

## 2 Timothy: A Study Guide

by Bryan Gibson

Here's a chapter by chapter breakdown of 2 Timothy. We'll assign a title to each chapter, and then explain how the contents of each chapter fit that title.

**Chapter 1: Do not be ashamed of the gospel.** Notice, first, how each of the four admonitions addressed to Timothy (vv. 6, 8, 13, 14) relate to this theme, especially v. 8: "Do not be *ashamed* of the testimony of our Lord." Put them together, and here's Paul's message to Timothy: "I know you're being persecuted, but don't be timid or ashamed of the gospel. Hold on to the truth you've been taught. Practice it, preach it, and defend it—no matter what the consequences may be." Bring in the examples and the point becomes even stronger: "Don't be a coward like Phygellus and Hermegones, who turned away from me (v. 15). Stand up for the Lord and His gospel—like me, because "I am not *ashamed*" (v. 12), like Onesiphorus, who "was not *ashamed* of my chain" (vv. 16-18), like your own mother and grandmother, who both displayed a "genuine faith" (v. 5). If we can do it, so can you."

**Chapter 2: The qualities of a servant.** "Sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work" (v. 21)—that's the goal of every "servant" (v. 24). What this chapter does is identify at least four qualities needed to meet that goal: 1) **willing and able to endure hardship**, much like the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer (vv. 1-13); **sound in doctrine**, unlike some "who have strayed concerning the truth" (vv. 14-18); **pure in life**—"depart from iniquity"; "flee...youthful lusts" (vv. 19-22); and **meek in spirit**, especially when dealing with the "opposition" (vv. 23-26). Wouldn't it be great if all the Master's servants fit this description?

**Chapter 3: Continue in the word.** "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of..." (v. 14). Continue in the word—it's what you do in the midst of "perilous times" (v. 1); it's what you do when surrounded by men like those described in the following verses (vv. 2-9); it's what you do when "evil men and imposters...grow worse and worse" (v. 13); it's what you should do at all times. You continue in the word, because you know that it "is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (vv. 16-17).

**Chapter Four: Preach the word.** Preach it "in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (v. 2). "...be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (v. 5). Preach the word! Do it because "I charge you...before God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 1); do it because this same Jesus "will judge the living and the dead" (v. 1); do it because "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (v. 3); do it because "the time of my departure is at hand" (v. 6); do it so you can receive the same "crown of righteousness" that is "laid up for me" (v. 8); do it because just as "the Lord stood with me and strengthened me" (v. 17), He will do the same for you.