

2 TIMOTHY

Paul's Last Words

AUTHOR

Paul, in chains, 1:8 and 2:9. Most critical scholars think a follower wrote it, like 1 Timothy. Some who doubt it still think the personal notes in 4:9 to 21 came from Paul.

WRITTEN FROM

A prison in Rome, 1:17.

DATE WRITTEN

About AD 64 to 67, shortly before Paul was put to death under Nero.

WRITTEN TO

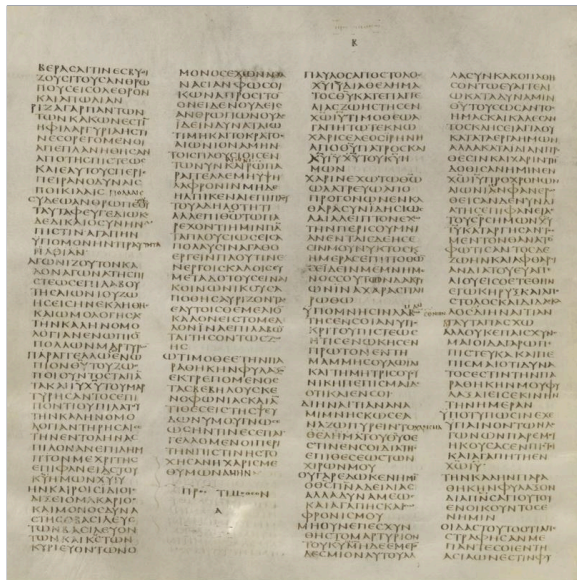
Timothy, probably still in Ephesus, 1:18 and 4:19.

WHY HE WROTE

Paul knew his death was near, 4:6. He wanted Timothy to come quickly, to hold on to the gospel, and to pass it on.

KEY VERSE

2 Timothy 4:7. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.



AN EARLY COPY OF 2 TIMOTHY

A page of Codex Sinaiticus, copied about AD 330 to 360. The second column ends 1 Timothy with its title, TO TIMOTHY 1. The third column starts 2 Timothy: PAUL, AN APOSTLE. It is the oldest copy of this letter that we have.

Historical Setting

This is the last letter Paul ever wrote. His first arrest in Rome was easy: he lived in a rented house and welcomed visitors, Acts 28:30. Not now. Now he is chained like a criminal, 2:9, and even his friend Onesiphorus had to search hard to find him, 1:17. Almost everyone has left. Winter is coming and he needs his coat. He knows he will be killed soon. So he writes

to the young man he calls his beloved child and tells him what matters most. For Timothy's first letter, see 1 Timothy, p.~.

What Paul Was Facing

PRISON. Chained like a criminal in Rome, 2:9.
LONELINESS. Everyone in Asia deserted him, 1:15. Demas left, 4:10. Only Luke stayed, 4:11.
FALSE TEACHERS. Some said the resurrection had already happened, 2:18.
DEATH. His time had come, 4:6.

The Idiot Proof Summary

2 Timothy is Paul's goodbye. He is on death row, and he is not bitter. He tells Timothy to be brave, to stick with the Bible, to train others, and to finish strong. Then he asks for a coat and some books, like any old man in a cold cell. If you want to know what a life well lived looks like at the very end, read this.

2 Timothy at a Glance

CH 1	DO NOT BE ASHAMED Fan the gift into flame. God gave us power, love and a sound mind.
CH 2	BE STRONG Soldier, athlete, farmer. Pass it on. Handle the word right.
CH 3	HARD TIMES AHEAD The last days, and why Scripture is enough.
CH 4	FINISH WELL Preach the word. I have fought the good fight. Bring my coat.

Where Jesus Shows Up

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:10** Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.
- 2 TIMOTHY 2:8** Raised from the dead, descended from David. 2 Samuel 7:12.
- 2 TIMOTHY 4:1 AND 4:8** He will judge the living and the dead and give the crown of righteousness at His appearing. Still to come.

What to Watch for in 2 Timothy

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	2:8
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY	3:1-5, 4:3-4, 4:6
END TIMES PROPHECIES	4:1, 4:8
THE HEART	2:22
DEMONIC	2:26, 3:8-9, 3:13
NOTABLE	1:7, 1:12, 2:2-6, 2:11-13, 3:12, 4:2, 4:7
JESUS SPEAKING	Words in red are Jesus speaking, or God the Father speaking from heaven.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

PAUL'S LAST WORDS
As far as we know, this is the last thing Paul wrote.

