

THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

16B

2 TIMOTHY – “COME BEFORE WINTER”

SESSION 16B

INTEGRATING 1 TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 6

- More warnings against these erring leaders, in terms of: The reputation of true teaching to those outside, the content of the teaching to those inside, the root problem of greed for many of them.
- Final appeal to Timothy in this letter ends with a charge and doxology.
- Instructions for the rich.
- Summary closing.

CHANGE OF SETTING FOR PAUL – FOR TIMOTHY IN EPHESUS? NOT SO MUCH.

- Paul has now been arrested (probably on his way back to Ephesus), and has had an initial hearing in Rome, where he is now in chains.
- Timothy is still facing the same issues in Ephesus. Erring elders are leading people astray with their teachings and lifestyles. He is getting weary.
- Paul knows his departure is near and wants to be encouraged by Timothy again, and possibly pass something on to him.
- Being his final letter, this bears a sense of importance and destiny, especially for Timothy.

EPISTOLARY PRESCRIPT (1:1-2)

- Very similar to 1 Timothy. Some intention again for group reading in some sense, even if only to the solid elders at this point (4:22).
- Note the unique “according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus”, which is especially meaningful on the eve of his death.
- “To Timothy, my beloved son.” This is what draws us to Timothy’s life, and what gives us destiny for the future generations.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER (1:3-5)

- Why was Paul praying night and day so fervently for Timothy? (1:3)
- Timothy had been a great source of joy to Paul over the years, and yet their most recent departure was attended by tears (1:4). Again, why?
- He is reminding Timothy of the sincerity of his faith, which he had from his youth (cf. 3:14ff.). Again, why?

FOR THE NEXT STEP, YOU WILL HAVE TO "STIR UP THE GIFT & DRAW ON THE POWER." (1:6-7)

- For the things Paul is about to ask Timothy to do, he will require more fortitude than he is currently showing. But it's in there – it just requires stirring up, reminder, and freshly counting the cost.
- Same gift impartation referred to in 1 Tim. 4:14, but Paul emphasizes his role in this case, versus the elders before.
- He must shun cowardice and embrace the Spirit's power, love, and self-control. Who is the "us"?

FIRST APPEAL (1:8-18)

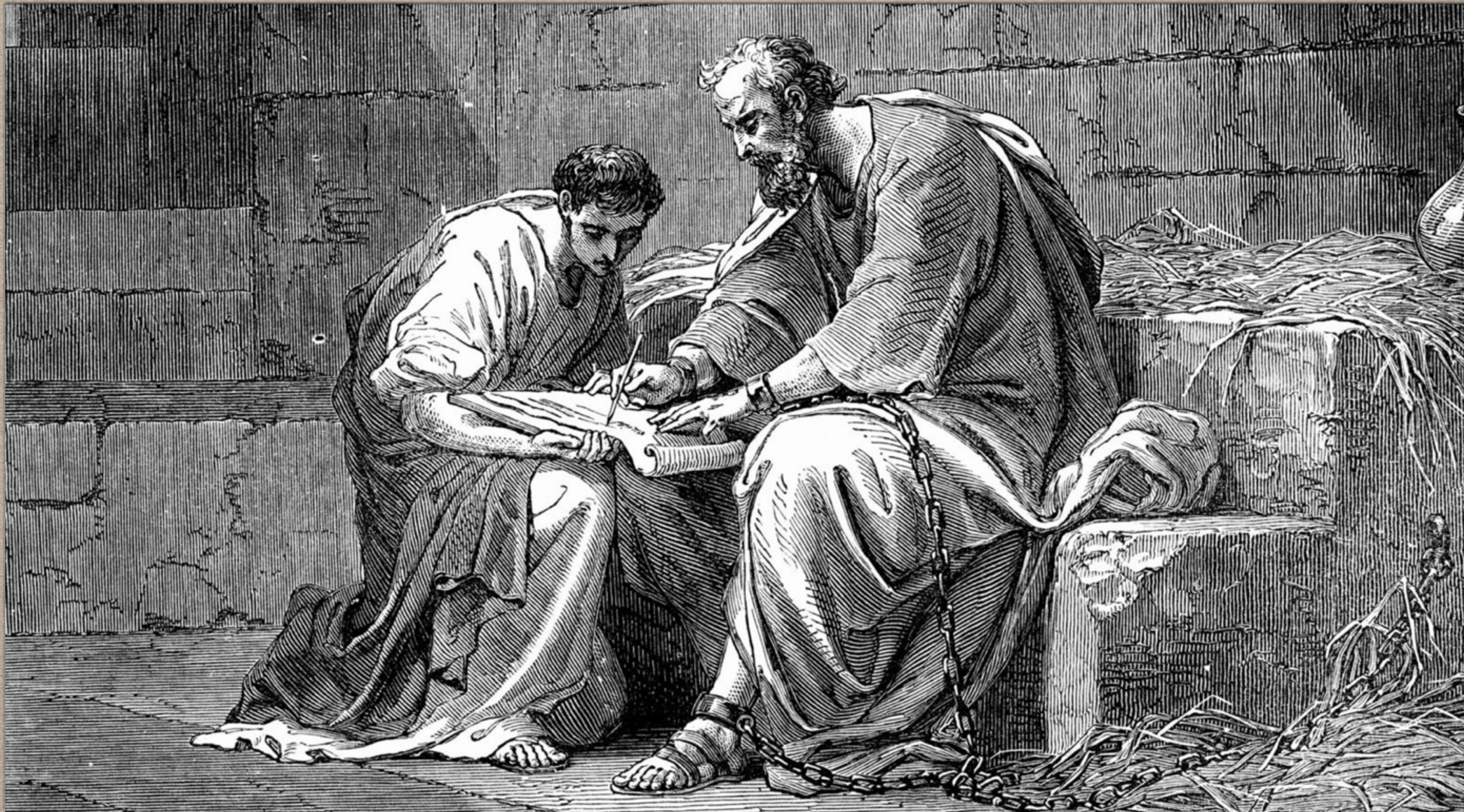
- Don't be ashamed of Christ or Paul's sufferings – join them
- Note the saber-rattling with death again.
- Guard the treasure – the sound words, the apostolic faith
- "In fact, follow the example of Onesiphorus and literally join me" (It is possible that he died in the line of duty)

THEMES IN 2 TIMOTHY (CHAPTERS 2-4)

- Sound teaching and lifestyle – Continue to counter the error
- Come see me, take the risk of suffering
- Don't abandon me, don't get stale or cold – Burn! Serve! Cleanse yourself, and be useful to God!
- Guard your deposit of Scripture and Apostolic teaching – be always ready, and fulfill your ministry.

BRING THE CLOAK, THE PARCHMENTS – COME BEFORE WINTER. (4:13,21)

- Elijah, Elisha, and the sons of the prophets
- The Apostolic church passing the mantle to the next generation
- For Timothy, particularly the part of Paul's call that you carry – continue to bear that – and keep helping the Ephesians.



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