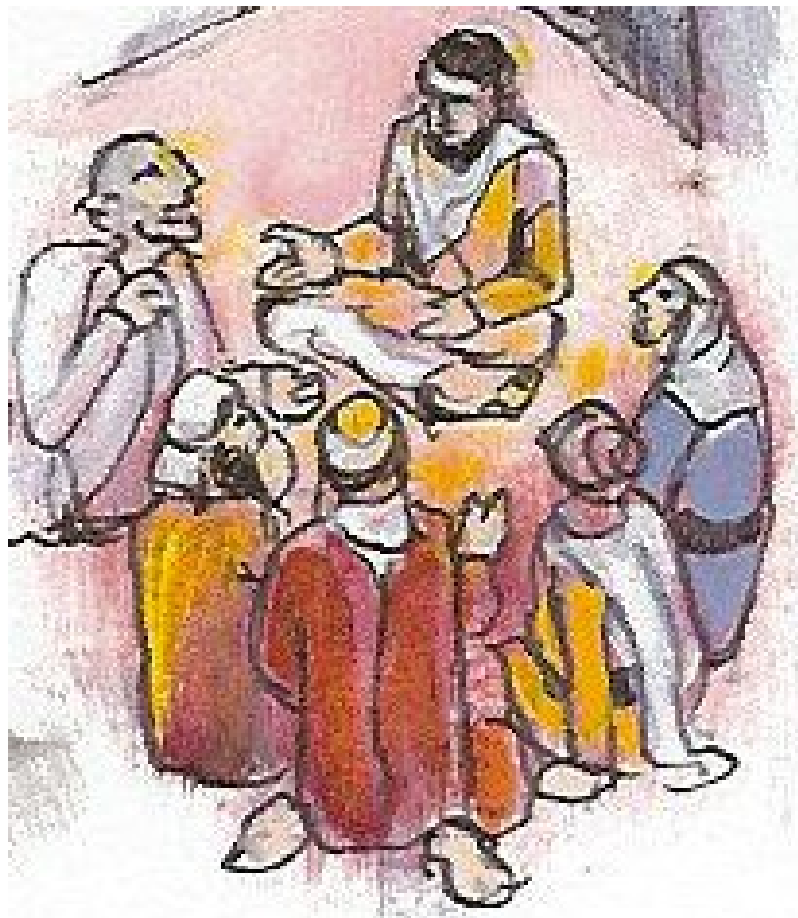


Kiama Anglican Church
Christ Church Kiama with St. Paul's Minnamurra

Grace and Strength

“Strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus”



2 Timothy

Studies in The Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

Bible Studies : Term 4 : 2010

Grace and Strength

“Strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus”

2 Timothy

It is the early 60s AD and Paul is once again in prison in Rome. When we studied Philippians he was also in Rome in prison but it would appear he was released, as he hoped, and was able to continue ministry. Now he has been arrested again and to the best of our understanding he will only leave prison on this occasion to be taken out and beheaded.

Timothy, Paul’s friend, associate and protégé, is a young church leader in the bustling cosmopolitan port of Ephesus where in Act 19 Paul had had a hand in establishing a growing church. Paul had written the church a letter, Ephesians, reminding them of what God had done for them by grace and encouraging them to live lives worthy of the gospel and stand strong in the faith. Now Timothy leads this maturing Church.

Paul has written an earlier letter and now writes again to Timothy, the elder apostle to the younger disciple and church leader. His message is one of encouragement and challenge, of love and support, of truth and warning.

This letter however is not merely for one Church Leader in one town nearly 2000 years ago. Our Lord God through His Holy Spirit has seen fit to preserve this letter to guide, encourage and challenge us as we too seek to live as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that through the study of these 4 brief chapters we will all grow in our relationship to our Lord, to our church and to one another.

Greg Holmes - August 2010

THE STUDIES

Study Date	Topic	Passage	Page No	
1	Sun 17 Oct	Guard the gospel.	2 Timothy 1:1-12	5
2	Sun 24 Oct	Suffer for the gospel	2 Timothy 1:13-2:13	7
3	Sun 31 Oct	Stand firm for the gospel	2 Timothy 2:14-26	9
	Sun 7 Nov	<i>David Mansfield : Visiting Speaker.</i>		
4	Sun 14 Nov	Continue in the gospel	2 Timothy 3:1-17	11
5	Sun 21 Nov	Proclaim the gospel	2 Timothy 4:1-22	13

If you want a good introduction to this epistle Mark Dever’s overview sermon (a bit over an hour long) which can be found at www.capitolhillbaptist.org/audio/1999/12/26/loneliness-the-message-of-2-timothy/ is a great, thought provoking resource.

