that moment which made him long yet more

dearly to see him once again on earth.

1:4... that I may be filled with joy, This tells me it is okay to be human! Okay to cling to the love of others, okay to want to feel, see, and hear that someone special... just one more time. The great Apostle reveals such here, does he not? But, he does not allow human emotions to rule his present and future existence.

2 Timothy 1:5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Paul remembered Timothy's tears but he quickly returns his mind to the spiritual arena of faith. Such allows one to stand strong in the Lord. Paul's joy was caught up in Timothy's faith!

1:5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, As Paul, when we observe others walking powerfully in the faith, it should build a greater confidence within us. Genuine faith involves understanding what Christ accomplished at Calvary for us and aligning our lives with His desires. As we journey along the road of faith, the Holy Spirit develops His life within us, which can only transform our old nature into a new righteous and holy life.

1:5... which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, It is possible that both Timothy's grandmother and mother were Saved around the same time. Equally, the power of their changed lives through the salvation message was evident to others. These woman moved in the power of the Spirit. I reckon they would have been wonderful believers to have a time of fellowship with!

1:5... and I am persuaded is in you also. These great women knew the Lord, knew what He had done for them, and were laying down their lives for Him. Paul had indeed witnessed the same character traits in Timothy and witnessed they were growing even stronger, which Paul touches on in the next verse.

2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Paul believed Timothy had a strong calling in his life. The word therefore connects this verses to the above. Paul was sure about the strength of faith that was in the young man.

1:6... I remind you, This was a moment in times past where Timothy felt through the Apostle the gifted power of the Holy Spirit.

1:6... to stir up the gift of God which is in you, The words stir up mean in Greek 'to kindle up, to fan into flame.' Two things here:

1/ It is the job of the believer to react correctly concerning God's gift. I believe this is done through affirming prayer coated with thanksgiving!

2/ The gift of God is within us. Paul is about to move from the singular term you to the inclusive word 'us'. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 tells us Quench not the Spirit. This tells me believers can either fan into flame or disable one's faith by their acceptance or lack of; hence one must affirm God's gift!

1:6... through the laying on of my hands. Timothy had a high level of respect for Paul. He had walked with the Apostle, and I have no doubt he would have seen some marvellous happenings of power. I equally believe that they would have spoken in depth about the process and workings of the laying on of hands.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Firstly, Timothy was a young man who had real emotions and feelings, etc.

1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, The great Apostle was telling Timothy to remain strong. Again, two things here:

1/ The mind of man can be directed by the Spirit of truth or by our human understanding. The state of the mind is the battle zone. If wickedness is given the opportunity, it shall plant all sorts of foolish doubts and fears, promoting the problems and difficulties to a place of wrongful power.

2/ The Holy Spirit is not fearful! The shrinking away from... doing one's duty for fear of man's displeasure does not come from God but from wrong thinking... 'negative faith' comes from a partial knowing of His Truth.

Timothy (just as we) couldn't solely rely on Paul (or a pastor, friend, etc.) for the answers. Instead, he (as we) had to take control. How? By what Paul wrote next.

1:7... but of power: The answer lies in the Spirit, the true source of power. Our power is not of this world! It is not physical or flesh-driven; it's Spiritual. It's a power that can only be found in and by faith, an unwavering faith which trusts God's promises. It is this faith that empowers us to overcome fear,

doubt, and adversity. How do we use such power? We don't wield it like a magic spell expecting things to happen just because we commanded them to happen; instead, over a time the Lord reveals to the beholder His will and purpose, this may take years of faithful forbearance.

I want to speak quickly on another side of such power. So often believers ask for themselves or someone they know to move in the Lord's power. They expect a laying on of hands and a prayer to be made, which commands a healing or a release from sin's hold etc. This works in some cases, but in most, failure emerges! The old excuses are always voiced: not enough faith, sin is preventing the Spirit, they are not walking correctly, the pastor did not pray in accordance to God's will, etc. When the truth is, "it is not what God wants for you at that time."

1:7... and of love God has given us the Spirit of love. This love is not from this world, nor can it be produced by the world. It belongs to God alone and is poured into the believer only through Christ's salvation. No one can claim any self-glory in how pure they are, for even our ability to love God and mankind is the direct work of the Holy Spirit within us. Without the Holy Spirit, this love cannot be known, felt, or lived.

1:7... and of a sound mind Remember, satan uses '**a**' truth to bring error. "A little leaven ruins the whole loaf." A sound mind can only become a reality through the power of His love, which allows the understanding that Jesus did everything required at Calvary; He did not leave the smallest detail out! Our job is to receive His power and to live in His love, seeking His truth. A sound mind comes from Christ.
1 Corinthians 2:16 says, "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ." One cannot know the Father without the mind of Christ working in them.

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me, His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.
We must all stand strong in what we know as truth.

1:8 Therefore do As we have **not** been given a spirit of fear but rather one of power, love, and a sound mind, we should...

1:8... not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ's Testimony lives on today, in us! The gospel message which He personally fulfilled by coming to earth as the perfect man. The virgin birth, miracles, His sufferings, death, and Resurrection all confirm and rightly justify His Eternal standings, Office, and Title. God the Father has honoured Him far above all of creation. His righteous Sacrifice offered to the Father through His own blood, death, and obedience has been accepted by God, proved through His ascension and place of seating. No believer of the truth has any reason to be ashamed of Christ.

1:8... nor of me His prisoner Paul was a prisoner of Rome but chose to be known as a prisoner of Christ! Such a high and desired position brings spiritual hardships and tribulations which the believer needs to approach with patience through a sound mind filled with the power of love.

1:8... but share with me in the sufferings We, as Timothy, are leaders of the truth and must be willing to endure all types of sufferings, and the only way we can do so is by

1:8...the gospel Which is the truth, and the truth is Jesus Christ **and** Him Crucified, such sets the receiver free!

1:8... according to the power of God The power of Christ's Sacrifice allows one to die to self-desires and human wants. It protects the believer from the attacks which come from family, friends, and strangers, and darkness. He gives us the courage to go far beyond what we thought was possible. Notice it is according to the power. This same power also enables us to speak His truth. The Holy Spirit removes shame, strengthens the heart, and opens the mouth for us to testify of Christ. He prepares us for every moment of witness, never calling us to speak beyond what He has already supplied. Thus, our testimony flows not from human courage but from the power of God working within us."

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Last week we finished on the verse "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God" The Holy Spirit (which should be obvious) continues to build on the past writings.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has Saved us and Called us with a Holy Calling, not according to our works, but according to His Own Purpose and Grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.
Paul moves such a glorious Truth from him to us!

1:9 who has Saved us Two things here:

1) The word us refers to all that have responded thus far. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all the world, sadly not all the world shall receive His Calling.

2) The word Saved speaks of what Jesus Christ did for 'us'! All that have been Saved have been done so through the Gift of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Salvation is a Gift freely given by God.

1:9... and Called us with a Holy Calling, This means more than one may think! This covers the workings of Sanctification.

1) We are indeed Called to be Holy as He is Holy.

2) He who is in Christ, covered by the Blood of Christ, is 100% Holy in the Spirit.

3) If we scrutinise our lives with complete honesty, examining ourselves in the stark reality of our flesh, we must confront an unsettling truth: the flesh falls woefully short of the Holiness we are Called to embody.

4) The Calling to Holiness is a high and lifting standard and a Gracious Invitation, one that demands nothing from us... yet exposes the vast gap between our flawed humanity and True Holiness.

5) We must rely wholly on the Holy Spirit's transformative work within us. Through the Son's Sacrifice, the Spirit Clothes us in His Holiness. We do not, cannot, make ourselves holy.

6) He (the Holy Spirit) demands we remain in the Faith of what Jesus Christ did on that day at Calvary.

7) With our Faith placed firmly in Christ and what He did, the Holy Spirit brings about, over a time of times, an inner transformation toward living in His Perfection.

1:9... not according to our works, The words according to come from the Greek word ''kata' and simply mean 'down' presenting the idea of domination or control, not of or by the Saint, but of and by the Blessed Holy Spirit, so it is not down to our works! The word works used here presents anything that one does outside the Victory of Christ. The trying to earn that which we already have (the free Gift of Salvation) by law keeping, the upholding of religious rites and rituals etc. Equally, how often do we hear believers blaming and placing all their weaknesses and sinful actions onto spiritual darkness, how often do you hear "they are under an attack of the enemy"? If a believer understands the Work of Jesus Christ and what He achieved at Calvary, then such a person has been set free and no longer walks in darkness but in the Light. Such a person owns their sin, confesses their sin, and believes Christ for the total deliverance from the flesh-side of their sin, whilst maintaining perfect Holiness due to Faith in the Power of the Blood of Christ. Spiritual warfare has profoundly transformed my prayer life. Instead of battling, I now offer praise to the Lord for who He is and what He accomplished at Calvary. He defeated every power, past, present, and future. By holding to the Truth and submitting myself to God, I am set free daily from anything that has or seeks to hold me. This means recognising my sin nature, acknowledging my failings, and being prepared to honestly face and confess them. He is Faithful and True, Protecting and Transforming me each day. Scripture backs up my statement! It is no longer I who live, but Christ who Lives within me, 'If God is for you, who can be against you?' Those who have been set free are truly free indeed! The Faith we grow into is known through a process called Sanctification. While theological interpretations among believers may differ, these variances do not diminish the Power of the Lord's Salvation. However, I believe that one's peace is greatly affected by battling an already defeated devil. Believers who persist in such battles often find themselves surrounded by constant turmoil. In contrast, those who grasp the significance of Jesus' Work on the cross become aware of the true conflict: the war between their flesh and the Spirit.

1:9... but according to His Own Purpose and Grace We have freedom because of His extraordinary Grace. While we were still enemies, He died for us on the cross. This Grace was given before the world was created, ensuring that no one can boast in their own work or power! We belong to Him, and He has a Purpose for each of us. I personally believe that the greatest pursuit is to build upon our Faith, in

Christ and His Redemptive work. Such demands we die to self and earnestly desire His Will to be done within us as it is done in Heaven!

1:9... which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time bega Grace is a Gift, not earned or paid for by human works. It is given to us through Faith in Jesus Christ and His finished Work. While all are Called, not all will respond correctly, or sadly, at all. Even before time began, God knew who would say yes and who would say no. Nevertheless, all are Called and are Presented with His Truth.

