Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

29 Sep 2019 Message 59 of 66

NLT 50 Minutes

Title

**Be Persevering**

***Letter of 2 Timothy***

**Topic:** Perseverance

**Subject:** How can you persevere amidst apostasy?

**Complement:** Faithfully obey and preach God’s Word.

**Purpose:** The listeners will

**Attribute:** We worship the God Who Never Gives Up on Us

**Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17

**Benediction:** 2 Timothy 2:11-13

**Song:** Forever (Tomlin), When Trials Come (Getty), Yet Not I But Christ, I Know Whom I Have Believed, O Lord My Rock & My Redeemer

# Introduction

Many

(2 slides)

### Interest: Many who followed Jesus ten years ago don’t follow him today.

#### This is called “apostasy.” It literally means a turning away by rejecting.

Apostasy

#### Sometimes this means that the person no longer claims to be a Christian—but in other cases, the person still claims the name of Jesus (professes Christ) but has turned away from a key doctrine of the faith.

#### We will find the word today in 2 Timothy 4:4 [read 3:3-4].

4:3-4

• NAU

#### The “reject” of the NLT is rendered “turn away” in the NAU (New American Updated 1995).

#### [Omitted: Paul noted the same apostasy in his first letter to Timothy 4:1.]

#### [Omitted: One writer notes, “During the last days there will be a great "Falling Away", a major apostasy, and a great abandoning of all obedience to God's word.  Elements in the world that once promoted or greatly favored Christianity will now viciously turn against it.  What is right will be called wrong, and what is wrong will be called right.  This is apparent all over the planet as church after church is falling to homosexual sin, perversions, lies, the prosperity gospel and other heresies even worse than that, and embracing them with reckless abandon.”]

#### Examples of this turning away from the truth are legion, so I will highlight only a few:

Crosses

##### First Lesbian Bishop Orders Crosses Replaced with Islamic Symbols to Make them Feel More at Ease

##### Christian and Jewish Clergy Bless Abortion Clinic, Claim “God is Present in This Space”

Abortion

##### Investigation Shows Televangelists Living Lavish Lifestyle

Money

##### Joel Osteen Celebrates LGBTQ Pride at Lady Gaga Event

Osteen

##### [Omitted: The Fall of Francis Chan and Why He Should Be Avoided

##### Time to Kiss the Gospel Coalition Goodbye

##### Various books are being published to highlight these apostasies.]

#### In any case, today we will see when we need to hang in there—we must persevere now and in the future.

### Need: Will you be walking with Jesus ten years from now? What should you do *now* to make sure you are faithful *then*?

### Subject: How can you persevere amidst apostasy? What can you do now to make sure you are following the Lord faithfully in the future?

Subject

### Background: Paul wrote his last letter at a time when most of his fellow workers had fallen away.

2 Ways

Map

#### We have now come to the last of Paul’s 13 letters.

Overview

##### He had already been under house arrest once in Rome five years earlier.

##### Now he finished his final letter to his assistants.

#### His fourth missions trip to Spain is difficult to determine since it is after Acts, but it appears he ministered two years in Spain and three years in the Aegean area.

#### The contrast between these two periods of Roman imprisonments is vast (28 slides).

Contrasts

(17 slides)

#### [Omitted: If this was you, *who* would you write and *what* would you write in such at time? Tell your neighbor.]

### Preview: What did Paul write? Today we will see two ways to persevere amidst apostasy. The first relates to today and the second to the future.

### Text: Paul’s last letter that we have is 2 Timothy, which we’ll sum up in its entirety.

(The first way to persevere amidst present apostasy is to...)

MP

# Faithfully obey God’s Word (2 Tim 1–2).

[Consistently follow what God says.]