GRANDMA'S FAITH

Paul names Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, 1:5. Faith passed down three generations.

MAGICIANS WITH NAMES

Exodus never names Pharaoh's magicians. Paul does: Jannes and Jambres, 3:8.

GOD BREATHED

The Greek word in 3:16 shows up here first in all known writing. Paul may have coined it.

What Happened Next?

Paul was put to death in Rome. Clement of Rome wrote about AD 96 that Paul bore witness before the rulers and went to the holy place. Later writers say he was beheaded, as a Roman citizen. Timothy kept going: Hebrews 13:23 says he was set free from prison. Mark, whom Paul once refused to take along, was now useful to him, 4:11, and Christian tradition says Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark.

NOTABLE

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul is in chains in Rome and knows he is about to die. He writes to Timothy like a dad to a son. Remember your grandma's faith. Fan the fire back up. God did not give you a spirit of fear. Almost everyone left me, but Onesiphorus came looking for me.

PAUL'S GREETING TO TIMOTHY // 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

FAITHFULNESS UNDER PERSECUTION //

MATTHEW 10:16-25

³I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience as did my forefathers, as I constantly remember you night and day in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.

⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced is in you as well.

⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷**For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.**

⁸So do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner. Instead, join me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. ⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time began. ¹⁰And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the

gospel, ¹¹to which I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher.

¹²**For this reason, even though I suffer as I do, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.**

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

LYSTRA, TIMOTHY'S HOMETOWN

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 · 3:11 · ACTS 14:6 TO 20 · ACTS 16:1 TO 3



Bronze coin of Lystra under Augustus, both sides. Bibliothèque nationale de France, public domain.

WHAT IT IS

A bronze coin made by the city of Lystra. One side shows the emperor Augustus. The other shows a priest plowing with two oxen, the ceremony Romans used to mark out a new colony, with the Latin words COLONIA IULIA FELIX GEMINA and the city's name.

HOW OLD IT IS

It was made under Augustus, between about 25 BC and AD 14, after he made Lystra a Roman colony for retired soldiers. That was about 70 years before Paul came.

FINDING THE TOWN

For centuries no one knew where Lystra was. In 1885 the American scholar J. R. S. Sterrett found a stone altar near the village of Hatunsaray in Turkey with the town's Latin name on it. The mound has barely been dug.

TIMOTHY'S HOME

Paul met Timothy here, Acts 16:1. His mother was a Jewish believer and his father was Greek. His grandmother Lois and mother Eunice taught him the Scriptures from a baby, 1:5 and 3:15.

■ 2TI 1:5 [NOTE] LOIS AND EUNICE. Three generations of faith. Timothy's mother was a Jewish believer and his father was Greek, Acts 16:1, so his faith came through the women in his family. See the Lystra Field Notes page.

■ 2TI 1:7 [NOTABLE] Timothy seems to have been timid, 1 Corinthians 16:10. Fear is not from God. The KJV says a sound mind: the Greek word means a clear, disciplined mind that does not panic.

■ 2TI 1:12 [NOTABLE] Paul wrote this chained in prison, facing death. He does not say I know what I believe. He says I know whom. Faith rests on a Person who can be trusted.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | NOTABLE

WHAT TIMOTHY SAW

On Paul's first visit, the crowd thought he and Barnabas were the gods Hermes and Zeus. Days later they stoned Paul and left him for dead, Acts 14:11 to 19. Timothy was likely there. Years later Paul reminds him: you saw what happened to me at Lystra, 3:11.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The coin shows Lystra was a real Roman colony, just as its Latin name says. It does not mention Timothy or Paul.

HOLDING TO SOUND TEACHING

¹³ Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching you have heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

¹⁵ You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he has often refreshed me and was unashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ Indeed, when he arrived in Rome, he searched diligently until he found me.

¹⁸ May the Lord grant Onesiphorus His mercy on that day. You know very well how much he ministered to me in Ephesus.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Be strong like a soldier, play by the rules like an athlete, work hard like a farmer. Pass the truth on to people who will pass it on again. Work hard at handling God's word right, run from youthful lusts, and do not get dragged into dumb arguments.