2 Timothy 1:10 but has now been revealed by the Appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought Life and Immortality to Light through the Gospel
Nothing has been left undone.

1:10 but has now been revealed The Plan! All that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit had decided before the beginning of time regarding Christ has been revealed. The idea is all that was hidden or unknown, throughout the Scriptures has been made known through Jesus Christ. Luke 24:30 Now it came to pass, as He Sat at the table with them, that He Took bread, Blessed and Broke it, and Gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He Talked with us on the road, and while He Opened the Scriptures to us?" God's Grace and Mercy is clearly being seen, and the purpose is that all should be Saved through the Work of Christ at the cross and only by the Work of the cross.

1:10... by the Appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, This proclaims that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was and is the fulfilment of 'all' the Old Testament writings. The Holy Spirit uses the word 'Saviour' here as He wants us to understand the power that even the smallest of sin holds. So great was sin's hold on the world that God would have to become Man and die on a cross to Save humanity! But before being able to go to a horrid death He would have to fulfil all the law's requirements perfectly; this would take Him 33 and a half years. That means He would have to be perfect every second He Lived on earth, no wrong or unholy thoughts, actions, or words. Folks, that comes to 1,056,645,600 seconds (one billion, 56 million, 645 thousand, and 600 seconds with not one second spent on or in sin!). Praise be to our Holy and Loving God! Amen.

1:10... who has abolished death The death of the Lord on the cross took away death's sting. Death can no longer hold anyone in its grasp. This, folks, goes beyond the last breath regarding life! Death in Truth began with Adam and Eve; mankind, even though they were alive, were in fact dead. The spirit of man, which cannot die, had become through sin an enemy of God. Separated from God by our own choice, we could only await the final breath before falling into hell's eternal hold. The horror of hell is the place where pain lives as the Love of God cannot be found. All of mankind that do not connect with the Lord are in fact in hell before they get to the actual place.

1:10... and brought Life and Immortality to Light through the Gospel. The Gospel speaks of what Jesus Christ was to do and did do. The Good News is the Gospel: that God Himself would be born from a virgin, walk the earth fulfilling the law and all its requirements, and then suffer and die on a cross and three days later be Raised up to Glory again. Life and Immortality are brought to the surface of man's thoughts through His Works.

2 Timothy 1:11 to which I was Appointed a preacher, an Apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
Paul brings it back onto himself.

1:11 to which I was Appointed Not by man or through a church body but by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! This started from the time Jesus Appeared to him on the road to Damascus.

1:11... a preacher, an Apostle, and a teacher Nothing left undone, the Lord had given to Paul an Anointing far beyond powerful! Paul was to bring to the world the teaching regarding the Work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

1:11... of the Gentiles. Paul took this Message to the Gentiles but always hoped to make the Jewish community jealous unto their Salvation. To this day Israel fights against God regarding Christ's Salvation Message.

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason 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 what I have committed to Him until that Day.
This is quite a statement!

1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; Paul clearly states he was suffering due to his commitment to Christ! Being Saved does not mean hardships shall not find you! Being Saved does not mean

you are not living in a broken world! He was a preacher, Apostle, and a teacher; he understood the power of hurt that comes from the rejection of those that refuse the Truth, but even more so the Power of Love, Peace, and a Sound Mind that comes from Christ.

1:12... nevertheless I am not ashamed, This offers the idea that there were some that were ashamed by the way he preached! Paul was not going to be swayed by their lack of understanding. In fact, Paul wrote of others in a very heavy but clear way; he called some wolves, dogs, vain and perverse people, being workers of evil (see Philippians 3:2, Colossians 2:8, and Acts 20:29–30).

1:12... for I know Whom I have believed Paul was above sure of Who Jesus Christ was! All that Paul was going through was due to, and for, his Lord and God, our Lord and God, Jesus Christ! He had no doubt, just as we shall all have no doubt eventually if we stay in the race. This is a work in progress; we must all stay in the race folks!!!

1:12... I am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. Total Faith in Christ and His Promise! This speaks of his life on earth and the eternal future after death. Just as Paul, we must have fellowship with the Father. I believe without such it would be incredibly hard to remain in the race. How was Paul so persuaded? By the Spirit! Why did the Spirit Work so Powerfully in his life? Due to Faith in what Jesus Christ did at the cross (see Romans Ch 6, 7, 8). What had Paul committed to the Lord? His total life on earth.

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in Faith and Love which are in Christ Jesus.

Hold what?

1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me. Paul states the pattern is formed from sound words. Timothy heard and learned the sound words of the Truth of God through the mouth of Paul, where we equally learn it by the written Word!

1:13... in Faith and Love which are in Christ Jesus. Paul recognised that the Faith that was in Timothy's grandmother and mother was also present in the young man (see 2 Timothy 1:5). Correct Faith is proved by the Power of Love, as Godly Love is patient, kind, it does not envy or boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the Truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And all this, and much more, can only be found in Christ Jesus through the Power of the Holy Spirit by Faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for mankind. Hence, the sound words and teachings of Paul come from the Spirit!

2 Timothy 1:14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit Who Dwells in us.

Simple, but incredibly powerful words! The most important Truth ever given to mankind! The deeper Truth of what Jesus Christ has done for us all, the amazing freedom and peace that comes if one dares to dive into the river of “The Message of the Lord's Sacrifice.” It has been committed to Timothy (and us) through and by the Power of Faith! Faith which comes from the Holy Spirit opens the door to what Christ has done for the believer and breaks the religious bonds made by man and teaches the correct spiritual way to enter into warfare, which is the praising of Christ for all He has done. Such praise comes from true Faith, which offers the believer the Power to overcome all things. He Dwells in us due to this Message! That good thing Paul speaks of is kept by none other than the Spirit of Life Himself. He upholds within a willing believer this marvellous Truth, think about that!

2 Timothy 1:15 This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

The Asia spoken of here is what we call Turkey! It would seem that Timothy held knowledge of those who had turned away from the Truth. Paul, in the last two verses, had told Timothy to guard and defend the Truth, and here we see the reason! This is no small group being spoken of, which should be a sound warning to us today, as all those in Asia have turned away from me. How many? All those in Asia! Wow, this is scary. Notice Paul does not say "from the Lord" but "from me!" This is why we must all be prayerful and continue in trusted fellowship. This would have been a mass falling away, possibly even complete churches! I personally believe they still confessed the Name of the Lord but under their terms! Paul's statement "turned away from me" indicates their rejection of the Message he preached about the cross. This rejection aligns with Paul's instruction in 1:13 to "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in Faith and Love which are in Christ Jesus."

The mention of Phygellus and Hermogenes provides further evidence of this mass rejection of the Truth, as Paul wrote, “among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.” Consider this: their names are mentioned with the sin of faithlessness, a rejection of Christ's Work, that also applies to those that turned away. Let us aid one another to remain strong in the Faith according to the pattern of sound words which you have heard from Paul, in Faith and Love which are in Christ Jesus!

2 Timothy 1:16 The Lord grant Mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;
The name Onesiphorus means 'help-bringer.' It is thought that Onesiphorus may have been dead as Paul wrote this. As Paul speaks of Onesiphorus entirely in the past tense Plus Paul would normally greet him directly, as he does with others, but he asks that the Lord bless and look after Onesiphorus's family! And the reason for this request is due to Onesiphorus often refreshing Paul and not being ashamed of his chain; hence this man visited Paul often.

2 Timothy 1:17 but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me.
This great man showed no fear regarding the consequences that could come from visiting Paul, who was in prison awaiting his execution. It is well known that a vast amount of the Jewish community held a hatred toward Paul and desired his death just as they did the Lord's! Equally, Paul was in a Roman prison, and at that time Christians were hated and sought after as they had been blamed by Nero for the great fire which destroyed much of Rome! So yes, Onesiphorus was a brave man. He sought Paul out very zealously, meaning he was not going to rest until he found the great Apostle!

2 Timothy 1:18 The Lord grant to him that he may find Mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.”
How sad that from these last few verses such a horrid and false doctrine was brought into being. This verse is speaking about what shall happen after the Rapture of the church. We, like Onesiphorus, shall not be Judged on our sins as the Son of God paid for them at Calvary; rather, we shall be Judged on how we lived, behaved, and surrendered our lives to the Holy Spirit. These verses brought about the false catholic doctrine of praying for the dead! Many foolishly believe you can have your sin forgiven after death! In short, 'purgatory' a so-called place where one is purified after death. Humbug... I say humbug.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus.
Paul urges Timothy and us to remain strong in the faith!

2:1 You therefore, my son, Paul has outlined how many in Asia have strayed from the Truth, while Onesiphorus courageously sought out the Apostle Paul, which quite possibly cost him his life. The words you therefore declares the truth of hardship has been given... Timothy understood as we should it is a hard road we travel on.

2:1... be strong in the Grace No matter how strong one's Faith is, opposition will come. The greater your ministry, the greater the attacks. But these attacks are designed to move us deeper into Christ! Do not waste a moment of your time fighting against a defeated enemy, the devil. Instead, promote correct spiritual warfare by pressing into Christ, harnessing the Power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, praise, and worship. We live in the world but are not part of it; thus, we are vastly different from those in the world, or at least we should be, and remember who is in charge! It is not the devil, nor mankind. Yes, satan is called the god of this world, but he is the king of what is broken, a king of a dump, a wasteland, and even that is for but a short time. The devil will be thrown into the lake of fire by one of the Lord's Angels.

2:1... in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, is about to tell us how to be strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus. This is one of the 175 times we are instructed in the New Testament to 'stay in Christ.' Grace is the goodness of Christ poured out over undeserving believers. This comes to us due to Jesus Christ's Sacrifice. Because of Jesus' mighty offering, the Father openly rewards anyone who remains faithful to the Son's Work through His Sacrifice. Jesus did something He did not have to do, He gave His Life so that we could live, and if we remain in Him through and by the Gift of Faith, His Grace, which is driven by the Holy Spirit, shall forever work in us for our good.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
This means you too, ladies! Paul spoke openly before all peoples; nothing that the Lord had given him was hidden. It was the Apostle Paul to whom the Lord gave the fullness of the Message of the cross, and here he is telling Timothy and us to hold fast to such teachings. Commit these to faithful men. First of all, praise the Lord God Almighty for such men who were filled by the Spirit to hold and deliver such a wonderful Truth; great numbers of these people were treated brutishly and murdered for living and teaching the Gospel! These men and women never held back; may we be as confident in the Lord's Love to save the lost.