2 Tim 1

(4 slides)

## Paul greeted Timothy with his own persevering attitude in the face of death (1:1-2).

1:3-18

(10 slides)

## Timothy should imitate others’ faithfulness despite many who fell away (1:3-18).

### He learned faithfulness from his mother and grandmother shown at his ordination (1:3-7).

### He should bravely suffer Nero’s tortures like Paul through the gospel’s power (1:8-14).

### Asian believers deserted Jesus but Onesiphorus set a faithful example (1:15-18).

2 Tim 2

(16 slides)

## Knowing what faithfulness looks like helps us persevere under trial (2 Tim 2).

### Like a discipling teacher, invest in others the teaching you received (2:1-2).

### Like a good soldier, show unswerving commitment to please your superior, Jesus (2:3-4).

### Like a successful athlete, obey the rules in God's Word (2:5).

### Like a diligent farmer, have the joy of spiritual fruit like Jesus after he was raised (2:6-13).

### Like an unashamed workman, fight heresy with Scripture—not human words (2:14-19).

### Like a noble instead of ignoble container, be pure to avoid false teachers (2:20-22).

### Like a gentle servant, gently teach false teachers instead of arguing with them (2:23-26).

Subject

(The second way to persevere amidst future apostasy is to...)

# Faithfully preach God’s Word (2 Tim 3–4).

MP

[Consistently tell others what God says.]

2 Tim 3

(20 slides)

## Before Jesus returns, avoid false teachers who are smooth-tongued but godless (3:1-9).

## Accept and preach the Word of God as well as fulfill all ministry duties (3:10–4:5).

### Accept the truth embodied in the Scriptures (3:10-17).

2 Tim 4

(8 slides)

### Preach and live the truth by hardship, rebuking, encouraging, and evangelizing (4:1-5).

## Hope in God until death despite betrayals by friends (4:6-18).

## Do not be conquered by death, but victorious in it and relational through every trial (4:19-22).

Subject

(So how can you persevere amidst apostasy?)

# Conclusion

MI

### Faithfully obey and preach God’s Word (Main Idea).

### Paul gives two commands to hang in there when others are now (Main Points):

MPI

#### Faithfully obey God’s Word (2 Tim 1–2).

• MPI

#### Faithfully preach God’s Word (2 Tim 3–4).

### Exhortation

Ears

(4:3-4)?

#### Do you want to have your ears tickled (4:3-4)?

Ten Years?

#### Will you be walking with Jesus ten years from now? What should you do now to make sure you are faithful then?

#### Does your reading, news, friends, movies, TV, and especially the Internet build your faith or tear it down?

Build?

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Paul had most recently completed 1 Timothy and Titus.

### While awaiting trial that God had revealed would end in death, Paul’s thoughts went towards his son in the faith, Timothy.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### God knew that people through the ages would abandon the faith that they previously held.

### We need to see that the solution to apostasy is to persevere in our trust in God’s authoritative Word.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Paul was about to die.

