**II Timothy 1 Background**

By the time Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, the young pastor had been ministering to the church at Ephesus for four years, and it had been almost that long since he had received his first letter from Paul. Timothy had been a faithful servant to Paul since he had left home with the apostle more than a decade earlier. Since then, Timothy had ministered alongside Paul for the duration of both the second and third missionary journeys, in places such as Troas, Philippi, and Corinth. Timothy was not unfamiliar to the Ephesians when he settled in Ephesus to minister, having served there alongside Paul for a period of close to three years on Paul’s third missionary journey. Paul wrote again to this young leader in the church at Ephesus to provide him encouragement and fortitude in the face of difficulties and trials.

Paul wrote 2 Timothy from a dark and damp Roman prison cell, just before his death in AD 67. The Roman emperor Nero had been slowly descending into madness since his ascent to the throne in AD 54, a process exacerbated by the great fire of Rome in AD 64 that burned half the city. With the residents of Rome in an uproar, Christians became a convenient target for Nero, who used believers as scapegoats for his city’s own lack of preparedness. Paul was one of those caught up in this persecution and was beheaded by Roman officials soon after writing this letter.

**Resource: https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/second-timothy**

1. Read 2 Timothy 1: 1-7. What do we learn in these verses about Paul’s relationship with Timothy?
2. How would you describe Paul’s emotions toward Timothy?
3. What did Paul’s feelings of affection toward Timothy cause him to do?
4. How does Paul affirm Timothy starting in verse 5?
5. What do we learn about how Timothy came to faith?
6. What does he mean to “stir up the gift of God?”
7. What does the term “stir up” imply about the dangers of complacency?
8. Do you think believers are more excited about their faith in the first year or tenth year after believing in Christ?
9. Why do new believers have that excitement and passion? Why do older believers sometimes lack that?
10. How can we avoid becoming complacent in our Christian walks?
11. In what ways might a timid spirit show itself? How can we demonstrate “power, love, and sound mind?”
12. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-12. Why might some believers have kept their distance from Paul?
13. How does Paul exhort Timothy?
14. What can we learn from his challenge to “not be ashamed of our Lord or of me His prisoner?”
15. Is it possible for a believer to shirk away from identifying with other believers publicly, while still being bold for Christ? Why or why not?
16. For what purpose has God saved us?
17. For what reason does Paul suffer these things (12)?
18. Why was Paul so bold (12?)
19. What had he entrusted to Christ to guard for him? Until what day?
20. Read 2 Timothy 1: 13-18. What are sound words?
21. How can you also retain the standard of sound words?
22. What treasure had been entrusted to Timothy (14)? Is it also entrusted to you?
23. How had other brothers reacted to Paul’s imprisonment?
24. What can we learn from the different reactions of Phygeleus, Hermogenes, and Onesiphorus?
25. What can you do to be more like Onesiphorus?