

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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FEARLESS
2TIMOTHY
GROWTH GUIDE

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Study: 06/25/17

Fearless—Fulfill Your Ministry

The final words of dying men and women usually are stripped of hypocrisy and reflect accurately their true beliefs and feelings. On his deathbed, Napoleon said, “I die before my time; and my body will be given back to earth, to become the food of worms. Such is the fate which so soon awaits the great Napoleon.” Not long before he died, Gandhi, the world-renowned Hindu religious leader, confessed, “My days are numbered. I am not likely to live very long—perhaps a year or a little more. For the first time in fifty years I find myself in a slough of despond. All about me is darkness. I am praying for light.” The nineteenth-century French statesman Talleyrand wrote the following words on a piece of paper and laid it on a nightstand near his bed: “Behold, eighty-three years passed away! What cares! What agitation! What anxieties! What ill-will! What sad complications! And all without other results, except great fatigue of mind and body, and a profound sentiment of discouragement with regard to the future, and of disquiet with regard to the past!”

How different are the words of Paul as he neared the end of his earthly life. They are a triumphant epitaph. Some thirty years after his encounter with Christ on the Damascus Road, in every regard that matters he was without regret or remorse. With an economy of words known only to a Holy Spirit-inspired writer, he not only affirms his own spiritual triumph but also offers forceful motivation for every believer to live a life of faithful service to Christ.

As noted several times previously, when Paul wrote this letter the pure gospel was being contaminated in many churches by compromise and falsehood. Ungodly teachers were distorting the truth and causing many nominal Christians to “fall away from the faith and to pay attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1). Many true believers tolerated ungodliness in the body of Christ and in their own lives, being more concerned about pleasing themselves and other men than about pleasing God.

Paul knew that his present imprisonment would be his final one, from which he would escape only by martyrdom. It was a difficult time for him, not because of his own physical predicament but because of the spiritual predicament of so many of the believers for whom he had poured out his heart and his life. He had special concern for Timothy, for the problems of false teaching and false living he faced in the church at Ephesus and for the problems of timidity and apprehension he faced in his personal life. Again and again in his two letters to Timothy, he challenged him to have courage, consistency, and faithfulness, and to resist the onslaught of evil and error with the power of God’s Word. In the words of a sixteenth-century theologian, Paul was “laying down his arms that Timothy might take them up.” He wanted his son in the Lord to be able one day to write a similar epitaph for himself. Yet despite his deep concerns for the church and for Timothy, the apostle’s final words reflect the eloquent calmness that comes only from settled confidence in the Lord.

(2 Timothy John MacArthur New Testament Commentary)

KEY VERSE

2 Timothy 4:5

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: 2 Timothy 4:5-22

Introduction

This week, we conclude our study of 2 Timothy, entitled, Fearless.

How would you characterize Paul’s final words to Timothy?

What kind of legacy do you think you will leave others some day?

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 4:5; Philippians 1:27-30

Paul’s Personal Charge to Timothy

In contrast to the false teachers (3:2-7) and people who want to have their ears tickled (4:3), what four things does Paul charge Timothy with in 2 Timothy 4:5?

What advice would you give to a young believer to help them stand for truth today?

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 4:5; Titus 2:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:3-5

Be Sober and Endure Afflictions

What does it mean to be sober-minded or watchful in your personal ministry?

What afflictions or hardships have you endured in your personal ministry?

Thursday: 2 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 28:19-20

Do the Work of the Evangelist and Fulfill Your Ministry

Is it easy or difficult for you to tell others about Jesus? What are some challenges?

Are there non believers or new believers in whose life you are investing in to “make disciples”? If not, will you pray for God to give you people to invest in?

What ministry are you involved in? What do you need to do to fulfill the ministry that God has given you?

Friday: 2 Timothy 4:6-22

Paul Finished Well

How does Paul describe his ministry and final days in 2 Timothy 4:6-8?

Paul, the great missionary and preacher, is in jail and he knows his time on earth is winding down. He writes about being abandoned by some. It is not a glamorous situation for such a hero of the faith. What criteria does Paul use to assess his ministry?

How do you assess how well you are serving God in the ministry he has given you?

In what area of your life is God asking you to be “fearless”?

What have you learned from this series?