GRACE AND PERSEVERANCE // HEBREWS 12:1-3

¹ You therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard me say among many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be qualified to teach others as well.

■ 2TI 2:2 [NOTABLE] Four generations in one verse: Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and others. This is how the faith reached you. Every believer is a link in the chain.

³ Join me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ A soldier refrains from entangling himself in civilian affairs, in order to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ Likewise, a competitor does not receive the crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to partake of the crops.

⁷ Consider what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all things.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David, as proclaimed by my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer to the extent of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained! ¹⁰ For this reason I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with Him,
we will also live with Him;

¹² if we endure,
we will also reign with Him;

if we deny Him,
He will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless,
He remains faithful,
for He cannot deny Himself.

THE LORD'S APPROVED WORKMAN

¹⁴ Remind the believers of these things, charging them before God to avoid quarreling over words, which succeeds only in leading the listeners to ruin.

¹⁵ Be diligent to show yourself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

■ 2TI 2:3 [NOTABLE] Three pictures of the Christian life. The soldier stays focused on his commander. The athlete plays by the rules. The hardworking farmer eats first. Each one says the same thing: hard work now, reward later.

■ 2TI 2:8 [FULFILLS] Messiah would be of David's lineage ← 2SA 7:12 p.~

■ 2TI 2:9 [FIELD NOTES] See The Mamertine Prison Field Notes page.

■ 2TI 2:11 [NOTABLE] Likely an early Christian saying or song. It has a warning, if we deny Him, He will deny us, Matthew 10:33, and a comfort: even when our faith is weak, God keeps His word.

■ 2TI 2:15 [NOTE] BE DILIGENT. The KJV says Study. In 1611 study could mean work hard, and that is what the Greek word spoudazo means; the KJV itself says do thy diligence for the same word in 4:9. So this is not a command to read only the Bible. It is about working hard to

THE HEART OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

¹⁶ But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only lead to more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and the talk of such men will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have deviated from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already occurred, and they undermine the faith of some.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: *"The Lord knows those who are His,"* and, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord must turn away from iniquity."*

²⁰ A large house contains not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for honorable use, but others are for common use. ²¹ So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.

²² Flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

handle God's word right. Paul read widely: he quoted Greek writers, Acts 17:28, Titus 1:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:33, and asked for his books, 4:13. Trained under Gamaliel, Acts 22:3, he was probably the most educated of the apostles, Acts 4:13 and 26:24. Many believe he never knew his letters would be called Scripture; others note he knew he wrote with the Lord's authority, 1 Corinthians 14:37.

■ **2TI 2:18 [NOTE]** ALREADY RISEN? Hymenaeus, also in 1 Timothy 1:20, taught that the resurrection had already happened, maybe only in a spiritual way. Paul says no: the dead will rise in real bodies, 1 Corinthians 15:12 to 20.

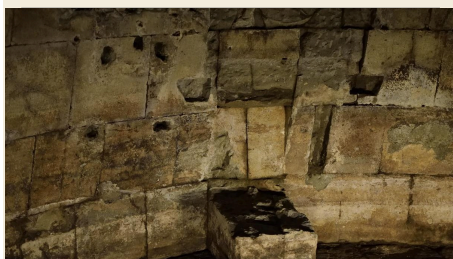
■ **2TI 2:19 [QUOTES]** Direct ← NUM 16:5 p.~

■ **2TI 2:22 [HEART]** Run after righteousness with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE PRISON · THE PAUL TRADITION IS LATE

THE MAMERTINE PRISON

2 TIMOTHY 1:16 TO 17 · 2:9 · 4:6 TO 8



Stone walls of the Tullianum, the lower cell of the old Roman state prison under the Roman Forum. Photo Rabax63, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

The Tullianum, a cramped underground stone cell at the edge of the Roman Forum. It was the bottom level of Rome's state prison, later called the Mamertine Prison. Prisoners were lowered through a hole in the ceiling.

HOW OLD IT IS

Its walls are centuries older than Paul. Experts date the oldest parts anywhere from about 600 to 100 BC. A repair inscription on the front names the consuls of about AD 22.

WHO DIED HERE

Rome kept famous enemies here before killing them: the African king Jugurtha, 104 BC, men from Catiline's plot, 63 BC, the Gallic chief Vercingetorix, 46 BC, and Simon bar Giora, a Jewish rebel leader, in AD 71 after the fall of Jerusalem. The Roman writer Sallust said it looked dirty, dark and frightening.