2:2... commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Who will be able to teach others also? Such is our Calling. We are all able to teach; but we are not all Called to be teachers within the church, but we are all Called to share the Truth, which means we all teach!

1) Teach what? All that Jesus Christ is to us (that is sharing), what Jesus Christ did for us for us, His Sacrifice, His Love, and why Jesus did such for us (that is teaching)!

2) How do we do such? We teach openly for all the world to see by our standard of living, what we say, how we act, what we do, and all this is driven by what we think. I hope we grow in our teaching abilities!

2 Timothy 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
Is it possible that teachers of the Word suffer a higher degree of hardship?

2:3 You therefore must endure hardship These two words endure hardship come from the Greek word (sunkakopathéō), which means (take your part in suffering hardship if called upon to do so); hence not everyone shall suffer hardships, but if one does, such a person has the Lord beside them. Acts 16:23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. This is speaking of Paul and Silas; I am sure neither wanted to be severely flogged and then thrown into a prison, where they were chained hand and foot! But God was with them, proved by the Power they had to be able to sing praises unto the Lord after such a brutal beating, think about that!

2:3 As a good soldier. This is, of course, a metaphor; we are children of the Most High God, but the Holy Spirit uses the word soldier, as all understand its meaning:

1) Soldiers are trained in warfare **and** peace control.
2) Soldiers follow orders without question.
3) Soldiers are drilled to endure hardships.

4) A soldier is prepared to die for his commander-in-chief.
5) Soldiers are skilled in tactical knowledge and analysis.
6) They understand the power and abilities of their weapons.
7) Soldiers fight for the freedom of their country.

2:3...of Jesus Christ. Our Commander and Chief! This means we are not fighting for ourselves, nor for a church system. We are soldiers under the direct command of Christ Himself our Commander and Chief. Therefore we shall endure hardship but not in our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier.
Carrying on from the theme above.

2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life. Paul is addressing teachers, pastors, and so on, and they are to pass this onto all other church believers. As we have spoken of many times, the church is not to become involved with the affairs of this world! Keep your eyes on the eternal prize; do not become distracted by politics and worldly issues. Food, power, phone, and internet companies, along with medical centres, etc., are overly expensive, and yes, the people are being openly stolen from by many of these providers while the New Zealand governments, one after another looks willingly through blind eyes. However, a soldier's job is not to be concerned with the enemies' tactics but with obeying his or her orders.

2:4... that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier. As stated, our first concern is to attend to the will of our Commander in Chief! We are, by Faith, to live a life that is pleasing to the Father, which can only be done through a life dedicated and surrendered to the Holy Spirit through the Power of Christ Jesus' Sacrifice. This is indeed well pleasing to the Father.

2 Timothy 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
How important is it that we keep our eyes on the Truth only? The Holy Spirit, through Paul, uses another metaphor; we could speak in depth about the preparation an athlete has to put themselves through to become a competitor at the Olympics or Commonwealth Games. In most cases, training is well underway while they are still children; such athletes face a lifetime of full-time work dedicated to the preparation demanded regarding the disciplines required to win one medal. He/she is not crowned unless they compete according to the rules, and to be recognised they must finish the event/race regardless of their ranking, first or last! Every part of this athlete is driven by a powerful determination and strict physical motivation to achieve the goal. This athlete believes he or she will (not can, but will) win and shall receive the crown! They are mentally attuned to all that is demanded of them; they run according to the rules; they hear and obey those entrusted to teach them. Just as these athletes, we should trust and obey our Trainer, the Holy Spirit, and those whom the Lord has placed before us as teachers.

2 Timothy 2:6 The hard working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.
Once again, how important is it that we keep our eyes on the Truth only?

2:6 The hard working farmer This verse highlights the diligent efforts of a farmer, who toils laboriously in the fields and yards to cultivate and nurture the crops, livestock, or any other produce to their finest possible quality.

2:6... must be first to partake of the crops. Two words: partake and crops. Farmers keep themselves and their families with food by providing good crops for sale. But for the church, partake and crops means that if the preacher is teaching the Gospel Truth, then he shall grow, just as the listeners will, in the Power of the Lord.
The Commander and Chief is showing us how to be overcomers! These metaphors demand deeper consideration!

2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.
Paul has offered all the above metaphors; he now lays it on the table.

2:7 Consider what I say, Give this much thought! Look into this even more! Dig deep into the reasons for the above metaphors! Think and consider who it is that writes these things, the Holy Spirit through Paul. Consider greatly the above verses.

2:7... and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. If you do consider these things

seriously, then Paul has prayed that the Lord will open your understanding, yes it is a prayer may the Lord give you..! Folks, the great Apostle has asked the Lord to bless you, he believes you shall consider the above words.

2 Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my Gospel,
Paul moves from the metaphors and his request for consideration to a greater example, Christ Jesus.
He has crushed the last barrier, death!

2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ folks, He is saying "keep this in your mind":

1) Jesus came of the seed of David.
2) He was raised from the dead.
3) And all this is according to 'my Gospel.'

Timothy was to continue holding onto these three Truths:

1) For Jesus to be raised from the dead, He had to die! After He was beaten and tormented by His captors, He was then nailed to a cross to die a horrid death. But Paul tells Timothy and us that "Christ has risen."

2) Jesus came from the seed of David, meaning He was born from flesh and blood, but He was far more special. He was the One that the law of Moses, the Prophets, and Psalms spoke of!

3) My Gospel, hence Paul's Gospel, came from a greater understanding of the Old Testament writings taught to him by Jesus Christ Himself (see Galatians 1:12). It was not a different Gospel from that which the other Apostles preached but one that held a deeper and greater level of insight regarding it. No one else in Scripture can claim the words my Gospel, as Paul's Gospel introduced the Truth in fullness.

A) Paul was Called and set apart from his mother's womb to teach the Gospel (see Romans 1:1–2).
B) Paul received the Gospel by Divine Revelation (see Galatians 1:11–12).
C) The Gospel is "the Word of what Jesus did at the cross, the Power of God" (see Rom 1:16–17).
D) The Gospel is "Christ died for all mankind" (see Romans 3:22–25).
E) The Gospel is "we died with Christ" (see Galatians 6:14).
F) The Gospel is "Christ lives in us" (see 2 Corinthians 13:5).
G) The Gospel "establishes us in Christ": "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ," (Romans 16:25). Amen!

2 Timothy 2:9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the Word of God is not chained.
Make no mistake, the living church worldwide has many haters of the Truth! The Apostle was sitting in jail awaiting his death! How far will the wicked go? His act of evildoing was the preaching of the Truth about Christ's Love for mankind! He was sharing the only Message that could free his captors from their present imprisonment of sin and their possible future eternal damnation. There is a level of irony in this situation.

How many times was Paul imprisoned and chained? We have on record that he was chained seven times. Paul understood that even though he was chained and imprisoned, the Word of God is not chained. And here is true Power: Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The Holy Spirit cannot be locked up!

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the Salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal Glory.
History agrees the Apostle Paul gave his all; he suffered greatly for the sake of the kingdom! Who are the elect? Does this mean some are selected, being the elect for Heaven and others for hell? The word elect belongs to anyone that is willing to accept Jesus Christ as Lord. The word elect does not refer to God selecting some people for Salvation and others for hell! In Revelation 22:17, John wrote, "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. And 'whosoever will', let him take the water of Life freely." The words whosoever make it clear the Salvation Message is for all the world! This tells us that no amount of suffering on earth for God's sake is too high a price to pay for the Salvation of even one soul! Look through biblical history as men and women paid a high price to bring about God's perfect will! How do we stack up?

2 Timothy 2:11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.
This phrase is common to Paul. The same words are used in (1 Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:9, Titus 3:8). The words proclaim the trustworthiness of what is to follow. The word if... provides an option, if one died then they have given themselves over to the Lord but if they desire the life of the flesh they have not! If means you have the freedom to decide the outcome.

This offers the believer "the how" in having the absolute victory in Christ. Romans 6:8–11 tells us: Because anyone who has died has been set free from sin (the sin nature, not an act of sin). Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him (with the sin nature dead He starts the sanctification process). In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin (sin nature) but alive to God in Christ Jesus. One must desire that Christ reigns within them and that He will kill sin's pulling power in the coffin.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.
Once again, that word if appears. Jesus said in Matthew 10:22, "And you will be hated by all for My Name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be Saved." What must the believer do? Endure! In short, do not give up! If one rejects Christ Jesus, then such shall in turn be rejected, and hell awaits. People, the stakes are stacked high, as we shall also reign with Him if we endure! The word reign comes from the Greek word 'basileuo' and means 'to reign as a king'! One thing is sure: satan hates you and me and will do all that he can to halt our walk with the Lord. How? By using the world, by appealing to one's weaknesses, even through one's family and friends. So we must:

1) Remain in true fellowship.
2) Keep ourselves honest before God and man.
3) Understand our weaknesses and desire His judgment and correction over and in us.
4) And of course, keep our eyes on Jesus and what He has done for us by using praise, worship, prayer, fellowship, and a Christ-centred Faith.

Once again I turn to the words of the Lord Himself Matthew 10:33, "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in Heaven." That means exactly what it says. Why do people deny Christ? The answer can be found in 1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are Saved, it is the Power of God." One can believe in a 'happy clappy' Jesus, or a 'sweet hugging' Jesus, or a 'you do whatever you want' Jesus… And at times all those three examples come into place, but when it comes to 'Faith in Jesus and what He did at the cross,' that can be another story.

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains Faithful; He cannot deny Himself.
Paul just penned we must endure!

2:13 If we are faithless, This speaks of believers who refuse to accept the whole Truth. When a person rejects the full Message of the cross, their endurance and faithfulness become deeply vulnerable. There is a high chance their strength will not hold, because a believers Power comes through what Jesus did on the cross (see 1 Corinthians 1:18). Some claim this verse refers to the unsaved, but that is incorrect; the unsaved are very faithful to their own misguided convictions. This letter is written to the church, to people who have been Saved. The root meaning of unfaithful is to enter into an improper relationship with someone other than one's true partner. Spiritually, it means drifting from loyalty to Christ and giving one's heart elsewhere.