References:

Stott, John, The Message of 2 Timothy : Guard the Gospel (Bible Speaks Today Series) (Leicester, IVP, 1973)

Guthrie, D. The Pastoral Epistles (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries) (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1990)

Liefeld, W.L. 1 & 2 Timothy / Titus (The NIV Application Commentary) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1999)

Study 1: 2 Timothy 1:1-12

Day	Reading	To Think On	To Pray About	Personal Prayer Points
1	2 Timothy 1: 1-12	Paul’s unquenchable faith.	Thank God for the Christians who minister to you	
2	1 Timothy 1-2	The meaning of grace, mercy and peace.	For all those in authority over us.	
3	Psalms 34:1-10	The gracious and faithful God we serve.	Praise God for who he is.	
4	Matthew 5: 1-16	What it means to be ‘blessed.’	For strength to be ‘salt and light’	
5	Acts 19:1-41	Paul’s bold preaching in Ephesus.	For boldness from God to speak the gospel.	

This grid for this set of studies is a bit different.

Day 1 is the 2 Timothy reading for the week.

Day 2 will have us read through 1 Timothy in the 5 weeks.

Day 3 is the Old Testament Reading that will be read in Church for this study.

Day 4 will have us read through the Sermon on The Mount in the 5 weeks.

Day 5 takes us on a Journey through the passages which relate to Ephesus in the New Testament.

Study 1: 2 Timothy 1:1-12

Guard the Gospel

It would be a valuable exercise to read aloud 2 Timothy together at the start of this series.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. Who is the letter to and from? What greeting is given?**
- 2. What does Paul pray for in v3-4?**
- 3. What is the believer’s role in his or her salvation (v8-10)? When was this decision made?**
- 4. In v6 what is the gift of God? What is Timothy to do with it?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Read v7-8. What possible aspect of Timothy’s personality is Paul addressing? How does God help Timothy overcome this?**
- 2. Verse 8 speaks of ‘power’, ‘love’ and ‘self-discipline’. What is the relationship between these three in the Christian life?**
- 3. What are we told about Timothy’s background (v5)? What conclusion does Paul draw from this?**
- 4. Read v10. What specific space/time events are reflected in these words? Why is this important?**

Apply

- 1. What can we learn from Paul’s words to Timothy here? You might like to think about**

**your backgrounds, your personality traits,
and your commitment to the Gospel cause.**

2. **Meditate on v12. Do you have that sort
of conviction?**

**For Next Week: Read 2 Timothy 1:13-
2:13.**

Study 2: 2 Timothy 1:13-2:13

Day	Reading	To Think On	To Pray About	Personal Prayer Points
1	2 Timothy 1:13 – 2:12	Endurance.	Thank God for those who passed on the message of the Gospel to you.	
2	1 Timothy 3	The qualifications of any servant of Christ.	For our leaders and their walk with the Lord.	
3	Joshua 1:1-9	Being ‘strong and courageous’ for God.	For strength to stand for Christ in our community.	
4	Matthew 5: 17-48	Heart faithfulness.	For the constant change in our hearts that is needed to serve Jesus.	
5	Acts 20:13-38	‘The whole counsel of God’.	For the ability to be shepherds to one another.	

Study 2: 2 Timothy 1:13-2:13

Suffer for the Gospel

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. From 1:13-14 what is Paul asking Timothy to do?**
- 2. Read 1:15-18. What can you say about Paul’s relationships here? What do we learn about the man, Paul?**
- 3. What three illustrations does Paul use to illustrate Christian life (2:3-6)? What does each encourage us to do?**
- 4. 1:15, 2:3,9,10 speak of Paul’s suffering as a Christian. Why is he reminding Timothy of this?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. What is the good deposit (1:14)?**
- 2. In 2:2 how does Paul envisage the gospel being spread? Where are we as a church in regard to doing this?**
- 3. What does 2:8 tell us about Jesus? Why are these things important as part of the gospel**
- 4. What does the ‘trustworthy saying’ in 2:11-13 tell us about ourselves and about God?**

Apply

- 1. Paul asks Timothy to ‘reflect on’ what he says in 2:1-6. Share your**

reflections on these matters.

2. **Suffering for Christ is not a pleasant idea. How do you react to the idea that Christians should suffer for their faith?**

For Next Week: Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26.

Study 3: 2 Timothy 2:14-26

Day	Reading	To Think On	To Pray About	Personal Prayer Points
1	2 Timothy 2:14-26	Living together as a true ‘church’.	That we will all pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.	
2	1 Timothy 4	The hope we have in ‘a living god’.	That God will grant greater and greater ‘godliness’ to us.	
3	Psalms 78:1-8	The praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.	That we will faithfully teach the next generation about the Lord.	
4	Matthew 6:1-18	Godly giving, prayer and fasting.	Use the Lord’s Prayer as your devotional prayer for the day.	
5	Ephesians 1-3	“By grace you are saved through faith.”	Thank God that we are ‘made alive in Christ.’	