### Thus, the letter reveals his highest priority to his most endearing relative, or son in the faith.

# Questions

### What is meant by the “last days” (3:1)?

### Does the inspiration of Scripture also imply it is inerrant (3:16)?

# Tentative Main Ideas

Be Persevering

We persevere by obeying and preaching God’s Word

# Illustrations That Apply

### Apostasy

#### Brad Palin

#### Marty Sampson

#### Changing jobs frequently (Clive)

#### First term return had 7 of 9 pastors leave in 2.5 years (91-93)

### Faithfulness

#### E N Poulson (64 years), Verda Poulson (66 years)

#### SBC 28 years

#### Asung at Yunri’s birth

#### Brian Club Med 57 years

#### Ananda taking $1200 to the earthquake hills

#### Sons of elders

#### Ted Kitchens at CCBC 1980-2019 (40 years)

#### Alan Kass on deathbed but calling me

# New Testament Survey Notes

**2 Timothy**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sound Doctrine Against Opposition** | | | | |
| **Persevere in Present Hardship** | | **Persevere in Future Hardship** | | |
| **Chapters 1–2** | | **Chapters 3–4** | | |
| **Examples**  **of Faithfulness**  **1** | **Characteristics**  **of Faithfulness**  **2** | **Problem:**  **Apostasy**  **3:1-9** | **Solution:**  **Preach the Word**  **3:10–4:5** | **Paul’s Hope**  **4:6-22** |
| **Eunice**  **Lois**  **Paul**  **Onesiphorus** | **Discipling**  **Single-minded**  **Obedient**  **Hardworking**  **Biblical**  **Holy**  **Gentle** | **Godlessness**  **Hypocrisy** | **Preaching**  **Persevering**  **Rebuking**  **Encouraging**  **Evangelism** | **Martyrdom**  **Betrayals**  **Greetings**  **Benediction** |
| **Rome to Ephesus** | | | | |
| **Autumn AD 67 (second Roman imprisonment)** | | | | |

**Key Word: Doctrine**

**Key Verse: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work… Preach the Word” (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:2).**

**Summary Statement: The way to persevere amidst apostasy is to faithfully obey and *preach God’s Word*.**

**Application: Is anything more powerful against heresy than God’s Word—methods, logic, ignoring false teaching, etc.? While teaching proper doctrine is not the only strategy needed, it is the most important priority to fight false doctrine.**

**2 Timothy**

**Introduction**

**I. Title**: The letter of 2 Timothy (Pro.j Timo,qeon b, *Second to Timothy*) is one of the three letters called The Pastoral Epistles. These are unique as they address individuals (not churches) and constitute Paul's last writings (cf. 1 Timothy notes).

**II. Authorship**

A. External Evidence: Support for Paul’s authorship is as good as that for any other Pauline epistle except Romans and 1 Corinthians (cf. 1 Timothy notes).

B. Internal Evidence: The letter claims that Paul wrote it (2 Tim 1:1) and contains the typical Pauline traits (cf. 1 Timothy notes).

**III. Circumstances**

A. Date: The chronology of Paul's last years is obscure (Guthrie, 623), yet a harmonization of internal and external data yields this scenario (Hoehner, “Chronology of the Apostolic Age,” DTS, 381-84):

**First Roman Imprisonment (Acts 28:30-31) February 60–March 62**

Paul writes **Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon,** & **Philippians** Fall 60–early Spring 62

James, the Lord's brother, martyred Spring 62

**Freedom from Imprisonment Spring 62–Autumn 67**

Paul in Ephesus and Colosse (Timothy left at Ephesus) Spring–Summer 62

Peter travels to Rome 62

Paul in Macedonia late summer 62-winter 62/63

**1 Timothy** written from Macedonia to Timothy in Ephesus Fall 62

Paul in Asia Minor Spring 63-Spring 64

Paul in Spain (anticipated in Rom. 15:24) Spring 64-Spring 66

Christians persecuted by Nero and Peter martyred Summer 64

Paul in Crete (Titus left there; Tit 1:5) early Summer 66

Paul in Asia Minor Summer- Fall 66

**Titus** written from Asia Minor to Titus in Crete Summer 66

Paul in Nicopolis (Tit 3:12) Winter 66/67

Paul in Troas (2 Tim 4:13), Macedonia and Greece Spring– Fall 67

**Second Roman Imprisonment Autumn 67–Spring 68**

Paul arrested and brought to Rome Fall 67

**2 Timothy** written from Rome to Timothy in Ephesus Fall 67

Paul beheaded Spring 68

**Destruction of Jerusalem September 2, 70**

B. Origin/Recipients: Paul penned 2 Timothy to his long-time traveling companion, Timothy (2 Tim 1:2), five years after his first letter. If Timothy was still in Ephesus (1 Tim 1:3b), 2 Timothy also had the same destination (2 Tim 1:16-18; 4:19). Paul wrote from Rome (1:17; 2:9; Roman names in 4:21) in his second Roman imprisonment after his first defense before the Imperial Court (4:16-17).

