

Key to II TIMOTHY

1. BACKGROUND:

Writer is Paul; time is about A.D. 67; place of writing is Rome. Timothy, to whom the letter was written, was Paul's dear son in the faith.

II Timothy is closely related to the first letter to Timothy. It is believed that after Paul left Timothy at Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3) and Titus at Crete (Titus 1:5) he went on to Macedonia where I Timothy was written. Possibly Paul then visited several other churches he had promised to visit. Soon Paul was arrested and taken to Rome where he was again imprisoned. As he awaited his trial (4:16-18) he sent this heart-filled letter to his beloved Timothy urging him to come to him quickly (4:21).

2. THEME

This letter was Paul's last message to his children in the faith. The subject seems to be the walk and warfare of a good soldier of JESUS CHRIST. The one speaking is the old warrior who was about to go off the scene. He wrote to encourage many to follow him, and voiced his final shout of triumph.

3. MAIN DIVISIONS

The apostle's greeting (1); the right way in a day of apostasy (2); apostasy and the Word (3); a faith servant and his faithful Lord (4).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Though this letter does not mention this, it was at this time that the great fire in Rome occurred. And Nero, in order to divert suspicion from himself, accused the Christians of the crime.

In Paul's first imprisonment he had been allowed to stay in his own hired house (Acts 28:30). But with his rearrest, he was confined to the infamous Mammertine Prison in the city of Rome itself.

It is possible that Alexander, the Ephesian coppersmith, was largely instrumental in Paul's arrest and trial (4:14; Acts 19:33).

Not only does Paul urge Timothy three times to come to him, but the dankness of the prison can be visualized as he pleads for the cloak (4:13) which he left at Troas, and the books and the parchments.

Paul's only companion was his faithful "**beloved physician**" Luke. Some of his friends had forsaken him under the pressure. Others, he had sent in the line of duty. Now he calls also for John Mark, who helped Paul in his early ministry, had subsequently failed, and later proved himself to be worthy (4:11).

5. OUTLINE:

Introduction (1:1-5)

Christian Conduct (1:6-2:14)

Courage

Steadfastness

Endurance

Christian Preaching (2:15 - 4:5)

Preparation

Congregation

Scripturalism

Dispensation

Paul's Last Words (4:6-22)

6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

Here is Paul's valedictory. Here are the last utterances of the greatest Christian who ever lived. The battle-scarred warrior looking back over his long and busy life cries out "**I have kept the faith.**"

While I Timothy seems concerned about the work of a pastor, II Timothy emphasizes the work of the preacher. There was need of courage, steadfastness, and fidelity, especially since many were departing from the faith.

Paul looks into the future and exhorts Timothy to "**endure hardness,**" to commit the testimony to faithful men, to study to show himself approved unto GOD.

Perilous times were ahead and there were to be trials and persecutions for all who would live godly in CHRIST Jesus.

7. KEY:

These last words ought to be read in connection with Paul's outline-autobiography in II Corinthians 11:16-33. Here indeed was GOD's man, the greatest defender of the Gospel who ever lived. Read this and go out to do likewise.

~ end of II Timothy ~

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