

## [Introduction to 2 Timothy](#)

See "The Pastoral Letters."

### **Author, Date and Setting**

After Paul's release from prison in Rome in A.D. 62/63 ([Ac 28](#)) and after his fourth missionary journey, during which he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus, Paul was again imprisoned under Emperor Nero c. 66-67. It was during this time that he wrote 2 Timothy. In contrast to his first imprisonment, when he lived in a rented house ([Ac 28:30](#)), he now languished in a cold dungeon ([4:13](#)), chained like a common criminal ([1:16](#); [2:9](#)). His friends even had a hard time finding out where he was being kept ([1:17](#)). Paul knew that his work was done and his life was nearly at an end ([4:6-8](#)).

### **Reasons for Writing**

Paul had three reasons for writing to Timothy at this time:

1. He was lonely. Phygelus and Hermogenes, "everyone in the province of Asia" ([1:15](#)), and Demas ([4:10](#)) had deserted him. Crescens, Titus and Tychicus were away ([4:10-12](#)), and only Luke was with him ([4:11](#)). Paul wanted very much for Timothy to join him also. Timothy was his "fellow worker" ([Ro 16:21](#)), who "as a son with his father" had served closely with Paul ([Php 2:22](#); see [1Co 4:17](#)). Of him Paul could say, "I have no one else like him" ([Php 2:20](#)). Paul longed for Timothy ([1:4](#)) and twice asked him to come soon ([4:9](#), [21](#)). For more information on Timothy see Introduction to [1 Timothy](#): Recipient.

2. Paul was concerned about the welfare of the churches during this time of persecution under Nero, and he admonishes Timothy to guard the gospel ([1:14](#)), to persevere in it ([3:14](#)), to keep on preaching it ([4:2](#)) and, if necessary, to suffer for it ([1:8](#); [2:3](#)).

3. He wanted to write to the Ephesian church through Timothy (see note on [4:22](#)).

### **Outline**

- I. Introduction ([1:1-4](#))
- II. Paul's Concern for Timothy ([1:5-14](#))
- III. Paul's Situation ([1:15-18](#))
- IV. Special Instructions to Timothy (ch. [2](#))
  - A. Call for Endurance ([2:1-13](#))
  - B. Warning about Foolish Controversies ([2:14-26](#))
- V. Warning about the Last Days (ch. [3](#))
  - A. Terrible Times ([3:1-9](#))
  - B. Means of Combating Them ([3:10-17](#))
- VI. Paul's Departing Remarks ([4:1-8](#))
  - A. Charge to Preach the Word ([4:1-5](#))
  - B. Paul's Victorious Prospect ([4:6-8](#))
- VII. Final Requests and Greetings ([4:9-22](#))