C. Occasion: When Paul wrote 2 Timothy, he was an experienced inmate. Ten years earlier (May 29-June 9, 57), he was imprisoned in Jerusalem for a few weeks, then 8-10 years earlier in Caesarea for over two years, and 5-7 years earlier in Rome for over two years. With nearly five of the past ten years behind bars, he knew about prisons and political procedures. He knew that this second Roman imprisonment could only result in execution (2 Tim 4:6-8). Since Paul did not expect to live much longer in the Roman jail, he requested Timothy to hurry to him before winter (2 Tim 4:9, 21).

Three years before Paul composed 2 Timothy, Rome had burned (AD 64). Nero blamed Christians, so it became very dangerous to be a Christian, and especially to be a leader or associated with one. As a result, many of Paul's co-workers sought a far lower profile, and some even fell away (everyone in Asia, 1:15; Demas, 4:10; Alexander, 4:14). No one even defended Paul before the Emperor when he was on trial for his life (4:16). No doubt the timid Timothy was tempted to minister less assertively as well (1:7-8). Therefore, Paul wrote this epistle to remind him of the need to faithfully continue to preach the Word in the face of hardship (4:2) and false teachers (3:6-9; 4:3-4).

**IV. Characteristics**

A. This letter to Paul's younger protégé is unique in that it is his last extant writing.

B. This letter provides the clearest NT exposition of the *need* for exposition (4:2). It shows the need to guard the gospel (1:14), emphasizes the centrality of the Scriptures (2:15), notes how we must persevere in the gospel (3:14) and suffer for it (1:8; 2:3), and provides the most important explanation of the inspiration of Scripture (3:16-17).

**Argument**

Paul's second letter to Timothy concerns itself more with the man Timothy than with his congregation, as was the case for the first letter. With so many falling away just before Paul's death, he carefully chooses his words in perhaps his last statements to Timothy in order to assure that Timothy himself would remain true to the faith until death. The apostle accomplishes this end through exhorting him to persevere in present hardships with godly character (2 Tim 1–2) because the future will be even more difficult (2 Tim 3–4). He will especially have to fight apostasy with faithful preaching of the Word of God (3:10–4:5).

**Synthesis**

**Sound doctrine against opposition**

**1–2 Persevere in present hardship**

1:1-2 Salutation

1:3-18 Examples of faithfulness

1:3-7 Eunice and Lois

1:8-14 Paul

1:15-18 Onesiphorus

2 Characteristics of faithfulness

2:1-2 Discipling

2:3-4 Single-minded

2:5 Obedient

2:6-13 Hardworking

2:14-19 Biblical

2:20-22 Holy

2:23-26 Gentle

**3–4 Persevere in future hardship**

3:1-9 Future apostasy

3:10–4:5 Preach the Word

4:6-18 Paul's hope in the face of death

4:19-22 Conclusion

**Outline**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**The way to persevere amidst apostasy is to faithfully obey and *preach God’s Word*.**