Study 3: 2 Timothy 2:14-26

Work for the Gospel

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. In v14-16 what is Timothy’s task? ?**
- 2. What have Hymenaeus and his friend been teaching? What is the problem with this?**
- 3. What is Timothy warned about in v22 and what should he do to heed the warning?**
- 4. What does being the Lord’s servant look like (v24-25)?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Read v15. From this verse and the rest of the passage what does the ‘approved workman’ look like?**
- 2. What does the illustration about ‘articles’ (v20-21) tell us about being a Christian?**
- 3. What is the hoped for result as the Lord’s servant works (v25-26)?**
- 4. ‘Quarrelling’ and ‘godless chatter’ (v14, 16,23-24) are spoken against in the passage. What do these mean? What is their result? What should the godly person do about them?**

Apply

- 1. It is not only youth who have ‘evil**

desires’. How do we go about ‘fleeing’ them and pursuing righteousness (v22)?

2. **One approved, a workman, noble ‘articles’, servants. How does this passage assist us to be truly godly people?**

For Next Week: Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17.

Study 4: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Day	Reading	To Think On	To Pray About	Personal Prayer Points
1	2 Timothy 3: 1-17	The last days.	That you and our whole church might ‘continue in what you have leaned’.	
2	1 Timothy 5	Widows, elders and slaves.	For those who do the work of preaching and teaching in our congregations.	
3	Psalms 119: 9-24	The things God’s active Word does.	Thank God for his marvellous Word.	
4	Matthew 6: 19-34	Where your treasure is kept.	For a trust in God for true treasures and true security.	
5	Ephesians 4-6	Living as Children of Light.	That God will indeed provide for you the armour you need to serve Him	

Study 4: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Continue in the Gospel

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. What times is Paul talking about in v1-5? What sort of people will characterise the age?**
- 2. Read v6-9. What is Paul warning about here? How do we take heed?**
- 3. Whose example is Paul expounding in v10-13? What is the point he is making?**
- 4. In v14-17 what is Timothy to continue in? Follow the thought through to the end of the chapter.**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Consider the list in v2-5 and its seeming ‘ordinariness’. What does this say to us about how our lives as Christians ought to be?**
- 2. Considering v10-13 what impression do you have of Paul who, as he writes these words from prison, faces almost certain death?**
- 3. 3:15-17 are about the Scriptures. What is the nature of the Scriptures, their purpose and their outcome according to this passage?**
- 4. What does the last section of this chapter (v14-17) have to say to the**

issues raised in the first 9 verses?

Apply

- 1. Whose example do you look to? Why are Christian examples important? What sort of example are you?**
- 2. Discuss the list of ‘sins’ in v2-5. How do you avoid these temptations, which are so evident in our world?**

For Next Week: Read 2 Timothy 4:1-22.

Study 5: 2 Timothy 4:1-22

Day	Reading	To Think On	To Pray About	Personal Prayer Points
1	2 Timothy 4: 1-22	Preaching the Word.	For all those significant Christians in your life.	
2	1 Timothy 6	Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.	For ‘godliness with contentment.’	
3	Isaiah 61:1-7	“The year of our Lord’s favour”.	Thank the Lord for his eternal plan to save people to himself.	
4	Matthew 7: 1-29	Wide and narrow gates.	For wisdom to discern ‘the solid rock.’	
5	Revelation 2:1-7	Have you ‘forsaken your first love?’	For ‘an ear to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’	

Study 5: 2 Timothy 4:1-22

Proclaim the Gospel

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. What charge does Paul give to Timothy now (v1-2 and 5)? How serious is he about it?**
- 2. What will men prefer to sound doctrine?**
- 3. What happened at Paul’s ‘first defence’ (v16-17)? What was Paul concerned should happen?**
- 4. In all of this where is Paul’s primary confidence? Why? (note 1:12)**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Look at each of the elements of v2. Discuss what they are and how they relate to one another?**
- 2. What warning is there for us in v3 and 4?**
- 3. What is Paul saying about his life in v6-8? Where is his ultimate confidence?**
- 4. Consider carefully v(6)9-22. What do they tell us about Paul and his attitude to his situation and to his personal relationships?**
- 5. Look at Matthew 6:13. How is v18 and answer to this prayer?**

Apply

1. “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.’ Are these just words for Timothy and other leaders of churches or are they for all of us?

2. Do you ‘long for His appearing’? Should you?

For Next Week: Re-Read 2 Timothy right through.

“IF A LOCAL CHURCH IS TO BECOME A
GOSPEL CHURCH, IT MUST NOT ONLY
RECEIVE THE GOSPEL AND PASS IT ON, BUT
ALSO EMBODY IT IN A COMMUNITY LIFE OF
MUTUAL LOVE.
NOTHING BUT THE GRACE OF CHRIST CAN
ACCOMPLISH THIS.”

Stott, John, The Message of Thessalonians: Preparing for the Coming King (Bible Speaks Today Series) (Leicester, IVP, 1990)