2:13... He remains Faithful; He cannot deny Himself. Take note of what is missing from the verse we are about to read... faithlessness. This is not because God stops loving, but because faithlessness breaks the relationship. God remains Faithful, but a believer can walk away from that Faithfulness by refusing the Truth, denying Christ, or abandoning the cross. Romans 8:38–39 tells us 'For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'
Note again what is missing, the one thing that can separate us from the Love of God: faithlessness, it comes down to our choice.

2 Timothy 2:14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.
This is so important. As we touched on above, the meaning of being unfaithful is to engage in an incorrect

relation with a person other than one's regular partner. 1 Corinthians 3:17 tells us "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." This is not talking about getting a tattoo or smoking a cigarette or the like (although they certainly displease the Lord). This is speaking about doctrine, staying in the Truth.
People, the defeated powers of darkness want nothing less than to get you to become unfaithful! This can be easily achieved by getting a believer to focus on the welfare and needs of the country, to buy into the politics, to allow the news to distract one's mind, and if possible, move such a believer over into a false doctrine, which comes to one much easier through all the above-mentioned concerns! Don't commit spiritual adultery, stay focused on the Truth, stay in the place of praise and worship, remain in the classroom of Truth, and be forever thankful for all Jesus has done for you and your family! Charge them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers." Be therefore warned brothers and sisters. Amen.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Last week, we looked at three metaphors that indicated: that suffering hardships for Christ is very possible, that we must remain faithful regardless of any presenting events, and that we should not allow words of no profit to rob our faith.

2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God. The words diligent, present, and approved used here come down to how you judge yourself! I hope we all understand that? Believers are going to be judged, not on sin but on how we gave our lives over to the Holy Spirit. Paul is encouraging Timothy (and us) to be diligent. Diligence implies earnest effort, persistence, and careful self-scrutiny, having a good look in the mirror! People, the goal is to present ourselves daily approved to God, and that is not always easy! This approval isn't about earning Salvation (since that's a gift of Grace), but rather about living daily in a way that pleases God. Yes, we all fail from time to time, but get up and tell your flesh, "Behave." God desires us to be faithful stewards in Truth; judge ye-yourself.

2:15... a worker who does not need to be ashamed. How are you going to fare on the day of judgment? Are you going to look into the eyes of true love with joyful confidence, or are you going to wish you had given Him your all? The secret of not being ashamed is believing all that He has done for mankind. If one truly believes and trusts with understanding what happened that day at Calvary, then one will willingly surrender their all to the Lord!

2:15... rightly dividing the Word of Truth. This word emphasises the value of handling God's Word of Truth accurately. As believers, we are all called to study Scripture, understand its context, and then apply it as well as we can to our lives! It's not just about memorising verses; it's about grasping the overall message and understanding that it can only be lived out through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our faith will be tested; these tests reveal the strength and credibility of our faith. These tests aren't for God's sake (since He knows our hearts), but for our own insight. They help us evaluate our spiritual life honestly. Testing refines us, strengthens our faith, and reveals areas where we need to seek the Holy Spirit's help for growth. We should regularly examine our hearts, motives, and actions, asking questions like:

"Am I living consistently with what I believe?"

"Am I growing in Christ-likeness?"

"Am I rightly dividing God's Word?"

1/ We must study God's Word.

2/ Regularly read it.

3/ Meditate on the Scriptures

4/ Continually seek understanding through prayer regarding our study of the Scriptures.

5/ The Truth should be seen in us by others.

6/ The Truth should be felt by us.

7/ We must apply biblical principles to our daily life; they should guide our daily behaviour!

8/ Dependence in prayer, based on our confidence in the Holy Spirit.

9/ Praying for His wisdom, discernment, and strength.

10/ Engaging with true believers enables accountability and offers the blessing of...

11/ godly encouragement, which is, of course, vital.

12/ Repentance should equal growth! It is not if, but when you fall short: "Repent and seek the Holy Spirit through the power of Christ's Sacrifice." A truly repentant heart shall bring massive growth to the believer. Remember, God's Grace covers all the imperfections of a true believer. Our faith's journey is ongoing. We stumble, learn, and grow. If we are honestly and diligently seeking the Lord, He shall continue to transform our inner man.

Dear friends, If you have faced failure, do not succumb to the fleshly foolishness of self-pity, for that is the devil's plan. Remember, the Lord loved us before He saved us. He knew the exact moments and ways we would fail. We have not let Him down, for He knew such was going to happen! Rather, He is revealing to us parts of our heart's desire that need transformation. Press into Him, trust Him, for He is pressing into you, and friends, He more than trusts you!

2 Timothy 2:16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

Believers doing the work of satan! Ouch...

2:16 But shun profane and idle babblings, Give such people a wide berth. The word shun in the Greek is 'peristemi' and means 'to turn oneself about, as for the purpose of avoiding something.' Profane

holds the meaning in Greek of 'to step across the threshold,' thus lawful to be trampled underfoot, and idle babblings comes from the Greek word 'keno-phonia' meaning 'labour which yields no return.' This has a beginning place, a slight moving away from what we should be focused on. such as "what's wrong with a political debate" or "Someone needs to hold the councils and governments accountable"! Folks, the world is evil, the system is made to steal and destroy. I know it is hard to see such misery, but we must only be about the Lord's Work.

2:16 for they will increase to more ungodliness. Such nonsense grows within a believer, it must be addressed and halted by church leaders quickly. It may even be seen as a good word or action but that good word or action never saves a soul, making it a counterfeit attachment to a gospel.

2 Timothy 2:17 And their words will eat as does a canker. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort.
The word canker occurs nowhere else in the New Testament; it means 'cancer or gangrene.' It starts as a small thing! It desires to devour, corrode, to bring death to a body part, and then to spread bit by bit over the whole body unless arrested, halted by a doctor, in this case Doctor needed is the Holy Spirit.
It will eat and consume the healthful parts. It will not merely destroy the parts immediately affected but will extend into the surrounding healthy parts and destroy them also. So it is with false doctrines.

2:17... Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort. These men walked in the truth and have allowed rubbish to consume their minds. They allowed outside influences to impact their thinking which pulled out from them slowly their faith in Christ and what He did. Paul names them personally, which shows us how we must act if someone brings any type of profane, idle babbling canker/cancer causing rubbish into our church!

2 Timothy 2:18 who have strayed concerning the Truth, saying that the Resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the Faith of some.
The two persons just mentioned have strayed that means a slow drift moved from the Truth; which in the end has the outcome of full blown spiritual cancer. They have missed the mark, and of course, Hymenaeus most certainly had been corrected by Paul in the past, as we see such evidence in 1 Timothy, and yet he has continued to go astray. Their sin was in...

2:18... saying that the Resurrection is already past. There is no clear understanding as to what they taught in fullness, except that it was very destructive. My thought is if you remove the Resurrection of the dead, then you remove any reason for one to give themselves over to the Lord; such teaching would greatly undermine the reasons for Jesus' Sacrifice.

2:18... and they overthrow the Faith of some. However, whatever the depth of truth regarding their false doctrine was, it had replaced some believers' Eternal Life with damnation.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
God is indeed trustworthy.

2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, Even though some have moved from the Faith by the above-named persons, yet assuredly God's solid foundation stands. The solid foundation laid by God speaks of you and I, His Holy Temple, in which you are gloriously formed through, and only through, the unmoving Power of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified, which is confirmed by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

2:19... having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His." Many claim to belong to Christ, but He knows who truly belong to Him! In fact, they also know whether they belong to Him! How?

2:19... and "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." A true believer will want nothing else but to give their lives over to the Lord. That which was once okay, that which was once accepted as fine by the world, slowly becomes sin, slowly becomes like a dirty rag to a person of the Faith. A true believer changes inwardly, dying to the pull of the world. "The Lord knows those who are His," as the Holy Spirit is deep at Work within them, as such is their desire to become more like Jesus... To be closer to the Father. I am not saying they are sinless but that they want to change, they don not like who they are as the Spirit reveals their inner state, they fight sins desire greatly as it becomes a burden in their lives.

2 Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour.
We are the Temple!

2:20 But in a great house, metaphors continue! Where is this great house? Look into a mirror! I believe it speaks both of each believer and the whole church collectively.

2:20... there are not only vessels of gold and silver, These first two vessels speak of the Holy Spirit's Work. Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Before Christ, mankind was not able to carry out the basic requirements laid down by the Father, let alone save themselves through the much-needed heart change! Such Power could only come through and by a 100% Perfect Sacrifice, which could only be provided by God's own Son! The Holy Spirit, through Christ, lives in the heart of a believer, turning common vessels into gold and silver.

2:20... but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. The wood and clay, which come from man's self-works through religious and foolish beliefs, must be surrendered over to the Lord. I use the word 'surrender' as man's pride will not give away easily what he thinks is power. These vessels come from our upbringing, past beliefs, religious and spiritual misunderstandings, how we view other humans, how we view live and one's self-being, etc. Only the Holy Spirit can deal with this list. Timothy (as we) must focus on the Holy Spirit's cleansing Work, revealing to us what brings dishonour. In other words, if we want to be greatly used of God, we must pursue His Truth, which teaches us about His Love for us, which teaches us of Christ Jesus and what He did at Calvary.

2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

The word sanctified speaks entirely about the Work of the Holy Spirit. As I wrote above, this deals with both the church and the individual believer. The church leader or pastor must separate and remove all that was and may still be evil in his church. He must turn people towards Jesus Christ and what Christ has done. He must maintain sound Doctrine with a watchful eye over those in his care!

2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, the responsibility falls back onto the individual. This highlights the part that man plays in the operation. Before we were Saved, our spirit, soul, and body did not know, nor could they know, the Righteousness of God; hence, we were the walking dead, doers of evil. We have one role to play in the changing of our lives, our heart attitudes, and beliefs, one role, that's it!

The Greek word for cleanse is 'ekkathairō' and it means 'to cleanse out, clean thoroughly' leaving nothing untouched. The only One who can bring about such an outcome is the mighty Holy Spirit.

Firstly: Through Christ, He has brought Salvation to the believer's heart.

Secondly: He separates us from any environment that encourages falling back into sinful acts that were killing us.

Thirdly: He starts turning that which was wood and clay into gold and silver, or He completely eradicates such broken vessels. The one role we play is holding onto the Faith that trusts in who Jesus Christ is and what He did that day at Calvary!

2:21... he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. This tells me two things:

1/ If the believer does not allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse him/her fully, then such will not be a vessel of honour and therefore not as useful to the Master as they could be, hence fulfilling little in His Holy Name.