THE PAUL AND PETER STORY

A church was built over it, and tradition says Peter and Paul were held here before they died. That story is first found in writings from hundreds of years later. No early source says it.

WHERE WAS PAUL?

We do not know. His first arrest was easy: a rented house, Acts 28:30. This time he is chained like a criminal, 2:9, so hard to find that Onesiphorus had to search for him, 1:17. A cell like this shows the kind of place he may have been.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY DEMONIC NOTABLE

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Nothing found here names Paul. It shows how Rome treated its prisoners.

²³ But reject foolish and ignorant speculation, for you know that it breeds quarreling. ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome, but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and forbearing.

²⁵ He must gently reprove those who oppose him, in the hope that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his will.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

The last days will be ugly. People will love themselves, money and pleasure more than God, and still look religious. But Timothy, you know how I lived. Stick with what you learned from Scripture, because all Scripture is God breathed.

EVIL IN THE LAST DAYS

¹ But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, ⁴ traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!

⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into households and captivate vulnerable women who are weighed down with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ who are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2TI 2:26 [DEMONIC] Held captive by the devil to do his will

2TI 3:1 [PROPHECY] In the last days perilous times will come. Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God → HISTORY: Ongoing progressive fulfillment throughout church history; increasingly evident in modern era · MEDIUM

⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth. They are depraved in mind and disqualified from the faith. ⁹ But they will not advance much further. For just like Jannes and Jambres, their folly will be plain to everyone.

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED // HEBREWS 4:12-16

¹⁰ You, however, have observed my teaching, my conduct, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my perseverance, ¹¹ my persecutions, and the sufferings that came upon me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil men and imposters go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in the things you have learned and firmly believed, since you know from whom you have learned them. ¹⁵ From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

2TI 3:8 [DEMONIC] Jannes and Jambres, Pharaoh's magicians, opposed Moses

2TI 3:8 [NOTE] JANNES AND JAMBRES. Exodus 7:11 never names Pharaoh's magicians. Their names come from Jewish tradition. The Dead Sea Scrolls' Damascus Document mentions Yohanah and his brother, and an Aramaic translation of Exodus names Jannes and Jambres. Even the Roman writer Pliny the Elder lists Jannes as a famous magician.

2TI 3:12 [NOTABLE] Not maybe, will. Jesus said the same, John 15:20. Paul had lived it at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, 3:11. Opposition is not a sign you are doing it wrong.

2TI 3:13 [DEMONIC] Evil men and impostors, goetes, go from bad to worse

2TI 3:16 [NOTE] GOD BREATHED. See The Big Question page, How Is the Bible Inspired?

END TIMES PROPHECIES | NOTABLE

DEBATED | THE BIG QUESTION

HOW IS THE BIBLE INSPIRED?

God Breathed

2 TIMOTHY 3:14 TO 17 • 2 PETER 1:20 TO 21 • 2 PETER 3:16

WHAT PAUL SAID

All Scripture is God breathed, 3:16. The Greek word is theopneustos, God plus breath, and it is the first time anyone is known to use it. The KJV says given by inspiration of God. Paul says Scripture is useful to teach, to rebuke, to correct and to train, so a believer is ready for every good work, 3:17.

WHAT SCRIPTURE MEANT TO PAUL

He meant the holy writings Timothy had known from a baby, 3:15, our Old Testament. But the first Christians were already calling some New Testament writings Scripture: Paul quotes Jesus' words in Luke 10:7 as Scripture, 1 Timothy 5:18, and Peter puts Paul's letters with the other Scriptures, 2 Peter 3:16. Many believe Paul never pictured his letters gathered into a Bible. Others point out that he knew he wrote with the Lord's authority, 1 Corinthians 14:37.

THE EARLY CHURCH

Clement of Rome, about AD 96, called the Scriptures true and given through the Holy Spirit. Augustine, about AD 405, wrote that if a Bible verse seemed wrong to him, he would assume the copy was bad, the translator made a mistake, or he did not understand it.

WORD FOR WORD DICTATION

God told the writers exactly what to write, like a boss speaking to a secretary. Jeremiah 36:4 and Revelation 2 and 3 look like this. Few hold it for the whole Bible today, because each writer's own style shows, and Luke says he did research, Luke 1:1 to 3.

