

## A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You II Timothy

I trust today that you have discovered it is a good life, living for the Lord. Thank you once again for joining me. We're going to look today and continue our study in the subject, "A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You," the books of the New Testament. Today we're in study number sixteen, II Timothy. And let me remind you that our goal is not to go to an in-depth study of each book of the New Testament, but rather to give a bird's-eye view of what these books are about. This will help us think our way through the New Testament.

In II Timothy chapter 1, verses 6-7 and verse 13, I believe these are three of the key verses we find in II Timothy, it says, *<sup>6</sup>Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. And verse 13 of II Timothy 1 says: Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

Now, we know that Paul the apostle was the author of this book, of this letter to Timothy. What we fail to understand sometimes is Paul was not only an apostle. In II Timothy chapter 1 and verse 11, it tells us something else about Paul. It says there, *Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.* Paul was not only an apostle, but he was a preacher and a teacher. And something we overlook sometimes as well is found in II Timothy chapter 2 and verse 9. It says there, *Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.*

Paul was not only an apostle, a preacher, and a teacher, he was also a criminal in the sight of Rome and in the sight of those people who hated him. He was hated because he was a man of God, and he was proclaiming the Word of God throughout the known world at that time. Well, we'll say, in the

world that he could reach for the Lord. And as we think of Paul the apostle, we think of a man who has written over half of the New Testament.

Well, the date of this writing of II Timothy was between 65-66 A.D, and this was probably the last letter that Paul wrote before being executed by the Roman government.

In II Timothy chapter 4, verses 6-8, it says, *<sup>6</sup>For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.* It appears by those verses that Paul knew that his time was short on this earth, but he was ready. He was ready to see his Lord, and he leaves us with this word in the last section of those verses that I just read. It says *unto all them that love his appearing.*

And we are promised a crown of righteousness because we are looking for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to come back in the clouds to receive us up when He says, "Come up hither." And of course, I'm speaking of the rapture of the church of the people of God, of those people who have trusted Jesus as their Savior. And Paul says, "I'm going to see you one day, as well, but I want to see my Lord even more."

Well, the setting of this writing, II Timothy, the second letter, is while the aging apostle is imprisoned in Rome and Timothy has been in Ephesus for a while, seeking to mature the saints, and now Paul wants Timothy with him in Rome. Second Timothy chapter 4, verse 9 and verse 21, says, *<sup>9</sup>Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me. Verse 21, Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and*

*Claudia, and all the brethren.* So Paul wanted Timothy to come to him. He wanted to see him once again.

Well, the theme of the book seems to be that Timothy is instructed by the apostle to continue steadfastly in the direction that Paul had already taken so that he may fulfill his ministry. And isn't that the way it is today? When a person receives Jesus as Savior, when someone's helped that person, led that person along and introduced that individual to Jesus, they want the person to continue on. They want that person to mature and grow in the Lord Jesus Christ, studying the Word of God by giving out the Word of God, leading others to Jesus Christ.

It appears here that Timothy is being charged to continue the work that Paul had started because Paul will soon die. In II Timothy chapter 2, verses 1-2, it says, <sup>1</sup>*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.* <sup>2</sup>*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.* When we come to Jesus, we get saved, we ask Him to come into our heart, and then we are to give out the Word. We are to share with others what has taken place in our lives, that we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, committed to other people. Commit the Gospel to other individuals.

Well, what about the purpose of the book? Paul gives instruction to Timothy. He says, first of all, to stir up the gift, stir up that which is within you. Second Timothy chapter 1, verses 6-7, says, <sup>6</sup>*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.* <sup>7</sup>*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Secondly, we see that an instruction here is to hold forth the Gospel. Paul tells Timothy to hold the Gospel forth. In II Timothy chapter 1, verses 8-14,

Paul talks about this. He says, <sup>8</sup>*Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.* Paul says, "Preach the Word of God and remember that I've suffered and it's possible, Timothy, that you will suffer as well." And as we look at these Scriptures today, we look at these men and women of the New Testament and the Old Testament of how individuals gave their lives, gave a life, to stand up for Jesus, for the Word of God.

Can we do less today than to look to Jesus and say, "I'm ready. I want to serve You no matter what it is." Well, Paul is telling Timothy this. He's saying, "Stand up for the Gospel."

Paul also says to train other faithful men, according to II Timothy chapter 2, verses 1-2. And then we see that once again he's talking about suffering hardship. He says, "Be willing to suffer hardship." The Lord tells us that we possibly will go through tribulation, not the Great Tribulation, but we could possibly suffer hardship, and he says, if you do, count it all glory because it will bring honor and glory to the Heavenly Father.

And then we see that Timothy is to charge the brethren to avoid vain words. Don't be arguing about things that are useless. Second Timothy chapter 2, verse 14 and verse 16, talks about that. And then he says, "Timothy, abide in the Word." Second Timothy chapter 3, verses 14-17, says, <sup>14</sup>*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;* <sup>15</sup>*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* <sup>16</sup>*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* <sup>17</sup>*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* Paul says, "Abide in the Word. Stay in the Word, Timothy," and that resounds to us today. Stay in the Word. Study the

Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

He says not only abide in the Word, but he says, "Proclaim the Word of God." Second Timothy chapter 4, verses 1-4, talks about that, and he also tells Timothy, "Complete the work. Fulfill your ministry." Second Timothy chapter 4 and verse 5.

We could go on and on in this book, but once again, our goal is not to have an in-depth study here but to get a bird's-eye view of what Paul is telling Timothy.

What about some applications here? What can we learn? First, I believe that God has given us the spirit of power, love, and proper thinking. He's given us the Holy Spirit Who lives within us, Who is sealing us and Who is indwelling us, giving us the wisdom that we need to use the knowledge that God gives us through His Word. We also see that good works is remembering to use God's Word correctly. We are not to argue about things but we are to give out the Word of God to accomplish something, and that something is to bring people to Jesus. The Scriptures will equip us for good, every good work, according to II Timothy chapter 3, verses 16-17.

Have you trusted Him today? Do you know Jesus as your Savior? If not, may I invite you to do so right now. If we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved, the Bible says. We need to be willing to turn from sin and ask Jesus to come into our hearts. "For by grace we're saved through faith and that, not of ourselves. It's a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast," according to Ephesians chapter 2, verses 8-9.

Trust Him today. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior right now." If you'll pray that prayer, the Bible says whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Why not

bow your head where you're at and ask Jesus to come into your heart.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and let me remind you that you can go to our website, [www.LRWM.org](http://www.LRWM.org), and you can download a transcript of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life." You can even go there and listen to other programs of "It's a Good Life," and you can also find some good preaching messages on there, as well. One of the most important things on that website is you can go there and you can share a prayer request. We want to pray for you and with you about things that you need to pray for and maybe you're praying for a lost loved one. We want to share that with God for you and with you. You can also write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

Until this same time when you'll hear me say, "It is a good life," may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.