2/ A vessel (believer) of honour has been cleansed both inside and out (such challenges one's faith, personal spiritual beliefs, past religious teachings, etc.). He/she has laid down their lives, stripped themselves of all that they held dear, understanding the need to drop all their spiritual perspectives. They have allowed the Holy Spirit to do all that was and is needed to develop a strong Faith in Christ. They will give all they have as Christ reigns within them, and they are prepared for every good work to continue both within and around them.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue Righteousness, Faith, Love, and Peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Folks, do not allow yesterday to drag your today down!

2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; this is an action word, flee. In my opinion, our most dangerous enemy is ourselves! Our minds can easily turn back to times of hardship or sinful pleasures. The word lusts simply speaks of cravings and passionate desires! This is not an easy task, so how do we flee such lusts? By holding onto that one role we play in being changed! Psalm 91:1–2 tells us all we need to know He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him I will trust.

By not trusting one's willpower, but by living by Faith! Faith is one of the vessels the Lord is building within us! For me, fleeing or winning a spiritual battle is through the Power of what Jesus Christ did for me! Praise and worship flow deeply and quickly when His Sacrifice is understood.

2:22... but pursue Righteousness, Faith, Love, and Peace. All these wonderful facets come from the Holy Spirit. So who are we to pursue? The Holy Spirit! And with whom do we pursue the Holy Spirit?

2:22... With those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. The heart of man that desires to be pure comes from understanding what Christ has done; such a heart longs for His purity. The words out of speak of one calling through the power of Faith. Let me explain this a little more: a pure heart does not mean a sin-free heart. Rather, it speaks of a heart that understands its need for a Saviour, a Redeemer. Man does not possess a pure heart in himself; Christ does. And it is by being placed into Him through Faith that we can claim such purity. Not by my strength, but by His Sacrifice and Power. A pure heart is not a perfect heart, it is a surrendered heart trusting in the Perfect One.

2 Timothy 2:23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.
Keep to the Truth of the Gospel Message. Stay away from foolish debates, no matter how wise you may think you sound; such conversations just inflate egos or express personal frustrations. Paul is saying avoid these unproductive and harmful arguments. Such 'wisdom' comes from the world, which damages the truth.

2:23... knowing that they generate strife. Worldly wisdom never promotes Christ in a way that honours the Saviour, such is not coming from the Spirit of Holiness but from a deceptive nature.

2 Timothy 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient.
This, of course, is directed towards Timothy and any others that are devoted to the Ministry of the Word. However, it equally applies to any who have the Holy Spirit within them, as we are all, in one way or another, Ministers of the Word!

2:24... And a servant of the Lord. A servant is one who does what their given master desires. If that is true in earthly terms, how much more should a servant of the Lord act according to His will?

2:24... must not quarrel. For such behaviour gives an opportunity to the devil, and pride will be the outcome, pride that can divide a church. We are not to strive in the spirit; we are not to engage in foolish debates of the tongue. There is a correct church order to work by, and if unwanted quarrels arise, they must be dealt with by the leadership in accordance with the Word and will of God. The Lord will uphold His Truth in His time.

2:24... but be gentle to all. Exhibit and live in the spirit of kindness, which reveals the nature of a true child of God. Notice that Paul expressly mentions that this behaviour must be presented to all, whether they are Saved or not!

2:24... able to teach, patient. What this is saying is a person of the Faith will endure foolish talk, bearing the foolish words spoken by a weaker believer or even the contradictions of those in opposition of the Truth. The next verse tells us why we must behave as such!

2 Timothy 2:25 In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the Truth.
We have touched on the cleansing of the vessels both within ourselves and the church and then the need not to become involved in foolish and ignorant disputes. Here, we move on to those who are in opposition, those who hold a differing viewpoint from the Truth! Yes, the need to act out Titus 3:10 could arise, which is the removing of people from the church if they refuse to accept the Truth and are hindering other believers' Faith.
However, in humility, we are to correct those who are in opposition. We are to be gentle and wise in the way we handle such people. We are not to simply reject them as troublemakers but rather as uneducated, and as long as they show a desire to learn the Truth, then we are to be prayerful and patient in our dealings with them! We are not to enter into a screaming match with them even if they are angered by the Truth; rather, we are to gently bring peace and understanding wherever it is possible. If they struggle to accept the Truth, we are to remain lovingly patient.
Yes, we can become wearied by them, but we are not to sin in our weakness by giving up on them. We are to be Christ to them, aiding them to become free, which means that through us, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the Truth, and receive all the blessings that come through the eternal, everlasting Life of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:26 And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

In the Greek, these words actually state, 'that they may awake from drunkenness.' As stated above, we must aid them to be free.

2:26... and escape the snare of the devil. Some think this speaks of people who have not heard the Gospel Message (the unsaved), but I believe this is about those governed by man's religious beliefs, those who are following misguided or wrong church teachings, hence following an evil, deceptive spirit. What is a snare? Simply a trap set to catch prey!

1 John tells us, You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (evil spirits), because greater is He that is in you (the Holy Spirit) than he (satan) that is in the world.

This tells us that it is not by our power that we are kept safe and free but by the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit to Work within a believer correctly, Faith must be exercised within the right parameters of the Finished Work of Christ's Sacrifice.

2:26... having been taken captive by him to do his will. This is why I personally believe this speaks of religious people; they have been caught in the snare and from that point taken captive by him to do his will! They worship and praise God but sadly did not receive the fullness of the Truth when it was presented, the correct preaching of the Lord and His Sacrifice at Calvary. The devil has no need to set a snare for a person who has not heard the Gospel Message, as such a person is already his prisoner, being held dead in their trespasses against the Lord. I was once as you... in that state. Let us pray for such people, be they religious folk or those who have not heard the Truth within their human spirit, let us, through the actions of Faith, seek their release from the devil's hold. Amen.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

3:1 But know this, This speaks of the days we are living in. But know this means, "You can be sure of this," or, "Let this be firmly in your mind." The word this... points to what we can expect: perilous times. In the Greek, this term signifies stress, fierce times, a force that reduces strength. Make no mistake, the Holy Spirit makes it clear that these days will come. The word will is a guarantee, a certainty in time.

3:1... that in the last days perilous times will come. We live in a time where there are wars and rumours of wars, droughts, sicknesses, unemployment, high drug abuse, and so on. These things are certainly part of the overall picture, but Paul is not speaking about what is happening in the world, rather he is warning about what will happen within the visible present day church. How can we be sure he is talking about the church? Unlike Jesus, Who described global chaos such as wars, earthquakes, and famines, Paul presents in verses 2 to 4 a list of behaviours, not events. These behaviours describe people, not natural disasters... and specifically people who have 'a form of godliness,' meaning those within the visible church.
Before we move into the next verse where Paul lists eighteen vices, I want to remind you that this warning of human evils does not appear suddenly. Earlier in the letter Paul has already described a 'slow inner drifting toward darkness', a quiet turning of the heart away from the Truth. In 1:15 he speaks of some who have turned away. In 2:16–17 he warns that profane and idle babblings will increase to more ungodliness, spreading like spiritual gangrene. In 2:18 he says that some have strayed concerning the Truth. And in 2:26 he describes believers caught in the snare of the devil. Chapter 3 simply reveals the full result of that drift when it is left unchecked.

2 Timothy 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3:3 Unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 3:4 Traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

We see in the above three verses, no less than 18 vices that characterise aggressive religious individuals, this is not speaking of those that do not believe! These behaviours appear to be interconnected:

Lovers of self: Self-centredness becomes the root of all that follows.
Lovers of money: Self-love naturally seeks self-gain.
Boastful and proud: Wealth and self-importance produce arrogance.
Blasphemous: Pride expresses itself in irreverence and a know-it-all spirit that undermines the Lord’s ordained order.
Disobedient to parents: Their defiance extends even to base instruction.
Unthankful: Ingratitude reveals a deeper unholiness.
Unholy: Their unholy nature hardens the heart.
Unloving: Without love, forgiveness becomes impossible.
Unforgiving: This leads to slander against all who oppose them.
Slanderers: Their lack of restraint opens the door to cruelty.
Without self-control: The absence of restraint produces brutality.
Brutal: Their harshness leads them to despise what is good.
Despisers of good: They turn against Christ and His people.
Traitors: Betrayal gives way to stubbornness.
Headstrong: Their stubbornness becomes haughtiness.
Haughty: Pride finally drives them to become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

This progression, which past verses have warned us about, the moving away from Christ’s love to the love of self-pleasure, is a slow downward spiral that shall affect every part of a person: physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, social, moral, and spiritual. Even their environment becomes shaped by their corruption.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
I wrote above, aggressive religious people but this goes beyond that many today have a spiritual awareness they speak of God being a light, energy, or higher purpose, yet they deny the transforming power of the Gospel. Paul is describing all who carry an outward appearance of spirituality while rejecting the inward work of the Holy Spirit. These are the very people Timothy is warned to turn away from.

3:5 Having a form of godliness: This refers to all the outward signs of spirituality: the appearance, the language, the atmosphere. Everything looks impressive, the worship sounds powerful, the emotions run high, people shout, cry, laugh, command demons, and declare victory. But do these outward displays prove the moving of the Holy Spirit? Obviously not, for Paul calls it a form of godliness.
The word form used here means a mere outward resemblance without the inward reality. It looks appealing. It looks powerful. It looks spiritual. But it lacks the true power that comes from repentance, holiness, and the transforming work of Christ.

3:5... but denying its power. These words denying 'its' power is not call referring to the Holy Spirit as an it. The word its refers to godliness, not the Spirit. True godliness has power because the Holy Spirit is its source. As it is only a form of godliness the power they rejoice under comes from man's hype and worrisomely satan; hence darkness playing church. The Holy Spirit must be evident in the church, for only He can teach us all about Jesus Christ the Saviour, what the Son of God did, how He lived, loved, and gave His life for us. The Spirit of Truth will teach us about that day at Calvary, the real power of the sacrifice upon the cross, onto the resurrection.

3:5... And from such people turn away! Unlike the people Paul wrote of in Ch 2:25 who were in opposition to truth through a lack of understanding, where we are instructed to gently teach the truth to them. Here we are told in no uncertain words to turn them away. That is, turn your backs on them, have nothing to do with them!

2 Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts.
Their target was gullible women.

3:6... of this sort speaks of those we have just spoken about above 'men that have a form of godliness but deny its power. Horrid and dangerous men who resist the truth and work in deception, these are men that are unwilling to repent.

