

Themes in Second Timothy

The Grace of God in Second Timothy

1. The nature of God's Grace

- God's grace is essential (1:2,4:22)
- God's grace is eternal (1:9)
- God's grace is extraordinary (4:17)

2. The cause of God's Grace

- God's grace is apart from our works (1:9)
- We obtain God's grace because we are chosen (2:10)
- God's Word is the means of God's grace (3:15)
- Our faith is the means of God's grace (3:15)

3. The result of God's Grace

- By God's grace we can repent from opposing God (2:25)
- By God's grace our salvation is sealed (2:19)
- God's grace is secure, it will deliver us (4:18)
- God's grace enables us to persevere (1:12; cf. 4:7)
- God's grace brings God glory (4:18)
- God's grace will reward us with righteousness (4:8)
- The message of grace has been entrusted to us (1:14, cf. 4:17)
- Grace appointed Paul as an apostle (1:1)
- Grace gifts us with abilities to serve others (1:6)
- Grace gifts us with attitudes to serve others (1:7)
- God's grace leads to persecution (3:12)

4. The development of God's grace

- We must be strong in God's grace (2:1)

- We are to be strong in grace by the example of others (2:1, cf. 1:15-18)
- Being strong in grace leads to ministering God's Word to others (2:2)
- Being strong in grace leads to a commitment of life (2:1-6)
- Those opposing God's grace should be corrected (2:25)
- Those opposing God's grace should be avoided (3:5)
- God's grace strengthens us to preach the Word (4:17; cf. 4:2)
- God's grace enables us to give grace to others (4:16)

Teaching God's Word in Second Timothy

1. The nature of biblical teaching

- Teaching is something to which Paul was appointed (1:11)
- Teaching is something that we all should be doing (2:24)
- There is a direct connection between what we believe and what we cause others to believe (3:13)
- Biblical teaching does not teach people only what they want to hear (4:3)

2. The ministry of biblical teaching

- Those serving God should be able to teach (2:24)
- Our ability to teach is something that is developed (2:24)
- Our teaching should include correction (2:25; 3:16)
- Our teaching should be done with gentleness (2:25)
- Our teaching should help people remember (1:13)
- Our teaching should be repetitive (2:14)
- Our teaching should handle the Word accurately (2:15)
- Our teaching should be preceded by diligent study (2:15)
- The activity of learning does not make a person teachable (3:7)
- Our teaching will be opposed by some (3:8)
- Our teaching will be rejected by some (2:24; 4:4)
- God's Word is not limited by our circumstances (2:9)

- We should be ready to teach when we are scheduled to teach and whenever we have the opportunity (4:2)
- Our teaching should be patient (4:2)
- Our teaching should include other material outside the Bible (4:13)

3. The goal of biblical teaching

- Teaching should seek to produce a person trained in righteousness (3:16)
- Teaching should seek to produce a person who is adequately equipped to work in serving Christ (3:17)

False Teachers in Second Timothy

1. The character of false teachers (3:2-5)

- False teachers will be difficult (3:1)
- False teachers lead people to ruin (2:14)
- False teachers lead people to further ungodliness (2:16)
- False teachers upset the ability of people to trust in God (2:18)

2. The conduct of false teachers (3:6-8)

- False teachers take advantage of vulnerable people (3:6)
- False teachers take advantage of academic settings (3:7)
- False teachers take advantage of leaders (3:8)

3. The culmination of false teachers (3:9, 13)

- Their effect will be limited (3:9)
- Their destructiveness will become evident (3:9)
- Those opposing truth go from bad to worse (3:13)

4. The craving for false teachers (4:3-4)

- The craving for false teachers begins with a rejection of sound doctrine (4:3)
- The craving for false teachers is motivated by a desire to be entertained (4:3)

- The craving for false teachers allows for many false teachers (4:3)
- The craving for false teachers is satisfied by teachers who tell people what they want to hear (4:3)
- The craving for false teachers results in a refusal to listen to truth (4:4)
- The craving for false teachers results in an acceptance of myths (4:4)

5. The confrontation of false teachers (2:14-19)

- False teachers should be identified (2:17; Romans 16:17)
- False teachers should not be debated (2:14-16, 23; Titus 3:9-11)
- False teachers can upset a person's walk with God but cannot rob anyone of salvation (2 Timothy 2:19)

Suffering in Second Timothy

1. The nature of suffering

- It is promised that we will suffer hardship (3:12)
- We are commanded to endure hardship (4:5)
- Suffering may be physical in nature (1:8; 1:16; 2:9)
- Suffering may be relational in nature (4:10; 4:16)

2. The partnership in suffering

- We must be willing to endure suffering alone (1:15; 4:16)
- We were not intended to be alone in our suffering for Christ (1:8; 2:3)
- We should be willing to join with others in sharing in suffering (1:8)
- God's Spirit gives us the ability to join others in suffering (1:7)

3. The purpose of suffering

- Our suffering should be for the gospel (1:8; 1:12; 2:8-9)
- Enduring hardship is necessary in evangelism (4:5)
- A reason we should endure suffering is that others may achieve salvation (2:10; 4:17)
- Enduring hardship will fulfill our ministry (4:5-7)

4. The deliverance from suffering

- Paul gives us an example to follow in enduring suffering (3:10-11)
- Enduring hardship is aided by being level-headed and vigilant (4:5)
- God will stand with us (4:17)
- God may use others to help us in our suffering (1:16)
- God may deliver us in the present (3:11; 4:17)
- God will deliver us in the future (2:12; 4:8; 4:18)

