

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Second Timothy

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2 Timothy

1 *I,* Paul, *write this letter to you.* God chose to send me to
represent Jesus the Messiah. So, I tell others that God has
promised that people whom he has united to Jesus the Messiah
will live *with God forever*.

2 *I send this letter* to you, Timothy. I love you as if you were
my own son.

May God the Father and Jesus the Messiah, our Lord,
continue to be kind and merciful to you and *make you* peaceful.

3 I worship God just as my parents and grandparents did,
and I know that I am doing what is right. I thank God when I
pray for you, which I do very frequently. 4 I think about how
you cried *when I left you*, and I desire to be with you again.
Then I will rejoice greatly. 5 I also think about how you truly
trust *in Jesus*. Your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice
first trusted in him. I know that you also trust in him like they
do!

6 Because you truly trust in *Jesus*, I urge you to continue to
eagerly do what God has graciously enabled you to do. God
enabled you to do that when I touched you *to authorize you*.
7 *You should eagerly do that* because God did not cause us to
be afraid. Instead, he enabled us to serve him powerfully, to
love others, and to control ourselves. 8 Because of that, do not
think that telling people about our Lord *Jesus* disgraces you.
Do not think that I, who am in jail because of him, disgrace
you. Instead, you should be willing to let bad things happen to
you, as they have happened to me, so that *you can proclaim* the
good news. God will enable you *to endure those bad things*. 9 He
is the one who rescued us and chose us to be people whom
he sets apart for himself. He did not do those things because
of what we had done. Rather, he did those things because he
wanted to and because he decided to act kindly toward us.
Before the world began, he prepared to act kindly toward us
when he would unite us to Jesus the Messiah. 10 Now is the
time when we can experience how God acts kindly toward us.
That happens because Jesus the Messiah, the one who rescues
us, came *to this world*. He has made it so that, when people
die, they do not have to always be dead. He has given us
the good news, which shows us how we can live *with God
forever* and never die. 11 For the sake of that good news, God
commissioned me to speak for him, to represent Jesus, and
to instruct people. 12 Because *God commissioned me to do those
things*, bad things are happening to me. However, I do not
think that experiencing those bad things disgraces me. That
is because I understand who God is. He is the one in whom I
have trusted. I am sure that he will preserve what I have given
to him until Jesus returns to this world.

13 You should maintain the basic parts of the right message
that you learned from me. *As you do that,* you should trust in
Jesus and love others. *You can do those things* because God unites
you to Jesus the Messiah. 14 You should carefully preserve the
true message that God has given to you. The Holy Spirit who
empowers us will enable you *to do that*.

15 You realize that almost all the believers in *the province of*
Asia *Minor* have left me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

16 *I pray that* the Lord *Jesus* will be kind to Onesiphorus
and his family. *I pray that* since he often encouraged me.
Further, even when people put me in jail, he did not think
that I disgraced him. 17 In fact, when he came *here* to *the city
of* Rome, he kept looking for me until he located me. 18 *So,
I pray that* the Lord *Jesus* will be kind to Onesiphorus when
the Lord Jesus returns to this world. Additionally, you realize
how much Onesiphorus helped *me when we were* in *the city of*
Ephesus.

2 As for you, *Timothy,* you are like my own son. Allow God
to make you *spiritually* stronger as he acts kindly toward
you. *He acts kindly toward you* because he has united you to
Jesus the Messiah. 2 You have listened to the things that I
teach, and many people have confirmed them to you. You
must teach other people those same things. Those people must
be trustworthy and good at teaching even more people. 3 You
should be willing to let bad things happen to you, as they have
happened to me, when you obey Jesus the Messiah. Then,
you will be like a good soldier*, who obeys his commander even
if bad things happen to him*. 4 *Consider this:* soldiers focus on
doing what their commanders want. Because of that, they do
not participate in what civilians normally do. 5 *Consider this*
too: when an athlete disobeys the rules, the referee does not
name that athlete the winner. 6 *Finally, consider this:* people
who labor to grow crops should be the first people to receive
some of what they grow. 7 Consider *the three examples* that I
have just written to you. The Lord *Jesus* will enable you to
learn completely what they mean.

8 Focus on Jesus the Messiah, whom God made alive again.
He is a descendant of King David. That is the good news that
I proclaim. 9 Because I proclaim that good news, bad things
happen to me. In fact, I am now in jail, as if I had done
something wrong. However, no one can prevent people from
hearing the message from God. 10 Because that is true, for the
sake of those whom God has chosen, I always persevere *when
bad things happen to me*. That way, God will rescue them, like
me, by uniting them to Jesus the Messiah, and they will be
glorious forever.

