

Introduction to NT Books

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

XIII. The Book of Second Timothy

A. The Authorship of II Timothy

1. External Evidence—most early patristics attested to Paul's authorship.
2. Internal Evidence—the writer claimed to be the apostle Paul (1:1).

B. The Date of II Timothy

1. Paul had been released from his house arrest in Rome and revisited Crete (Tit. 1:5). Around AD 62 he wrote I Timothy and Titus.
2. He was imprisoned again, probably because of the betrayal of Alexander (4:14). He was quickly arrested and left behind his cloak and Scriptures (4:13).
3. He probably wrote the book around AD 64-65.

C. The Purpose of II Timothy

1. He encouraged him Timothy not to be ashamed of the Gospel ministry (1:3 ff.).
2. He warned him about coming apostates and that Scripture is the best remedy against error (3:1 ff.).
3. He instructed him about his soon visit to the Mamertine Prison (4:1 ff.).

D. The Characteristics of II Timothy

1. Paul used metaphors for the Christian life such as sonship, teacher, soldier, athlete, husbandman, workman, vessel of honor, and servant (2:1 ff.).
2. He gave a litany of features that would indicate apostasy was full-blown in Timothy's lifetime (3:1-9, 13):

a. They would become prevalent in his lifetime.

b. They had a prelude in the character and practices of Jannes and

Jambres.

c. They would be ever-increasing in error.

3. He gave the classic verse on the inspiration of the Bible (3:16-17).

a. "*All Scripture*" (πᾶσα γραφή) refers to the canonical text only.

b. "*Is given by inspiration of God*" (θεόπνευστος) is a *hapax legomena* indicating the specificity of the doctrine.

1) The men are not inspired.
2) The Manuscripts are not inspired.
3) The biblical language words of the Masoretic and Received texts are inspired and preserved.
c. The Bible is profitable in that it has come from God and meets all of man needs.¹

4. He testified to Timothy that he had finished God's course (δρόμος) for him (4:7; see Acts 13:25; 20:24).

5. He gave personal notes of his final days (4:10 ff.):

a. Demas had forsaken him.

b. Crescens and Titus went their respective ways.

c. Tychicus went to Ephesus.

d. Timothy needed to bring Mark; Luke was with Paul.

e. Erastus stayed in Corinth and Trophimus was sick.²

¹The Lord does countenance the appropriateness for accurate public preaching, teaching, and commentary, which is really the restatement of Biblical texts

²Significantly, Paul's apostolic miracles could not heal Trophimus.