THE SECOND EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

1. The Second Epistle to Timothy is the latest of all of Paul’s writings. It was written during his second imprisonment at Rome, within a short time of his martyrdom (4:6), probably at the end of A.D. 67 or early 68. It is thought that at this time Timothy was at Ephesus. The apostle’s regard for his "dearly beloved son" is seen in 1:4, and it is affecting to observe the pathetic desire to see Timothy once more before death, 4:9, 11, 21. No further mention is made of Timothy. The tradition that he suffered martyrdom about the end of the first century is only tradition.

2. The prominent feature of this Epistle is the "church’s" departure from the truth (see 1:15; 2:17; 3:8; 4:4). When "all they which are in Asia (cp. Acts 19:10) be turned away from" Paul, he exhorts Timothy, his "son", therefore to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus". No more is there heard, as in the First Epistle and in that to Titus, the apostolic guidance for the church rule or administration of any kind. Only two things are possible now, "preach the word" (4:2), and "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2:2). And, as in the First Epistle, the Holy Spirit through Paul tells of even worse days to come, perilous, or grievous, times "in the last days" (3:1; 4:3), the only charge in connection with which is "Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of" (3:14).
1 Paul, an apostle [messenger sent forth] of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,
2 to Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
3 I have thanks to God, Whom I serve from my forefathers in pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;
4 Greatly desiring to see thee, having remembered of thy tears, in order that I may be filled with joy;
5 when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith in thee, which indwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.
6 On account of which cause I put thee in remembrance that thou stir into flame the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
7 For God gave not us a spirit [character] of cowardice; but of power, and of love, and of a sober mind.
8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony concerning our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou suffering evil with me for the gospel according to the power of God;
9 who ... saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, in that He ... abolished death, and shed light on life and incorruption through the gospel:
11 unto which I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
12 Wherefore I suffer these things also: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know Whom I have trusted, and am persuaded that He is able to guard my deposit unto the day of His appearing.
13 Hold ... the pattern of sound teachings, which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
14 The good deposit that was committed unto thee guard by the Holy Spirit Which indwelleth in us.
15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.
16 The Lord give mercy to the household of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain [bonds]:
17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.
18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in the day of His appearing: and in how many things he ministered ... at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.
2 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things that thou hast heard from me by means of many witnesses, these commit thou to faithful men, such as shall be competent to teach others also.
3 Thou therefore suffer evil, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
4 No one who is a soldier entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; in order that he may please him who chose him to be a soldier.
5 And if a man strive also to contend in the games, yet is he not crowned [with the crown of wild olive leaves], if not he strive also by the rules.
6 The husbandman that laboureth must be the first to partake of the fruits.
2. 7.  

II TIMOTHY.  

7 Consider what I say; and the Lord shall give thee understanding in all things.  
8 Remember ... *Jesus Christ of the seed of *David was raised out from among dead people according to my gospel:  
9 In which I suffer evil, as an *evil doer, even as far as bonds; but the word of God is not bound.  
10 On account of this I endure all things on account of the elect, in order that they also may obtain the salvation which is within Christ Jesus among eternal glory.  
11 Faithful is the saying: For if we died with Him, we shall live together also with Him:  
12 If we endure, we shall reign together also with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us:  
13 If we are unbelieving, yet He remains faithful: *For He is not able to deny Himself.  
14 Of these things put them in remembrance, earnestly testifying to them before God that they strive not about words unto nothing profitable, but to the overthrowing of the hearers.  
15 Be diligent to present thyself approved to God, a *workman without cause for shame, *rightly dividing [dissecting] the word of truth.  
16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will advance unto more absence of the fear of God.  
17 And their word will eat as doth a gangrene: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;  
18 For they concerning the truth ... missed the mark, saying that the resurrection has taken place already; and overturn the faith of certain ones.  
19 Nevertheless God’s firm foundation standeth firm, having this seal, The Lord knew them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.  
20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but wooden also and of earth; and some for honour, and some for dishonour.  
21 If a man therefore thoroughly purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and profitable for the master’s use, and prepared for every good work.  
22 Flee also the youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.  
23 But the foolish and un instructed, and so, trifling questions reject, knowing that they do beget fightings.  
24 And the servant of the Lord must not fight; but be gentle unto all men, qualified as a teacher, patient,  
25 In meekness training up as a child the opposers; lest at any time God should give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;  
26 And that they may become sober again out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.  

3. 1 last days. See Acts 2:17. See Note on Gen. 49:1 (A study of these will show that the prophecy (v. 1) and “blessing” (v. 28) extends to, and embraces the days of Messiah, and His first and second advents.)
6 For of these are they which creep into the houses, and lead captive silly women heaped with sins, led away with divers lusts,
7 Always learning, and not at any time able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
8 Now in the manner in which Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also withstand the truth: men utterly corrupted, reprobate [of no judgment] concerning the faith.
9 But they shall not proceed further: for their folly shall be thoroughly manifest to all men, as theirs also was.
10 But thou didst follow my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
11 Persecutions, sufferings, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.
12 Yea, and all that desire to live godly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted.
13 But evil men and seducers shall proceed to the worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
14 But abide thou in the things which thou didst learn and wast assured of, knowing from whom thou hast learned them;
15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
16 All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for proof and conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
17 In order that the man of God may be fitted, equipped unto every good work.

4 I earnestly testify to thee therefore in the sight of God, and Christ Jesus, Who is about to judge ... living and ... dead at His appearing and His kingdom;
2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.
3 For the season will be when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears [in regard to hearing];
4 And they shall turn away their hearing from the truth, and shall be turned aside unto myths.
5 But watch [be sober] thou in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish thy ministry.
6 For I am already being poured out [as a drink offering] to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith:
8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall repay me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them also that have loved His appearing.
9 Hasten to come speedily unto me:
10 For Demas forsook me, having loved the age that is now, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens unto Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.
11 Only Luke is with me. Take [up on the way] Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministering.
12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.
13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.
14 Alexander the coppersmith showed forth me many evil things: the Lord reward him according to his works.

15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly resisted our words.

16 At my first defence no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

17 But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; in order that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will save me unto His heavenly kingdom: to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

19 Salute priscilla and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

21 Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

22 The Lord ... be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. ....