11 Everyone should trust this statement:

"It is as if we died with Jesus when he died.
So then, we will also live *forever* with him.
12 Suppose that we persevere *when bad things happen to us*.
Then we will also rule *over everything* with him.
Suppose that we say that we do not know him.
Then he also will say that he does not know us.
13 Suppose that we stop being loyal *to Jesus*.
Then he continues to be loyal *to us*.
That is because he always acts based on who he is."

14 Teach those things again *to the believers who are with you*.
God is listening *and agreeing with you* as you command them
not to debate about what words mean. Debating like that does
not help anybody. Further, it harms the people who listen
to it. 15 Eagerly desire to be a person whom God considers
to be acceptable to him. *To do that,* you should serve God
by properly explaining the true message. Then, nothing can

disgrace you. 16 Do not listen when people say things that
mean nothing and that have nothing to do with God. Those
people dishonor God more and more. 17 Further, what they
say will spread as an infectious disease does. Hymenaeus and
Philetus are examples of such people. 18 These two men have
failed to believe and teach what is true. Instead, they claim
that God has already made everyone alive again. In this way,
they cause some people to stop trusting in *Jesus*. 19 Despite
that, God preserves his people. They are like a building that
has a solid foundation, which God has guaranteed with two
statements. *Here is the first statement:* "The Lord *Jesus* realizes
which people belong to him." *Here is the second statement:*
"Everyone who claims to serve the Lord *Jesus* must stop doing
what is wrong."

20 Consider this example: a wealthy person's house contains
utensils that someone made out of *valuable materials like* gold
and silver. *Such a house* also contains utensils that someone
made out of *less valuable materials like* wood and clay. People
use the valuable utensils to perform dignified tasks. In contrast,
they use the less valuable utensils to perform undignified tasks.
21 So then, suppose that some people avoid doing what is evil.
Those people will be like the utensils that people use to perform
dignified tasks. God will set them apart for himself. They will
serve God well. God will enable them to do everything that is
right.

22 You must avoid desiring the wrong things that young
people usually desire. Instead, you should always try to do
what is right. You should trust in *Jesus*. You should love *others*.
You should live peacefully *with others. You should do those
things* along with people who desire what is good and who
worship the Lord *Jesus*. 23 Refuse to discuss controversial issues
that uninformed and unwise people care about. You realize
that discussing those issues makes people quarrel with each
other. 24 People who serve the Lord *Jesus* must not quarrel.
Instead, they must be kind to all people. They must be good at
teaching others. They must endure when bad things happen
to them. 25 They should gently instruct the people who argue
against them. Then God may enable those people to stop
believing what is wrong and instead understand what is true.
26 Previously, Satan was able to control them so that they did
what he wanted. *However, after you instruct them,* Satan may
no longer be able to control them, and they may be able to
think clearly again.

3 You need to understand that the final time period *before
Jesus returns to this world* will be very dangerous *for believers*.
2 *It will be dangerous* because people will care about themselves
more than they care about anyone else. They will strongly desire
to have money. They will say great things about themselves.
They will think too highly of themselves. They will insult *God
and others*. They will fail to do what their parents require. They
will not thank *anyone for anything*. They will not honor God.
3 They will fail to care *for others*. They will refuse to forgive
anyone. They will say bad things *about others*. They will fail
to control themselves. They will act in brutal ways. They will
hate everything that is good. 4 They will betray *others*. They
will act without thinking first. They will be prideful. They will
care about whatever makes them feel good instead of loving
God. 5 They will appear to honor God, but they will refuse to
actually do so. Stay away from such people.

6 Further, some of those people convince others to invite
them to their homes. *While they are there*, they start to control
what any spiritually immature women *who live there* think.
These are women who have sinned very often. They do all
the many things that they want to do. 7 They keep learning
new things, but they can never understand what is true. 8 *You
know* how Jannes and Jambres*, Pharaoh's magicians,* tried to
stop Moses *from freeing the Israelites*. Much like that, the *false
teachers I am speaking about* try to stop others from learning
what is true. These false teachers are people who can no
longer think properly. When they claim to believe in *Jesus*,
God does not approve of them. 9 However, they will not be
able to convince many more people. *That is* because everyone
will realize that they are foolish. That is just what happened
to Pharaoh's magicians.

