

2 Timothy, Introduction Dig Deeper, June 7, 2006

This epistle is an urgent apostolic appeal to one brother, Timothy, who is about to live through one of the greatest disasters in history, the radical and complete departure of the professing Church of God from the truth that established it. Infestation with corrupting teaching and influences is beginning. To cap it off, the apostle Paul is about to depart to be with Christ, which is far better for him. Years before, he could write the Philippians from prison:

Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Now he finds himself imprisoned a second time. There is no more for him to do. It was no longer more needful for him to remain. He has combated the good combat, finished his course, Ch 4: _____. Nothing needful to do but write this letter to Timothy, to equip, establish, prepare, and encourage the saints for the difficult days ahead. They will comprise the faithful remnant, maintaining a small but bright testimony in the midst of the increasing darkness overtaking the Church of God on the earth. Meanwhile Paul will give the faithful martyr's final witness to the Roman Emperor and suffer the martyr's death he knows is close at hand.

Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. {offered: Gr. poured forth, as a libation offering, flambe.}
As he requests parchments, he apparently at least intends to write to some others. If written they were not preserved for us.

Paul's last appeal is to all believers, then and now, not just to Timothy. It is full of encouragement for the fearful, warning for the careless and promise for the faithful.

Internet sites and books that might be helpful in studying Second Timothy

The Second Epistle to Timothy - by Hamilton Smith,
<<http://www.stempublishing.com/authors/smith/2TIMOTHY.html>>

Expository Outline of the Second Epistle to Timothy - by Hamilton Smith,
< http://www.biblecentre.org/commentaries/hs_58_2_timothy_3to4.htm >

Comments On Second Timothy - by L M Grant
<http://www.biblecentre.org/commentaries/lmg_59_2_timothy.htm>

The Second Epistle To Timothy, Introductory Lectures On The Epistles Of Paul - by William Kelly
<http://www.biblecentre.org/commentaries/wk_59_lect_int_2_tim.htm>

The Church Of The Living God, CHAPTER FIVE: In The Day Of Ruin - by R.K.Campbell
<http://www.biblecentre.org/ebooks/rkc_church_ch5.htm>

This article is a chapter of the book: "The Church of the Living God" - by R. K. Campbell

The Question of Association, by: F. W. Grant.
<http://plymouthbrethren.org/page.asp?page_id=1885>
This article is Chapter 6 in "A Divine Movement and Our Path with God Today" - by F. W. Grant.
<http://plymouthbrethren.org/series.asp?series_id=57>

Approved to God, by Alfred E. Bouter.
<<http://www.theholyscriptures.org/alfredbouter/Book.aspx>>
Book available from Moment With the Book