3:6... are those who creep into households evil men, satan's messengers... who worm their way into the homes of women they have noted as having a weak faith. The first time they knock on the door it offers them the scope to determine the gullibility of whom they are talking to. Can anyone here think of any door-knocking type of religious person that does such work?

3:6...and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins. Paul states they were loaded down with sins. My question is: why? And how? Any ideas, team? I may well be wrong, but I am going to ask: what were the women being taught by the fathers or husbands? This could answer my question as to the why and how they were loaded with sins... a possible lack of the teaching of the truth, remember in those days many woman could not read or write, they relied on the men to teach them. The word gullible used here means 'to be easily deceived, over trusting, or easily taken in.' Did the man or men of the house not notice the spiritual weakness of the ladies within the home? If not then they were not working as one in Christ. These ladies Paul states were often weighed down by the guilt of their sin, but no one seemed noticed, and it could be possible these ladies had no idea how to approach the Lord regarding grace through His victory, which tells me 'if' that was the case there could have been a lack of Holy Spirit power in those homes. These woman would fall for the first false doctrine or cultist teaching they heard, as they obviously failed to search the Scriptures daily to see if what was being taught was a biblical truth.

3:6...led away by various lusts. As with all sin, in the end, it is oneself that must accept the blame. These ladies may have had many good reasons for their shaky faith, but as with all believers, they also had many opportunities to get themselves right with the Lord. The possible point that they may not have known how to speak to the Lord falls short, as He knows the hearts and gives utterance to all who desire Him. So, as a child, they could have sought Him, but their failure is the reason they opened the door to evil, which starts off as a small thing but could grow, by their willingness, into the destruction of the family unit. I am not moving the blame onto the men above for the women's sin, but desire to point out the need in modern 2026 homes for all members of the family to be watchful over each other, in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:7 Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
These false teachers were...

3:7 always learning but unable to find truth's meaning, and the women they deceitfully taught unfortunately learnt the power of religion. They were learning religious things empty of Jesus Christ, denying what the death on the cross has bought for all that believe by Christ's power.

3:7... and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. They acknowledged that Jesus walked

the earth as a man sent by God ans that He died on a cross and rose three days later. Yet they could not grasp the true significance of what happened on the cross. As 1 Corinthians 1:18 states For the teaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us it is the power of God. How many people joyfully attend church week in and week out, praising Jesus and reading the Word daily, yet live their lives as they please, missing the transformative power of what Jesus did at the cross? I cannot speak for what other churches teach, but at ours we preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith.
The names of Jannes and Jambres are not found anywhere else in the Bible but here. However, Jewish tradition claims they were the magicians who withstood Moses and Aaron in Exodus 7.

3:8... so do these also resist the truth: This speaks of the resistance to the truth which we have seen in every generation, hence the use of the names Jannes and Jambres, who resisted Moses thousands of years earlier. Paul is telling Timothy that as it was in Moses' day, so it is in his time; however, such resistance is increasing as we move toward the last days. Their opposition is aimed at turning believers away from the truth and onto themselves. The truth is, of course, Jesus Christ and what He did at Calvary unto the Resurrection. It appears that their focus is not directed towards those in the world but towards weak or unstable believers, whom we are commanded to pray for and help.

3:8... men of corrupt minds. Remember, as we noted earlier in our study chapter 3:5, even though it may seem unchristian, we are commanded to turn away from such men; Jesus Himself described them as wolves in sheep's clothing. Paul teaches elsewhere that some people's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, while those of others follow later (1 Timothy 5:24). These men fall into that pattern, their corruption is either already visible to the church or will be exposed in due time.

3:8... disapproved concerning the faith. This means they do not preach or believe in what Jesus accomplished at the cross. Their disapproval is not in matters of church practices, they do those well! But in relation to the faith itself, the Gospel, the Truth. Could such men slip into our fellowship unnoticed? And if so, how might their presence begin to shift our fellowship away from the truth? Paul's warning invites us to reflect on these things, and I trust that our journey through this epistle has equipped us with the wisdom, love, and desire to face such issues with clarity, firmness and grace.

Today we are seeing miracles and wonders happening, but are they all trustworthy?
1 John 4:1 – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
In regards to my question hope these tips help:

1) Biblical Foundation: Regular, humble study of the Word gives us the standard by which all spiritual claims must be measured. If a teaching or miracle does not line up with Scriptural truth, it must be brought before wise and trusted church leadership.

2) Prayer and Guidance: Seek the Lord's guidance through prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give the church discernment and wisdom in identifying what is true and what is false. And never think that you... or any other person... stands alone with the truth. The Spirit leads His people 'together'.

3) Test the Spirits: As 1 John 4:1 advises, test the spirits to see whether they are from God. This involves evaluating the fruit of a person's life and ministry. Do their actions and teachings align with the principles and character of Jesus? Is what they are saying driven by a desire to point believers towards Jesus Christ rather than towards themselves? Are they alive to Christ's truths? For this is why Jesus came, to open the door to heaven through His Sacrifice for all that will believe!

4) Fellowship and Accountability: Stay close to believers who are grounded in the Word. We discern better together than alone, fellowship matters greatly. Wise counsel, honest conversation, and spiritual accountability protects us from deception. We are accountable for our continued fellowship activity!

5) Sound Doctrine: Be aware of, and understand...what sound doctrine truly is! The Holy Spirit teaches us about Jesus Christ and what He has done; it really is that simple. For this reason, we must be wary of any teaching that drifts from the Spirit's task: Teaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified. False teachings will appeal to one's emotions or personal desires, but they lack a solid, Christ-centred biblical foundation.

6) The Work of Jesus: Every Christian doctrine given to humanity originates from Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross, an act of love that was predetermined before the creation of the cosmos.
The church today is filled with many differing voices, but by applying the above principles and seeking the Holy Spirit's help, we will navigate through such and become even more so grounded in His blessed truth.

2 Timothy 3:9 But they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.
The Lord has a point in time when all happenings, including life, shall end. As Timothy, we should be encouraged, as the Lord was and still is in total control. The devil, along with all sin, will be cast into the lake of fire, and then the earth shall be restored to that which the Father desires, and love shall be the very air we breathe.

3:9... for their folly will be manifest to all, Paul is telling us in no uncertain way that the Lord will reveal what has been hidden. Nothing escapes His sight. This tells us that we are not to try to hide anything from God, for He already knows the depths of our hearts. So let us walk honestly before Him, without fear or condemnation.
We have the privilege of allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us, dealing with the hidden places of our lives, whether wrong actions, thoughts, words, or even the deeper struggles we often keep buried, such as addictions to alcohol, drugs, pornography, or anything else that binds the heart. Only the Spirit can bring true inner change, and He will shape us into what He desires, if we are willing to be honest before Him. And yes, honesty can indeed hurt for awhile, but it is far better to have these things dealt with privately between you and God than to have them exposed openly before all to see!

3:9... theirs also was. This speaks of Jannes and Jambres, who resisted Moses; they failed, their so-called god let them down. We can also look back to Timothy's days and see that these unapproved men Paul writes about also failed, just as the one's that try and drive untruth into the church today will also fail.

2 Timothy 3:10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, perseverance.
Timothy indeed had a perfect understanding of the Apostle's life and teachings, he himself being the Apostle's greatest pupil.

3:10... carefully followed my doctrine, the doctrine of the cross (sacrifice) of Christ Jesus, which taught Paul how to die to self and live unto Christ.

3:10... manner of life, purpose, faith, These all speak about his witness, how he presented himself, what he said, how he thought, what he did. With those three attributes correctly in place.

3:10... long-suffering, love, perseverance. All these, as above, are tied up in being in Christ. He could suffer much as he was loved much. He loved as Love taught him. He remained patient as Love never gives up, for he had the Love that comes from God the Father.

2 Timothy 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all, the Lord delivered me.
Paul reminds Timothy of where these events happened, as the young man had joined him not long after some of these hardships had occurred, and also during the current time of the rest of these events. He was well aware of how Paul lived, worked, and believed. Paul was delivered from all those who opposed him. Folks, this was not a Hollywood production; the events pictured caught the evil intent of the level of man's wickedness and the distance man was prepared to go. Yet Paul experienced God's grace, mercy, and peace, being delivered by God, which Timothy witnessed.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
Sadly, many believers, although saved by grace through faith in Christ, do not get past the simple principles of the early Christian life. They remain in a place of spiritual infancy, repeating over and over the same sin, then blaming satan, having a little war, then resting in their victory, only to sin again, blame satan, have a little war, then rest in their victory, and then sin again, and on and on it goes... It is our task to aid them into the greater truth. Sadly, a great number of them will grow, but not into Christ, but into law- keepers, such as the once-saved-always-saved believers, rites-and-ritual keepers, diligently learning the deadly religious holier-than-thou of man. Such can cause great harm in the church!

3:12... in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. No cross... no crown, no death... no life. When Jesus said, "Take up your cross daily," He was not calling us to a life of constant remorse or endless brokenness. He was and is calling us to a place where the Spirit of Truth can work deeply within our hearts. The cross we carry is not a place of misery, rather it is the place of blessed surrender, from where the Holy Spirit begins His transforming work. Yes, we will suffer: from scoffers of the truth, from haters and unbelievers, and more often than not from the kind of so-called believer we spoke of above. But notice the words in Christ Jesus. We suffer because we are in Christ. And being in Christ demands an inner change, a death from the old way of life, a removing of the old nature... such an inner change often brings its own kind of suffering as we face

our sinfulness, our spiritual failings, and our deep need for God's grace. We suffer so that we may grow into His likeness as the blessed Spirit shapes us, so rejoice, and again I say, rejoice.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
Folks, it is not going to get any better, but what we are reading needs to be looked at slightly differently! Look at it this way: It is our job to stay in the truth, to be diligent and alert to evil's outworking. To handle carefully any new believers in the church. To be prayerful as a fellowship.

3:13 But evil men and impostors refers to those who stand openly against the Gospel of truth, while impostors are people who pretend to be good or righteous while secretly harbouring deceitful motives, hiding their true evil nature, waiting for the time to bring down the church leadership with their deceptive religious beliefs.