INERRANCY

God guided the human writers, using their own personalities, so that every word is what He wanted and the Bible is without error in everything it teaches, in the original copies. Key verses: 2 Peter 1:21, Matthew 5:18, John 10:35. Spelled out in the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, 1978. Held by many evangeli-

cals; the Southern Baptist confession says truth without any mixture of error.

INFALLIBLE FOR FAITH AND LIFE

The Bible never fails in what it teaches about God, salvation and how to live, but small details of history or science may reflect the writers' times. Harold Lindsell's 1976 book *The Battle for the Bible* made this debate famous among evangelicals.

CATHOLIC AND ORTHODOX

God is the author of Scripture and it teaches without error the truth God wanted written for our salvation, as the Catholic Church said at Vatican II in 1965. It is read together with the church's Tradition.

OTHER VIEWS

Karl Barth taught that the Bible is a human witness to Jesus, the Word of God, and becomes God's Word when God speaks through it. Many liberal scholars see the Bible as inspired the way great writing is inspired, a human record of people's experience of God.

WHAT WE ALL AGREE ON

God speaks through the Bible. It points to Jesus, John 5:39. And its goal is not to win arguments but to make us complete and ready for every good work, 3:17.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

Preach the word whether people like it or not. Paul is ready to die: I fought the good fight, I finished the race, I kept the faith. Then it gets personal. Come quickly before winter, bring Mark, and do not forget my coat and my books.

PREACH THE WORD

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction.

■ 2TI 4:1 [PROPHECY] The Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom → STILL TO COME

■ 2TI 4:2 [NOTABLE] Preach when it is popular and when it is not, when it is convenient and when it is not. The next

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY · END TIMES PROPHECIES · NOTABLE

³ For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. ⁴ So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but to all who crave His appearing.

PERSONAL CONCERNS

⁹ Make every effort to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ because Demas, in his love of this world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me in the ministry. ¹² Tychicus, however, I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak

that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ You too should beware of him, for he has vigorously opposed our message.

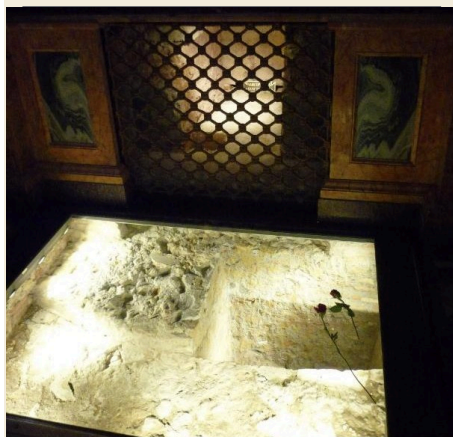
THE LORD REMAINS FAITHFUL

¹⁶ At my first defense, no one stood with me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be charged against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles would hear it. So I was delivered from the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord will rescue me from every evil action and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM
· AN ANCIENT TRADITION, NOT PROVEN

THE TOMB OF PAUL

2 TIMOTHY 4:6 TO 8 · 4:17 TO 18



Under the main altar of the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Rome: remains uncovered in the dig under glass, and the grille over the tomb. Photo Fczarnowski, CC BY SA 3.0.

verses explain why: people will want teachers who tell them what their itching ears want to hear, 4:3.

■ **2TI 4:3 [PROPHECY]** The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but heap up teachers according to their own desires → HISTORY: Progressively fulfilled through church history; increasingly evident today

■ **2TI 4:6 [PROPHECY]** The time of Paul's departure, his death, was at hand → HISTORY: 1 Clement 5 and Eusebius Church History 2.25 · MEDIUM

■ **2TI 4:6 [NOTE]** POURED OUT. A drink offering was wine poured out on the altar, Numbers 28:7. Paul sees his death as his last offering, Philippians 2:17. Departure is a word for a ship untying to sail. Later writers say he was beheaded under Nero. See The Tomb of Paul Field Notes page, and compare 4:7 with 1 Timothy 6:12.

■ **2TI 4:7 [NOTABLE]** Paul's own epitaph, written as he waited to die. Years before he told Timothy to fight the good fight, 1 Timothy 6:12. Now he can say he did it. The goal is not a fast start but a faithful finish.