10 In contrast, as for you, you know what I do, and you
imitate me. I teach *others*. I live *to please God*. I focus on what
God has called me to do. I trust in *Jesus*. I do not easily become
angry. I love *others*. I persevere *when bad things happen to me*.
11 People hurt me. I experience painful things. I experienced
those kinds of painful things when I was in *the cities of* Antioch,
Iconium, and Lystra. Even when people hurt me in those
ways, I persisted *in serving God*. When any of those bad things
happened to me, the Lord *Jesus* delivered me. 12 Indeed, people
will hurt all men and women who desire to live in a way that
honors God as God unites them to Jesus the Messiah. 13 On
the other hand, people who do what is wrong and people who
try to trick others will become more and more evil. They will
deceive others, and people will deceive them. 14 In contrast,
as for you, you realize who taught you what you have learned
and what you are sure about. So, you should persist in *believing*
those things. 15 Further, *you should persist in believing those
things because you realize* that you have heard what God says
in the Scriptures from the time when you were a young child.
The Scriptures enable you to think wisely. That way, when
you trust in Jesus the Messiah, God rescues you.

16 All the Scriptures come from God's Spirit. They are useful
for teaching people. *They are useful* for telling people that they
have done what is wrong. *They are useful* for telling people
what is actually true. *They are useful* for instructing people
in how to do what is right. 17 As a result, people who serve
God have everything that they need. They are ready to do
everything that is right.

4 God and Jesus the Messiah are listening right now *and
agreeing with me* as I command you *to do what I am about
to tell you*. *Remember that* Jesus will soon decide whether
everyone who is alive and everyone who has died is guilty
or innocent. *You should focus on what I am about to command
you* as much as you expect Jesus to return *to this world* and to
rule over everything. 2 *Here is what I want you to do*: you must
proclaim the good news. Be ready to do that when it is a good
time to do so and also when it is not a good time to do so.
When people have done what is wrong, confront them. Warn
them *not to sin*. Encourage them *to do what is right*. *As you
do all those things,* never become angry quickly, and always
instruct people. 3 *I tell you to do those things* because later on
people will refuse to listen when others teach them what is
right. Rather, they will do what they want by collecting many
instructors. They will be eager to listen to what pleases them.

4 They will stop listening to what is true. Instead, they will
focus on legends. 5 In contrast, as for you, you must control
yourself at all times. You must *be willing to* allow bad things to
happen to you. You must do what you have to do in order to
proclaim the good news. You must complete everything you
must do to serve *Jesus*.

6 *I tell you to do those things* because I will soon die. God
is even now treating me as if I were wine that someone was
pouring out to honor him. 7 I am like a soldier who has battled
his enemies. I am like a runner who has finished his race.
I mean that I have persisted in trusting in *Jesus*. 8 I can now
expect the reward for doing what is right, which God has
ready for me. The Lord *Jesus*, who always evaluates people
justly, will give me that reward when he returns *to this world*.
However, I will not be the only one whom he rewards. Rather,
he will reward everyone who rejoices when he returns *to this
world*.

9 Please try to visit me *here* soon. 10 *I ask you to do that*
because Demas has abandoned me since he cares *too much*
about living in this present world. He has left for *the city of*
Thessalonica. Crescens *has left* for *the province of* Galatia. Titus
has left for *the province of* Dalmatia. 11 Luke is the only one
who is still *here* with me. When you visit, bring Mark with
you. *I ask for him* because he serves *others* with me well. 12 As
for Tychicus, I told him to go to *the city of* Ephesus. 13 I left an
outer garment with Carpus in *the city of* Troas. Please bring
it with you when you visit me. Also*, please bring with you* my
books, particularly the ones with leather pages.

14 Alexander, who makes things out of metal, did many bad
things to me. The Lord *Jesus* will punish him for what he has
done. 15 He tried very hard to keep us from proclaiming the
good news. So, you too need to watch out for him.

16 The first time I defended myself *in court*, no believers
came to support me. Instead, they all abandoned me. I pray
that God will forgive them for that. 17 However, the Lord *Jesus*
supported me and made me strong. That way, I could complete
proclaiming *the good news*, and many non-Jews could listen to
it. Also, God delivered me from people who would have killed
me. 18 *I am sure that* the Lord *Jesus* will deliver me whenever
people do anything bad to me. He will rescue me so that I can
participate in his kingdom, which is in heaven. Let us honor
him forever! May it be so!

19 Say hello for me to Prisca, Aquila, and Onesiphorus
and his family. 20 Erastus stayed in *the city of* Corinth. As for
Trophimus, he stayed behind in *the city of* Miletus because he
was ill. 21 Please try to visit *me here* before the winter season.
Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and *the rest of* the fellow
believers *here* say hello to you.

22 *I pray that* the Lord *Jesus* will be with you*, Timothy*. *I pray
that God will* be kind to you all.