

His concern for proper church order and organization shows up in 2:8-12; 3:2 ff. These form the bases of his exhortations and instructions to Timothy in the rest of the book.

Second Timothy 1:13f seems to encapsulate much of Paul's concern for Timothy's need of courage, his need to preach, and the terrible struggles which the church would face. Second Timothy 4:6-8 is a marvelous obituary summing up the life and hope of the apostles.

Study tips:

Read through 1 Timothy at one sitting. Read it again, breaking it into sections or topics of thought. Does Paul have a main concern throughout the letter? What is it? On the basis of this letter, how would you describe Timothy? Paul's relationship with him? What does this model suggest for relationships between older and younger pastors or between pastors and their church leaders? Read about Timothy and Paul in a Bible encyclopedia. What further light does this shed on the letter as you read it again? Analyze carefully the requirements for church officers. Is this how officers are chosen for your church? What changes would result if these rules were followed strictly?

Read II Timothy through at one sitting. Read it a second time, noting the many personal references. What do these references suggest about facing death? Look up articles on Roman law or the Roman legal system, including executions, to gain some appreciation of what Paul faced as he wrote this letter. What is Paul's main concern for Timothy? Is it the same as his concern in 1 Timothy? On what is Paul's confidence based? How do you know?

Further study:

GUARD THE GOSPEL by John Stott covers II Timothy in Stott's usual penetrating and pastoral style. I & II TIMOTHY, TITUS by Donald Guthrie covers all three pastoral epistles in the helpful Tyndale series. THE PASTORAL EPISTLES by A.T. Hasson also covers I and II Timothy and Titus in the New Century Bible Commentary Series.

b. Extended notes:

(1) chapter summaries:

- 1 Timothy: 1 Warning against apostasy, Paul shown mercy
2. Intercessory Prayer, Conduct of women