

June 21, 2009



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas**

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**Perseverance  
in Leadership  
A Study in 2 Timothy**

Date	Lesson	Text
06/21	Introduction	
06/28	Perseverance in Heritage	1:1-18
07/12	Perseverance in Work	2:1-13
07/19	Perseverance in Character	2:14-26
07/26	Perseverance in Following	3:10-17
08/02	Perseverance in Word	4:1-8
08/09	Summary & Review	

**Food for Thought**

**Faithful Followers and Leaders**

Keep me faithful, keep me grateful,  
This my earnest plea each day!  
Keep me serving, keep me telling  
Of His love while yet I may!  
We can never sacrifice too much  
for Him who sacrificed His all for  
us.

*The elders who direct the affairs of  
the church well are worthy of double  
honor, especially those whose work  
is preaching and teaching.*

**1 Tim 5:17 (NIV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread" April 9, 2007)*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF 2 TIMOTHY

Danger and the likelihood of imminent death were no strangers to Paul. As Paul's associate Timothy saw this first hand, and from the very beginning. It would seem that Timothy came to faith through Paul's first missionary journey. Paul's first visit to Lystra, Timothy's hometown, was accompanied by some most unusual events. It was not until Paul's second missionary journey that he took Timothy along with him (Acts 16:1-3). But Paul's words to Timothy strongly suggest that Timothy was well aware of what had happened to Paul on his first visit to Lystra (2 Timothy 3:10-11). For many years, Timothy accompanied Paul and experienced danger with Paul first hand. I am not aware of anyone who knew Paul more intimately, nor served with him so faithfully. After Paul left Timothy behind in Ephesus, he wrote him regarding conduct in the household of faith. This letter we know as 1 Timothy. **But between the writing of this first letter and Paul's subsequent letter to Timothy many things have changed**, as we see from a reading of 2 Timothy. In 1 Timothy, Paul instructed Timothy to remain on at Ephesus in order to deal with false teachers (1 Timothy 1:3); in 2 Timothy, Paul tells Timothy he is sending Tychicus to Ephesus and urges him to come to his side as soon as possible (2 Timothy 4:9, 12). When Paul wrote 1 Timothy, he had been freed from his first Roman imprisonment and was carrying on his ministry (in Macedonia? – see 1 Timothy 1:3); **as Paul writes 2 Timothy, he is once again in prison, and this time he is not nearly as optimistic about the outcome** (2 Timothy 1:16; 2:9). Some have even suggested that Timothy may not have arrived before Paul was executed. Paul's last words to Timothy sound very much like a farewell address (2 Timothy 4:6-8). One definitely gets the feeling that Paul is passing the torch of leadership to Timothy, and to those who will succeed him. In 1 Timothy, Paul instructs Timothy how he should conduct his ministry in Ephesus; in 2 Timothy, Paul instructs Timothy how he should conduct himself and his ministry in the last days, in Paul's absence. Things have definitely changed by the time Paul writes 2 Timothy. The future does not look good for Paul, and this great apostle knows that things will only get worse for Timothy as well. Unlike Paul's first imprisonment, when the apostle was optimistic about his release (Philippians 1:19-26), Paul seems to know that the time of his departure is drawing near. Paul seems to sense that these are his last words. Therefore, Paul has a **two-fold purpose for writing Timothy: (1) To urge Timothy to come to him quickly. (2) To encourage and exhort Timothy to stand firm in the difficult days that lie ahead.** Well-known texts are found in all four chapters of this powerful letter. It is without a doubt one of the most important New Testament letters. Let us listen prayerfully and carefully to what God has to say to us through Paul.

The Book of 2 Timothy to fall into the following divisions:

1:1-2	Greeting
1:3-2:13	Paul's Challenge to Timothy
2:14-3:9	Instructions Regarding False Teachers
3:10-4:8	Following Paul's Example
4:9-22	Paul's Final Instructions for Timothy

*(Excerpt from "Creation to the Cross" By Bob Deffinbaugh)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

**AUTHOR:** The apostle Paul

**DATE WRITTEN:** Probably written from Rome between A.D. 65 and 67. It is generally believed that Paul suffered two imprisonments at Rome and that it was during the second that this epistle was written. Formerly he had had a certain degree of liberty and had lived in his own hired house, Ac 28:30. At that time he had been accessible to his friends, but now he is in close confinement and Onesiphorus had difficulty in finding him, 1:17. He had been deserted by many of his former associates, 1:15; and was expecting very soon to be led out to execution, 4:6. There is a pathetic strain of loneliness running through the epistle, and it is not surprising that he was anxious to see his beloved Timothy. The letter contains the last recorded words of the apostle.

**PURPOSE:**

1. General, to encourage and instruct a young pastor in his ministerial work.
2. Special, to request Timothy, his son in the Gospel, to hasten to Rome so that Paul might have the comfort of his companionship, 1:4; 4:9, 21.

**TO WHOM WRITTEN:** Timothy. Both epistles to Timothy contain urgent exhortations.

1. It has been surmised that Timothy was not robust, 1 Ti 5:23.
2. Perhaps he was temperamentally timid, 1:6-7. Hence the word "ashamed" appears prominently in the epistle. He was urged not to be ashamed of his testimony, his prisoner friend (1:8), or his workmanship, 2:15.
3. He was exhorted to regard himself as a soldier in the midst of a hard campaign, 2:3-4.

**MAIN THEMES:** Faithfulness and boldness in the ministry, especially in the face of opposition and suffering.

**KEY WORDS:** Endure, 2:3; continue, 3:14.

**KEY VERSES:** 2 Tim 2:1-4; 2 Tim 3:14-17

**SYNOPSIS:**

**I. Personal Greetings, Exhortations, and Experiences (Chapter 1)**

1. The affectionate greeting (1:1-4)
2. A reminder to Timothy of his godly ancestry and an exhortation to earnestness and courage (1:5-8)
3. A reference to the plan of salvation through Christ (1:9-10)
4. Personal allusions to the writer's own call to the work and his unswerving confidence in the Lord (1:11-12)
5. A second exhortation (1:13-14)
6. A reference to the disloyalty of the churches in Asia and a commendation of the constancy of Onesiphorus (1:15-18)

**II. Chiefly Counsels to the Young Servant of the Lord (Chapter 2)**

1. As a spiritual soldier, athlete, and husbandman (2:1-6)
2. Truths to be kept in mind (2:7-12)
3. Counsels in respect to dealing with heresy and religious controversy (2:13-21)
4. Counsels respecting personal desires and dealing with strife (2:22-26)

**III. Chiefly Predictions of Apostasy and Social Corruption coupled with an exhortation to steadfastness (Chapter 3)**

1. The various evil characteristics of people in the last days who under the guise of religion will practice sensuality. Their stupidity and folly will one day be manifest to all (3:1-9)
2. Parenthesis. References to persecution (3:11-12)
3. A prediction of the rising tide of sin (3:13)
4. An appeal to Timothy to be steadfast in view of his spiritual opportunities and early training in the Scriptures (3:14-15)
5. The power of the inspired Word of God to equip and perfect Christian workers for their tasks (3:16-17)

**IV. A Solemn Charge, a Victorious End, a Sad Desertion, a Pathetic Appeal, a Perfect Confidence (Chapter 4)**

1. The Solemn Charge (4:1-5)
2. The Close of Paul's Career (4:6-18)
3. The Need of Companionship and some things to relieve the hardships of imprisonment (4:19-22)

**PROMINENT PEOPLE:** Paul, Timothy, Luke, Mark, and other friends of Paul.

*(Taken from Thompson's Bible Book Outlines)*