Righteousness in Second Timothy

1. Who is righteous

a. The unrighteous

- The unsaved are revealed by their denial of Christ (2:12)
- The unsaved are trapped by the devil and cannot be reasoned with apart from God's grace (2:25-26)
- Religious people who deny God's power to change lives should be avoided (3:5)
- People who are weak in faith can be taken advantage of (3:6)

b. The righteous

- Our sincerity should be noticed by others (1:5)
- Persecution is evidence that we desire godliness (3:12)
- Eagerly desiring the Lord's return is evidence that we are heaven-bound (4:8)
- Seeking to forgive others is evidence that we are forgiven (4:16)

2. What is righteousness

- We should serve God without harboring sin in our life (1:3)
- Worldly interests hinder us from being pleasing to God (2:4)
- Arguing about ideas that the Bible does not reveal to us is unprofitable (2:14)
- Arguing about ideas that the Bible does not reveal can harm those listening (2:14)
- Worldly ideas are empty chatter because they have no value (2:16)
- Worldly ideas increase ungodliness (2:16)
- Worldly ideas spread to undermine trust in God (2:16-18)
- In order to serve God we must avoid discussing things that we cannot know (2:23)

- Speculating about things we cannot know leads to arguments (2:23-24)
- Loving ourselves is an evil attitude (3:2)
- Being disobedient to parents is an underestimated evil practice (3:2)
- Loving pleasure is in direct opposition to loving God (3:4)
- If we love this present world, we will abandon God and His people (4:10)
- We should not hold things against people (4:16)

3. Why be righteous

- God has called us to holiness (1:9)
- Our wickedness soils God's name (2:19)
- When we seek to be holy we will be able to serve our Lord (2:20-21)

4. How to be righteous

- We love through the power of God's Spirit, which brings us the ability to use sound judgment (1:7)
- We must serve God in the way He desires (2:5)
- The Lord will minister grace to us when we lack strong faith (2:13)
- We avoid lust by fleeing it (2:22)
- We avoid lust by pursuing righteousness (2:22)
- We avoid lust by joining with others in the pursuit of righteousness (2:22)
- We should follow Paul's example as well as his words (3:10)

5. When righteousness will occur

- Righteousness is reserved for us in the future (4:8)
- The Lord will reward us with complete righteousness (4:8)
- Every believer will enjoy complete righteousness (4:8)

Serving in Second Timothy

1. Our perspective for serving

- We must consider ourselves as God's servant (2:4, 24)
- We must be courageous in serving (1:16)
- We must be eager to serve (1:17)

2. Our preparation for serving

- We must be holy (2:21)
- We must be ready (4:2)
- We must know the Word (3:16-17)

3. Our productivity in serving

- Serving requires spiritual renewal (1:6-7)
- Serving requires usefulness (2:21; 4:11)
- Serving requires endurance (4:5)
- Serving requires hard work (2:6; 2:15; 4:9; 4:21)

4. Our picture of serving

- Serving through our family (1:5; 3:14-15)
- Serving through refreshing (1:16; 4:13)
- Serving through teaching (1:11; 2:2; 2:25; 3:16-17)
- Serving through evangelism (1:11; 4:2; 4:5; 4:17)

People in Second Timothy

1. The people spoken of as positive

These people are specifically noted in the epistle for their work of service:

- Paul (1:1)

Lesson: We should consistently exhort those in service to Christ to fulfill their ministry, even at the end of our life.

- Timothy (1:2)

Lesson: Those who we invest our ministry in will become dear to us.

- Lois and Eunice (1:5; 3:14-15)

Lesson: Our ministry to our children can bear much fruit.

- Onesiphorus (1:16-18)

Lesson: We should be eagerly serving those who serve the Lord.

- Luke (4:11)

Lesson: Faithfulness is evidence of sincerity.

- Mark (4:11)

Lesson: Even people who are faithless can change and become useful in the service of Christ.

- Carpus (4:13)

Lesson: Good stewardship is an important element of service to Christ.

2. The people spoken of as problems

These people are specifically in the epistle for causing Paul and the cause of Christ harm:

- Phygelus and Hermongenes (1:15)

Lesson: Those who turn away can influence others to turn away also.

- Hymenaeus and Philetus (2:16-18)

Lesson: Those who speak sinful things will influence others to speak sinful things.

- The devil (2:26)

Lesson: Those in opposition are instruments of Satan.

- Jannes and Jambres (3:8)

Lesson: There will be men in every generation that will oppose the truth.

- Alexander the coppersmith (4:14)

Lesson: We must guard ourselves against those who oppose the teaching of God's Word.

- Demas (4:10; Colossians 4:14)

Lesson: Some people who are serving Christ will turn away because of their love for this present world.

3. The people spoken of in passing

These people are mentioned briefly in the last chapter of the book:

- Crescens (4:10)

- Titus (4:10)

- Tychicus (4:12)

Lesson: Serving in the church means responding to needs of the church as defined by the leadership.

- Prisca and Aquila (4:19)

- Erastus (4:20)

- Trophimus (4:20)

Lesson: Contrary to the teaching of some, it is not God's will that everyone be healed.

- Eubulus(4:10)

- Pudens

- Linus

- Claudia

Lesson: Our ministry is to people and should, over time, encompass many close relationships.

4. The people spoken of as progenitors

These people are mentioned as great men of the past:

- David (2:8)

Lesson: God chooses those through whom He will work His plans.

- Moses (3:8)

Lesson: Great men of the past serve as good examples to us.