# The way to persevere amidst present apostasy is to faithfully obey God’s Word (2 Tim 1–2).

## Paul greeted Timothy with his own persevering attitude in the face of death (1:1-2).

## Timothy should imitate the faithfulness of others despite many who had fallen away (1:3-18).

### He learned faithfulness from his mother and grandmother shown at his ordination (1:3-7).

### He should bravely suffer Nero’s tortures like Paul through the gospel’s power (1:8-14).

### Asian believers deserted Jesus but Onesiphorus set a faithful example (1:15-18).

## The characteristics of faithfulness encourage us to persevere in present trials (2 Tim 2).

### Like a discipling teacher, invest in others the teaching you received (2:1-2).

### Like a good soldier, show unswerving commitment to please your superior, Jesus (2:3-4).

### Like a successful athlete, obey the rules in God's Word (2:5).

### Like a diligent farmer, have the joy of spiritual fruit like Jesus after he was raised (2:6-13).

### Like an unashamed workman, fight heresy with Scripture—not human words (2:14-19).

### Like a noble instead of ignoble container, be pure to avoid false teachers (2:20-22).

### Like a gentle servant, gently teach false teachers instead of arguing with them (2:23-26).

# The way to persevere amidst future apostasy is to faithfully preach God’s Word (2 Tim 3–4).

## Before Jesus returns, avoid false teachers who are smooth-tongued but godless (3:1-9).

## Accept and preach the Word of God as well as fulfill all ministry duties (3:10–4:5).

### Accept the truth embodied in the Scriptures (3:10-17).

### Preach and live the truth by hardship, rebuking, encouraging, and evangelizing (4:1-5).

## Hope in God until death despite betrayals by friends (4:6-18).

## Do not be conquered by death, but victorious in it and relational through every trial (4:19-22).

**Be Persevering**

***Letter of 2 Timothy***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way to persevere amidst apostasy is to faithfully obey and *preach God’s Word*.

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**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Many who followed Jesus ten years ago don’t follow him today.

### Need: Will you be walking with Jesus ten years from now? What should you do *now* to make sure you are faithful *then*?

### Subject: How can you persevere amidst apostasy?

### Background: Paul wrote his last letter at a time when most of his fellow workers had fallen away. What would you write in such at time? What did he write?

### Preview: Today we will see two ways to persevere amidst apostasy. The first relates to today and the second to the future.

### Text: Paul’s last letter that we have is 2 Timothy, which we’ll sum up in its entirety.

(The first way to persevere amidst present apostasy is to...)

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### Asian believers deserted Jesus but Onesiphorus set a faithful example (1:15-18).

## Knowing what faithfulness looks like helps us persevere under trial (2 Tim 2).

### Like a discipling teacher, invest in others the teaching you received (2:1-2).

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### Like a gentle servant, gently teach false teachers instead of arguing with them (2:23-26).

(The second way to persevere amidst future apostasy is to...)

# Faithfully preach God’s Word (2 Tim 3–4).

## Before Jesus returns, avoid false teachers who are smooth-tongued but godless (3:1-9).

## Accept and preach the Word of God as well as fulfill all ministry duties (3:10–4:5).

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## Do not be conquered by death, but victorious in it and relational through every trial (4:19-22).

(So how can you persevere amidst apostasy?)

# Conclusion

### Faithfully obey and preach God’s Word (Main Idea).

### Paul gives two commands to hang in there when others are now (Main Points):

#### Faithfully obey God’s Word (2 Tim 1–2).

#### Faithfully preach God’s Word (2 Tim 3–4).

### Exhortation: Will you be walking with Jesus ten years from now? What should you do *now* to make sure you are faithful *then*?

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

29 September 2019

Message 59 of 66

**Be Persevering**

***Letter of 2 Timothy***

**Introduction**

### Many who followed Jesus ten years ago don’t follow him today.

### How can you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amidst apostasy?

### Paul wrote his last letter at a time when most of his fellow workers had fallen away.

# Faithfully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word (2 Tim 1–2).

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# Faithfully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word (2 Tim 3–4).

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## Do not be conquered by death, but victorious in it and relational through every trial (4:19-22).

# Conclusion

### Faithfully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word (Main Idea).

### What should you do *now* to make sure you are walking with Jesus ten years from now?

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/

Listen to this message online at cicfamily.com/sermon-listing/

**2 Timothy**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sound Doctrine Against Opposition** | | | | |
| **Persevere in Present Hardship** | | **Persevere in Future Hardship** | | |
| **Chapters 1–2** | | **Chapters 3–4** | | |
| **Examples**  **of Faithfulness**  **1** | **Characteristics**  **of Faithfulness**  **2** | **Problem:**  **Apostasy**  **3:1-9** | **Solution:**  **Preach the Word**  **3:10–4:5** | **Paul’s Hope**  **4:6-22** |
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| **Rome to Ephesus** | | | | |
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**Key Word: Doctrine**

**Key Verse: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work… Preach the Word” (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:2).**

**Summary: The way to persevere amidst apostasy is to faithfully obey and *preach God’s Word*.**

**Application: Is anything more powerful against heresy than God’s Word—methods, logic, ignoring false teaching, etc.? While teaching proper doctrine is not the *only* strategy needed, it is the most *important* priority to fight false doctrine.**