3:13... will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But if we continue in 'our job' as I have stated above, that will be their problem, as we are walking in the Holy Spirit, covered by the blood of the Lamb, thankful for the work of Jesus on the cross, amen? If we do our job, the Holy Spirit will make us aware of their folly! Remember, it is the Holy Spirit through Paul who calls them evil, impostors, deceivers! The next verse confirms this.

2 Timothy 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.
Choose who you will serve.

3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, What have we all learned? The evil men spoken of in the verse above cannot drag you under if you remain in the things which you have learned and are assured of! We do not follow religious ideas; we understand that being involved in a church denomination does not save us. Pastors, elders, and the like are but men. All we hear from such leaders in church, from TV, radio, or books, etc., must pass Scripture's test.

3:14...you have learned them. There is no doubt, you and I have learned the truth... it is our job to stay within it, and this is done through and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1/ We have all learned the Gospel message by being in an honest, hold-no-truth-back fellowship.
2/ We have all learned the truth by the Bible's writings.
3/ We know the Holy Spirit directs us to Jesus Christ and what He has done for us at Calvary.
4/And I, for one, have also learned the truth through and by each one of you.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
I understand that most of us did not have the privilege Timothy had, being taught the Scriptures from childhood. But in a very real sense, in the Spirit, we have. The truth began its work in you and in me long before we ever responded to it. The Holy Spirit was drawing us, convicting us, softening us, and preparing us for the moment we would believe. King David wrote in Psalm 139 You knew me before I was born. And that truth reminds us that God's work in our lives began long before we ever responded to Him. Even if we did not know the Scriptures from childhood as Timothy did, the Spirit was already drawing us, softening us, and preparing us for salvation, I believe this is true of every person on earth... some shall reject whilst others will except. The Holy Spirit has been at work in you from the beginning to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
All Scripture is breathed out by God, which at that time spoke of the Old Testament. But before time began, the Lord knew we would be doing this study, learning from both the New and Old Testaments. What this means is the study we are reading has been deliberately put together by the Lord. Over the years, two things have happened (my opinion only):

1) satan has altered many different Bibles, and they are obvious, as the changes in some of them are clear. The KJV, NKJV, I only mention the two bibles as they are ones I feel comfortable with and the Lord blesses me in there use, however there are of course many other bibles, your job is to research them and see if they are approved by God for you.

2) Regardless of satan's efforts, I believe (and I praise God for speaking this into my heart) that the greater truth in the written word is only any good if the Holy Spirit teaches the believer from it. He is the

One that brings life to the written word. He can teach the truth from any Bible, regardless of how man and satan have tried to sidestep it. PRAISE GOD!!!
The Lord's Scriptures are perfect; He wrote them and He oversees them, and He teaches us the Doctrinal truths which brings reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Amen!

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
We are kept right by correct doctrine, reproofs, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

3:17 That the man of God may be complete, This speaks of one that is mature in the Lord, able to control himself. How does one become this? By applying the just spoken of Doctrine, learning it through faithful study which comes by seeking and being obedient to the Holy Spirit. This means one accepts with gladness the reproof of his/her sins which He reveals. This allows one to embrace the holy correction offered through the gradual growth of knowledge, which allows one to understand the written word, which produces continues to produce a willingness to commit time into the reading and studying of the word with the Holy Spirit, which offers correct instruction in righteousness.

3:17... thoroughly equipped for every good work. The idea is that whatever good work the man of God desires to perform, or however perfect he aims to be, he will find no deficiency in the Scriptures, but will find an abundant and generous level-upon-level instructions needed to get to no Jesus even more. All he or she needs to do is commit to the above formula seen in 2 Timothy 3:16. Amen? Such makes the believer over a time Christ-like, and such is our job, to grow in Christ so that others alongside us shall change or be heavily challenged by our conduct.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.

As I have been written... we have a job to do!

4:1 I charge you carries the weight of a legal declaration. Paul was about to die in a matter of weeks or even days, and he knew it. This was to be his last charge, his last words, his last heartfelt thoughts about how Timothy was going to survive without him! The word charge comes from the Greek word 'diamarturomai' and means 'to call others to witness, or I adjure thee.' Timothy was being asked to carry a heavy weight; he needed to be strong to stand spiritually against those false teachers. Fortunately, he was not alone, just as we are not!

4:1… therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. In the original Greek, it states 'Our God, even Jesus Christ,' meaning Paul was referring to this being placed before the feet of Jesus Christ, and in doing so, encouraging Timothy that Christ Himself is God and we are all in Him. This slight correction makes it clear that Paul was also telling Rome who Jesus is, and that what and whom they serve is not a god. To add even greater power to this statement, he continues with:

4:1… who will judge the living and the dead. Paul is reminding Timothy that Christ is the appointed Judge of all humanity, those alive at His coming and those who have already died. This gives great weight to the charge he is about to deliver. One day, every believer will also give account to the Lord for how they lived.

4:1… at His appearing and His kingdom: He is coming back, and all believers are being reminded that we must stay as strong as we can in Christ, remaining in true fellowship as often as possible.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching.

Paul's instruction is simple but urgent: preach the Word. Not our opinions, not current trends, or stories that make people feel good... but the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Timothy we are to proclaim it whether the moment feels convenient or not, whether the audience is receptive or resistant.

4:2... Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. means the Word must correct error, confront sin, and strengthen the believer. And all of this must be done with patience and faithful step by step teaching, because real spiritual growth takes time. This command is given to Timothy, and to all of us who minister today.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

We have already seen wicked men taking captive gullible women! The word for gives us the reason we must convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching as spoken above, for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. We are in this timeline today, so let us work together to convince the weaker of heart!

4:3… Sound doctrine speaks of what who Jesus is and what He did at Calvary and why He needed to do it! Without the death and blood of the perfect Lamb of God, we would all still be in sin, caught up in the affairs of the world, slaves to satan, under the guilty verdict of the Law of Moses! The sufferings and death of Jesus Christ on the cross over two thousand years ago have given the believer the ability to have all the above list wiped away from being a constant power over our lives, hence the guilt slate wiped clean!

Sound doctrine, if taught correctly, will also open the believer up to understanding who they are and why they needed, and still need, the power of what Jesus did at Calvary.

Sound doctrine, if taught correctly, will through the Holy Spirit teach the believer how holy, brave, perfect, and righteous Jesus is, and how far we fail to be such in the flesh.

Sound doctrine, if taught correctly, will humble the believer and put to death any and all fleshy desires over a time of times.

Sound doctrine, if taught correctly, will produce a life reflecting Jesus Christ's attitudes and life skills.

4:3… but according to their own desires, these believers will go astray; they shall pursue their wants, desires, religious dreams, which make them feel good inside and safe within a world of chaos. Why?

4:3… because they have itching ears, they have become tired of the truth, tired of not being praised for their contribution to salvation, etc. But this does not necessarily mean forever! Focus on convincing,

rebuking, exhorting, with all long-suffering and teaching, and trust the Lord! The sacrificial power of the cross is lost to them at this time; the preaching of the truth has become foolishness to them! But not to us that believe: carry on preaching, brother! Carry on preaching, sister!

4:3… they will heap up for themselves teachers; Paul is telling Timothy and us that such shall happen (it started during Timothy's life and carries on to this very day). This is a warning; we are not to be distracted by their ungodly approach. Rather, we are to continue preaching the doctrine of truth with all long-suffering in love. Such a time has and shall expose 'lukewarm believers' who shall walk away from the church, heaping up teachers after their own liking. This tells me they will heap up (go through) many teachers until they find the ones that fit their doctrine beliefs.

2 Timothy 4:4 And they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
The flesh over the Spirit!

4:4… and they turn their ears away from the truth, Is this due to pride, a self-focused style of life? I believe that pride stops the believer from seeking God. Pride wants to hear what is pleasing to it; such flatters, instead of reproves, their wrong way of life! Proverbs 16:18, Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
However, what ever the cause, they do not want to hear the simple message of the cross, as it is Christ-focused rather than self-focused; they see it as foolishness. They will attend to anything but the sacrifice of Christ.

4:4... and be turned aside to fables. A fable is a religious idea or teaching that is not from God, a man-made story that replaces the truth of Christ with something more appealing to sinful flesh. False doctrines or fables as Paul calls it here will move one away from what Jesus Christ did for mankind at Calvary; they remove the clear parameters set out of what the work of Christ's Sacrifice achieved for us (see 2 Timothy 4:3). Yes, they do offer thanks for what Christ did at Calvary, and they do celebrate the blood of the Lamb. However, this is a token effort lacking the ongoing, heartfelt devotion that should be expressed continually.

2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.
There are four points in this verse. As children of God, we must be:

4:5 But you be watchful in all things. If brothers and sisters are doing, saying, or even praying things that contradict the Gospel of Truth, respectfully and gently stop them to seek clarification as to what they mean. Do not be afraid to challenge wrong thinking; it may prevent the door to false doctrines from being opened. You may be seen as a busybody or a know-it-all, and some will certainly speak out against you, but...

4:5... endure afflictions, meaning, for the Gospel's sake, do not allow hardships, difficulties, or the loss of popularity to hinder you. If you stand for the truth, such challenges will come!

4:5... do the work of an evangelist. Once again, the evangelist must boldly preach the Word in and out of season and must not take a back seat, even when under duress.

4:5... fulfil your ministry. We have God with us, angels of light standing all about us. If we lock onto the truth, who can stop us? To fulfil means to bring glorious changes to both one's own heart and the hearts of those listening.

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.
Paul's thoughts turn to reflect on his life. He had been beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, abused, slapped, imprisoned, whipped, forced out from cities, synagogues, and even Christian meetings! He tells Timothy and us this is happening; God has him, just as God will have you and I. Be strong, stay faithful.

4:6… as a drink offering refers to a cup of wine the Jewish priest poured out beside the altar following the offering of a ram, lamb, or bull in the temple (see Numbers 15:1–10; 28:4–7). This drink offering that was poured out symbolised the end of the offering; the sacrifice was complete! Paul is saying to Timothy his life is about to end.

4:6… and the time of my departure is at hand. He is about to pass on to Timothy and us the good news regarding his life, and even his death, which places him into the Father's arms.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
How many people has the Holy Spirit saved through the writings of Paul? He has won the fight through and

by the power of Christ. We all must take up this battle, this fight of faith, and we must win. I speak of the flesh versus the Spirit. This does not mean he was sinless, but rather he has completed the pathway that the Lord had him on. He has completed all the Lord wanted from him. How high a standard was his achievement! I pray we all finish the race.

