

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

2 TIMOTHY 1

2 Timothy 1

Have you ever stood beside the bed of someone dying? Have you ever been with someone who knew the time of their departure was at hand? Over the course of a long ministry, I have stood beside many and in the shadow of death have heard words so sacred to repeat in syllable or sentence. Words of a father or mother to the grieving children and grandchildren. The words of a dying son or daughter to a heartbroken and grieving father or mother. The tears of a loving spouse falling beside one who knew them and had walked with them through life, for better or for worse. These are the moments one treasures even though they are not sought. My mind is racing a hundred miles per second as I look back over decades of goodbyes. So is the book of II Timothy. It was Paul's last letter he would ever write or dictate, only his beloved physician and personal friend and secretary Luke was with him, all others had left Paul who was scheduled for execution in the near future. No trite words are allowed, only those that go to the heart and soul of those left behind, never to be forgotten. So is Paul's second letter to his faithful son in the faith, Timothy.

This letter was written approximately five years after I Timothy, which would have been written around 62 A.D. Eusebius, the revered bishop of the church in Caesarea by the Sea during the fourth century A.D. and noted church historian, says that Paul was executed during the days of the cruel and maniacal

Roman emperor Nero, sometime before 68 A.D. I place the date of Paul's death in 67 A.D.

Paul wrote these words to Timothy to encourage and strengthen him and his commitment to the Lord Jesus. He would have to carry on the task as the aged, apostle was about to leave the stage. The pages of this letter are power-packed with information and inspiration for living without an earthly mentor. Paul becomes joyful as he remembers how he met Timothy and his wonderful grandmother and mother who were so strong in the trust in Jesus the Messiah. How, no doubt they had prayed for Timothy that he would follow in their ways and not the ways of his father, about which was said only that "**he was a Greek.**" Now Timothy was to no longer give in to his nature as a shy introvert, but rather by divine gifting he had been saved and called to a life of service to the great King, Jesus.

Timothy was to stand firm and recognize those who had gone away from trusting God's Word and departed from the faith, but also to recognize those who had been faithful to walk with God and sought to be a refreshment and solace to the aged Apostle Paul. Please listen to the podcast today.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord Jesus, may we live our lives so that when we pass from this life to meeting you face to face that we be found faithful, and see your smile forever. Amen