■ **2TI 4:8 [PROPHECY]** There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord will give me on that Day, and to all who have loved His appearing → STILL TO COME

■ **2TI 4:10 [NOTE]** DEMAS. Once Paul's coworker, Colossians 4:14, he loved this world and left. For Galatia, Codex Sinaiticus and some old copies say Gaul, today's France.

■ **2TI 4:11 [NOTE]** ONLY LUKE. Luke the doctor, Colossians 4:14, stayed to the end. And Mark, the young man Paul once refused to take along, Acts 15:37 to 39, is now useful. See the Colossians 4:10 note, p.~.

■ **2TI 4:13 [FIELD NOTES]** See the Scrolls and Parchments Field Notes page.

■ **2TI 4:14 [NOTE]** ALEXANDER THE COPPERSMITH. Maybe the Alexander of 1 Timothy 1:20 or Acts 19:33, but the name was common. The Lord will repay him echoes Psalm 62:12.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE OBJECTS · PAUL'S BOOKS ARE UNKNOWN

SCROLLS AND PARCHMENTS

2 TIMOTHY 4:9 TO 13



Wall painting from Pompeii, about AD 55 to 79. National Archaeological Museum, Naples. Photo Jebulon, public domain.

WHAT IT IS

A painted portrait of a married couple from a house in Pompeii. She holds a stylus to her lips and a little notebook of wax tablets. He holds a papyrus scroll.

HOW OLD IT IS

It was painted in the last years before the volcano buried Pompeii in AD 79, probably under Nero, the same years Paul wrote this letter.

SCROLLS AND PARCHMENTS

Paul asks for his scrolls, especially the parchments, 4:13. Scrolls were usually papyrus rolls like the one in his hand. The word parchments is a Latin word in Paul's Greek, membranas, notebooks of animal skin pages. The poet Martial, about AD 85, sold his poems in small parchment books you could hold in one hand.

WHAT WERE THEY?

Nobody knows. Maybe Old Testament scrolls, notes, copies of his own letters, or his papers proving he was a Roman citizen. Paul wanted his books even on death row.

THE CHRISTIAN BOOK

Most books in Paul's world were scrolls. But the first Christians loved the page book, the codex. Almost every early Christian copy of the Bible we have is a codex, like Codex Sinaiticus on the title page.

THE COAT

The cloak was a heavy wool travel cloak. Winter was coming, 4:21, and stone cells are cold.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

This couple has nothing to do with Paul. The painting shows what scrolls and notebooks looked like in his day.

WHAT IT IS

The place under the main altar of the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome where a large marble coffin, a sarcophagus, was found. A marble slab above it reads PAULO APOSTOLO MART, to Paul, apostle, martyr.

HOW OLD IT IS

Emperor Constantine built the first church here in the 300s, and it was made much bigger about AD 390. The slab is from about that time. The coffin is at the level of that old church.

THE OLD TRADITION

About AD 200, a Roman church leader

named Gaius said he could show visitors the trophies, the monuments, of the apostles: Peter's on the Vatican hill and Paul's on the road to Ostia. Writers like Tertullian, about AD 200, say Paul was beheaded.

THE DIG

From 2002 to 2006, Vatican archaeologist Giorgio Filippi dug under the altar and found the sarcophagus. A small opening now lets visitors see one side of it.

WHAT WAS INSIDE

On June 28, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI announced that a probe slipped into a

tiny hole found purple linen with gold, blue cloth, red incense, and tiny pieces of bone. Carbon dating put the bones in the first or second century.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The bones fit Paul's time, but nothing can prove whose they are. This is a very old and strong tradition, not proof.

FINAL GREETINGS // EPHESIANS 6:21–24; PHILIPPIANS 4:21–23

¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, as well as the household of Onesiphorus.

²⁰ Erastus has remained at Corinth, and Trophimus I left sick in Miletus.

²¹ Make every effort to come to me before winter.

Eubulus sends you greetings, as do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers.

²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

■ **2TI 4:21 [NOTE] LINUS AND CLAUDIA.** Irenaeus, about AD 180, says Linus, named here, led the church in Rome after Peter and Paul. A legend makes Claudia a British princess, from a poem by Martial about a British Claudia married to a Pudens; most scholars doubt it.