4:7… I have kept the Faith. Paul ran the race and kept the faith. Yes, it was hard; yes, he battled all types of troubles and received great joys among great pains, but he completed the race of obedience. The faith is the holding onto Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Jesus did it all, and the believer has, to the best of their ability, surrendered their all!

2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
Paul looks toward death with confidence, knowing that a crown of righteousness awaits him. This crown is not earned by personal greatness, but given by the Lord, the righteous Judge, who judges with perfect fairness and sees the heart. Paul is certain that this reward is his... not because he is special, but because he has remained faithful.

4:8…which the Lord, the righteous Judge Paul identifies Jesus as the Judge who gives this crown. His judgment is righteous, without partiality, without favouritism, and without error.

4:8…will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. Paul makes it clear that this promise is not exclusive to him. The same crown awaits all believers who long for Christ's appearing, all who love Him, look for Him, and remain faithful to Him.

2 Timothy 4:9 Be diligent to come to me quickly;
Paul makes a personal and urgent request. He is alone, nearing execution, and deeply desires Timothy's presence. At the time of writing, Timothy was roughly 1,000 miles (1,609 km) away from Paul, making the journey long and difficult.
Whether Timothy reached Paul before his death is something Scripture does not reveal, and history gives us no certain answer. We simply do not know. But what we can say with confidence is this: Paul finished his course, entered the presence of the Lord, and now belongs to Christ forever.

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.
One should never take for granted their spiritual standings.
We see Demas mentioned in Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 1:24. He stood by Paul and his teachings during the Apostle's first imprisonment, but now has forsaken his old friend and teacher.
Commentaries offer numerous reasons for his abandonment of Paul, including the high risk of danger associated with being a Christian in that era. These dangers encompassed possible beatings, public mockery, the threat of long-term imprisonment, or even death. One would be hard-pressed to argue that these are not valid reasons to do a runner! Even though these threats were indeed very real, they were not the reason for his departure. Paul explains Demas's actions as being he loved this present world. He chose the world rather than God's promises! As Demas, you and I must decide daily whom we will serve!

4:10... Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Scripture is silent regarding the reasons behind Crescens and Titus's departures. But that silence tells us they went with the Apostle's blessings, as only Demas is spoken of as forsaking Paul. Scripture gives no negative comment about Crescens or Titus, but simply states that they left for Galatia and Dalmatia.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.
This is of course Luke who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.
In Acts 15:37–39, we read Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark. But Paul thought it best not to take him because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus. We see the love of God in action here! Not just forgiveness and acceptance shown by Paul, but the desire to see his brother in the Lord (I believe this would have been Mark's will and desire also). They had a sharp disagreement which separated them for a great time, but God heals the heart of man: if man is willing. It would seem right to think that Mark (who more than likely arrived after the death of Paul) would have spent some time with Luke, where maybe the idea of writing the Gospels of Mark, Luke, and the Book of Acts was brought into being! Maybe?!

2 Timothy 4:12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.
Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus where Timothy was based. One though process was that Tychicus was to stand in for Timothy at his church whilst the young man travelled to Rome, and that is possible as Tychicus was a trusted coworker (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7) and had used him to strengthen churches in the past. But this letter was obviously written after the sending off of these men, so some one else would be carrying it towards Timothy rather than Tychicus.

2 Timothy 4:13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.
It is thought unlikely that Timothy made it to Rome in time due to the sheer distance he needed to travel. The Apostle shows Timothy that even though he was in prison and soon to be executed, he still desired the practical necessities of life, his cloak for warmth, and his books and parchments for reading and study. Yes, Paul shows Timothy and us, "Where, death, is thy sting."

2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.
Paul preached and taught with total conviction the power of the cross, Christ's Sacrifice. However, he also calls out workers of darkness.
The words did me speak of the coppersmith doing all he could to stop Paul from preaching the message of truth. The words did me also speak of act's of the past. As Paul was a prisoner in Rome, it is unlikely he is speaking of that time but rather when he was in Ephesus, which places Alexander in or about that area. The man is obviously an unbeliever and one whose heart was against the truth of Christ. If my possible deductions regarding Alexander are correct, then it would be he that is spoken of in 1 Timothy 1:20.

4:14… May the Lord repay him Paul presents the 'about to be act of God' upon the man. God's just Judgment comes to all. No one is treated unfairly. All are given the way to enter the Lord's blessings, but if it

is the Alexander of 1 Timothy 1:20, then he was handed over to the devil: 'Among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.' If this is he, then one would think that time was not on his side, as we see here that the righteous judgment of God is about to come upon him.

4:14… according to his works Yes, he worked hard to cause pain and disorder to come upon the Apostle, but Paul is not talking about such here. Rather, the works Paul is referring to is the bitter injuries he had done to the cause of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.
This man stood against what Paul preached. Paul warns his student in the Lord that this man is a vessel of satan, a worker of darkness, one that is not going to stop until God's judgment halts him. The word beware does not mean to cower away from danger but to approach the possible arriving circumstance with God's wisdom, to be alert, understanding how to navigate through the presenting issues. Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
Alexander did not just disagree with the Word of God, but greatly resisted it! Paul uses the term our words, which speak not just of the words spoken by himself and Timothy but the words of the church which come from the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 4:16 At my first defence no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.
No one acted in a support role for Paul. This speaks of being presented before the tribunal in Rome. We have just read about what the direct enemy of the Word has done. And now we read what Paul's fellow believers did. This trial took place after the great fire in Rome, which the deranged coward nero blamed on the Christian community. Anyone that was willing to stand by the Apostle Paul would be in grave danger. Demas (verse 10) left Paul for the pleasures of the world, but the brothers and sisters that did not stand by him did so from a spirit of fear and a lack of faith. Paul understood their weaknesses and that they were not walking away from the truth. This is why he asked of the Lord, "May it not be charged against them." Even after his first trial, which would have been hard, Paul sought only the good for others; in such he saw the trial as a way of preaching the Word!

2 Timothy 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.
This, the ending of Paul's letter, was to be his last writings, his last stand.
The word stood in the Greek is 'paris-tēmi' and means 'to stand alongside, to assist.' Paul was not alone; he knew the Lord would keep His promise, Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Jesus took His stand beside His loved son Paul.

4:17… But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, Paul received a personal Jesus Christ strengthening. When Paul writes strengthened me, he really means it, for the Greek meaning of this is 'poured strength.' Hallelujah!

4:17… so that the message might be preached fully through me. Paul would finish as he started, preaching the Gospel message by the power of God. Note: Paul writes preached through me, thus it was the mighty Lord Himself speaking through Paul in that courthouse! Paul did not go into the crowded courtroom to defend himself; rather, he went into that room to convert those that desired his death.

4:17… and that all the Gentiles might hear. This confirms that the room was full of people!

4:17… Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. This does not mean he was spared from actually being thrown into the lions' den, as many were in those days, as Paul was a Roman citizen, and that style of execution was not handed out to them. Nor does it mean he was found innocent of the charges brought against him, as we know he was beheaded not long after this appearance. Rather, I believe it means Paul, by the power of Jesus Christ, spoke the message of salvation with boldness and surety, that he finished the race of faith as a true believer of Jesus Christ. I believe Paul felt the salvation power of Christ in a mighty way; he knew Jesus had delivered him out of the mouth of the lion, which all the others in the courtroom were still in danger of! The devil, man's rules, and anything else that is possible had no hold on him; he was heaven-bound. In that court room on that day Paul through the power of the Spirit of Life silenced his accusers.

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

And here it is, delivered from the mouth of the lion.

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work, that which satan strongly desires to bring upon us all. This is important to understand as this also shall apply to us all! This is not speaking about Paul being delivered from the hands of evil men or demonic powers; rather, the Lord prevented Paul from failing, halting the Apostle from speaking wrongly in his hour of need. The Lord stopped Paul from presenting a case to save his life; rather, He had him appeal to all within the court to save their own lives by appealing to the only true Judge, Jesus Christ, **regarding their crimes**!

4:18… and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. This agrees with what we have just spoken of. Paul would walk from that courtroom a free man in Christ and would continue to walk as a free man in Christ regardless of what the enemy tried to do over the next short time. This allowed Paul to offer, as he always did, praise unto his mighty Lord. He was kept in the truth of power by the Spirit, kept holy and right, kept as a son of God!

4:18… To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! Death by the guillotine was about to strike, yet Paul, as he always had done, praised the Lord of Glory.

2 Timothy 4:19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

As a true believer, Paul desired others to be blessed. He greets Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. He informs Timothy that Erastus was not one of those that left him to stand alone in court, and equally the same can be said about Trophimus, who was left behind due to sickness. Paul understood, as we have gleaned from the above verses, that his time was up, yet he sends greetings to people, informs Timothy of where brothers are, and lays a thought for the sick!

2 Timothy 4:21 Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.

After the public court case, Paul was returned for a short time to his prison cell where once again some of the believers were given by the Lord the courage to visit him (praise be to Jesus). Paul again desires to see Timothy once more.

2 Timothy 4:22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

We need no more to make us happy than to have the Lord Jesus Christ with our spirit, for in Him all spiritual blessings are summed up. It is the best prayer we can offer for our friends, that the Lord Jesus Christ may be with their spirit to sanctify and save them and at last to receive them to Himself. Many who believed as Paul are now before the throne, giving glory to their Lord...

Beloved of the Lord... may we follow on the path they walked.

"Thank You, Father, for all those that have gone before us, that they did not bend the knee to the demands of the world, satan, or the flesh."

Thank You that we can gather so much joy and assurance from such people like Paul, James, John, Peter, Timothy, Mary, Claudia, etc.

That such men and women consider the riches of this world to be nothing but dung...

That such men and women have, and still are today, leaving all the world offers to follow You.

That within such a choice, we shall receive, as Paul, the power to see all things through to the end.

To walk as children of the faith... to walk as overcomers in the power of the Lord Christ Jesus.

Amen and amen.

John Taylor: Scripture study and commentary
Ellicott's: Commentary The Whole Bible
Wuest: NT Word study
Strong's Concordance
Tyndale Translation of The Holy Bible
Gill's: Commentary on 2 Timothy
Bible Ref: Commentaries on 2 Timothy
Pulpit Notes: and Commentaries 2 Timothy
Bible references and Scripture: KJV, NKJV.
Bible Gateway: Web page for Scriptures
Enduring Word commentaries
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Benson Commentary
Barnes' notes on understanding the Bible