



Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

2 Timothy 3-4

Inductive Discovery Lesson 23

Think, as you read these final chapters, how precious this letter was to Timothy. Paul was a father, a mentor, a hero in Timothy's eyes. Timothy joined Paul's ministry team when he was a new convert, but Paul saw a missionary in the making. It was a turning point for a quiet young man with limited life experience—he could not have foreseen all that God had planned for him. Reading Paul's letter stirred memories. Timothy could truly look back, through all the trials and challenges, and testify how faithful God had always been! Paul's words stirred up a new sense of urgency too. *Difficult days are ahead Timothy. Be strong. Stay true to your convictions.* For all his adult life, Timothy had watched and learned from Paul...how to preach, how to pray, how to take it on the chin and keep going. Timothy didn't have Paul's natural boldness or his skillful way with words, but he knew his mission was to preach the gospel. So he took Paul's inspired words to heart. To the end of his days, Timothy carried that tear-stained letter with him and read it often. It gave him courage and kept him focused. It prepared him to be wise about this world.

Think, as you read these final chapters, how precious this letter is for us. Words written long ago that ring loud and clear today. Are you listening?

Tracing Paul's Steps: *The Final Days*

- Paul was imprisoned a second time in Rome, ca. 67 AD; probably in the notorious Mamertine Prison. (2 Timothy 1:9)
- At Paul's preliminary hearing, no one came to his support. Some scholars believe Paul may have faced trumped-up charges of conspiracy and arson since Christians were blamed for the great fire of 64—but this is only speculation. (2 Timothy 4:16)
- Aware that his days were numbered, Paul wrote to Timothy in Ephesus. The letter was most likely delivered by Tychicus. (2 Timothy 4:6, 12)
- According to tradition, Paul was condemned on charges of treason against the emperor. As a Roman citizen, he was privately beheaded rather than publicly crucified or thrown into the arena with wild animals.
- The day before his execution, Paul was marched three miles out of the city by a road called the Ostian Way. He was put in a tiny cell overnight near a place of tombs. Was Luke allowed to stay with him? Did Paul spend his last hours in prayer and even singing? At dawn, the executioner stood ready. Paul was stripped to the waist and tied, kneeling upright, to a low pillar that left his neck free. He was beaten with rods; and then, with one sharp swing of the axe, Paul left this earthly life. Absent from the body, he was at last in the presence of his Lord.

Working Text for 2 Timothy 3-4

English Standard Version (ESV)

Chapter 3

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. **2** For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4** treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. **6** For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, **7** always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. **8** Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. **9** But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, **11** my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. **12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, **13** while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

9 Do your best to come to me soon. **10** For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. **12** Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. **14** Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. **15** Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. **16** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! **17** But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. **18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. **20** Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. **21** Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. **22** The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.



Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

4

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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2 Timothy 4:1-8

Facts from the passage:

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2 Timothy 4:9-22

Facts from the passage:

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Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in 2 Timothy 3-4.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

Chapter 3:16

“for **teaching**” _____

“for **reproof**” _____

“for **correction**” _____

“for **training in righteousness**” _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

"Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season..."

When your moment comes, stand and deliver.
God will give you courage as you tell others of His Son.
There is no greater honor on earth.

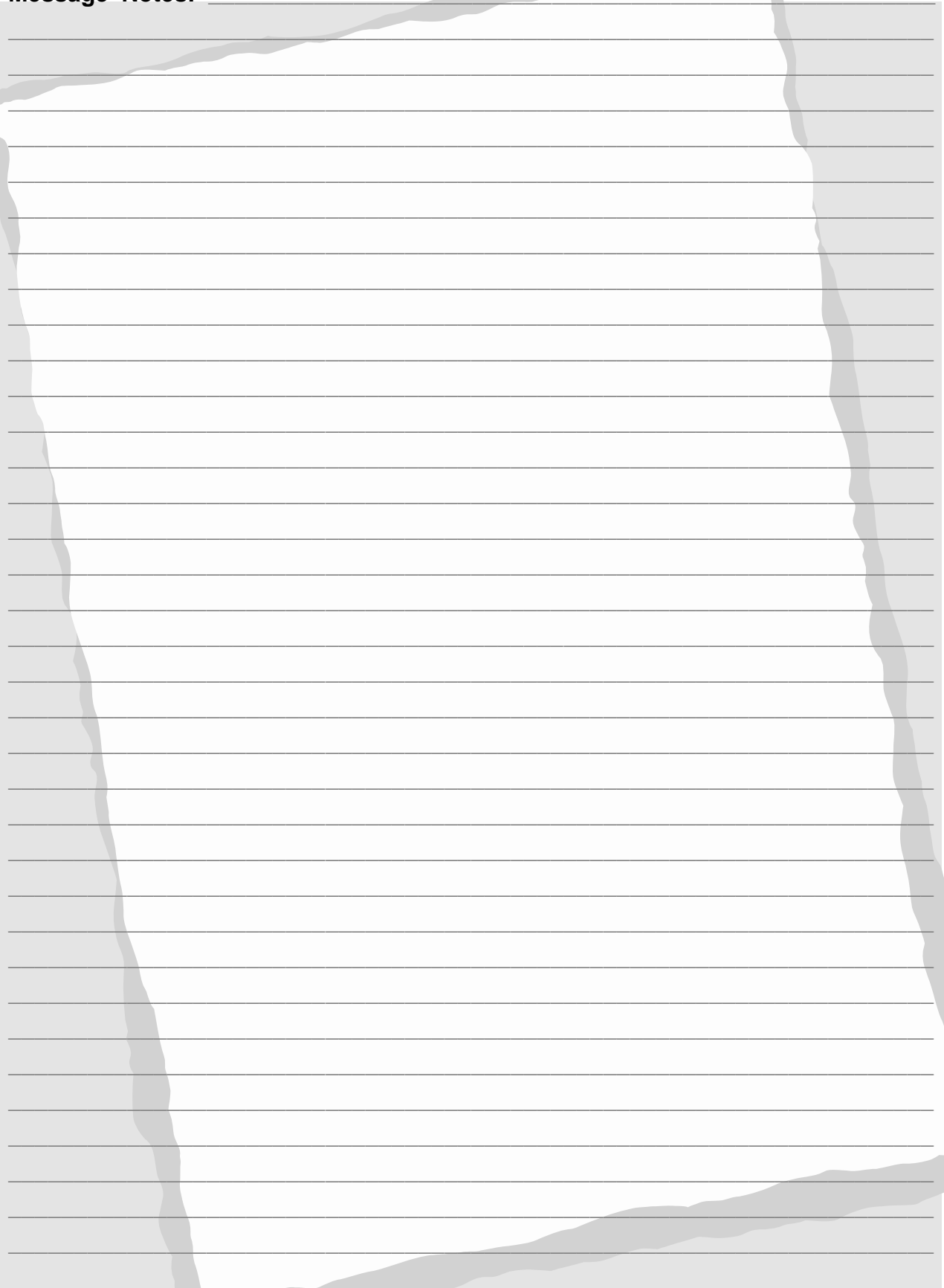
- Charles Swindoll -



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The left and bottom edges are irregular and torn, while the top and right edges are straight. The area is filled with light gray horizontal lines on a white background.



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