

2 Timothy

Course Description:

The epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus, commonly referred to as pastoral epistles, were written by an older apostle to two younger and relatively newer believers who were his spiritual children and whom he had raised up in the Christian faith. His epistle to Philemon, who was probably also Paul's spiritual son, but an older brother and elder of a church, is sometimes referred to as a "prison letter" (written in a Roman prison). These epistles reveal heartfelt outpourings, revelation of the truth, how to discern healthy teaching, how to have a proper and godly living before the Lord, proper companionship, growth in ministry and love and care for fellow believers without discrimination, instructions and admonitions for any believer, young or old, who desires to love, follow, grow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and become pillars in the church life. This course is geared for newer believers, though all are undoubtedly welcome. It is a one year (three semester) pastoral journey, covering 1 Timothy (Fall Semester 2022), 2 Timothy (Winter Semester 2023) and Titus and Philemon (Spring Semester 2023). By the end of the Fall Semester 2022, our expectation is that every student would desire to be a Timothy, seeking to live a pure and prayerful life before the Lord, not afraid to exercise the gift the Lord has given to each one, hungry to know and enjoy the word of God, and eager to share the word with others for their salvation. More than that, the example of Paul and Timothy can inspire us not merely to focus on our own spiritual growth, but to help and raise up others in the Christian faith to become pillars who in turn can raise up or lead a church.

Instructor: Antipas Desai

Time: Saturdays 12:00 (Noon) – 1:00 PM ET

Class Size: No limit

Syllabus (week by week):

Following the chapters in the book of 2 Timothy:

Week 1: Chapter 1:1-11: In a time of decline, there is the need for pillars to be raised up who, through unfeigned faith in Christ, can fan their spirit into flame and not be ashamed of the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Week 2: Chapter 1:12-18: In a time of decline, that which the Lord has committed to us, as a good deposit, becomes exceedingly precious and rare, and needs to be guarded till the day of His return. How can we guard what the Lord has committed to us?

Week 3: Chapter 2:1-15: Five crucial functions of a servant of God to inoculate the church against decline.

Week 4: Chapter 2:16-26: When we inoculate others against decline, we must purify ourselves first in order to become vessels of honor, useful to the master.

Week 5: Chapter 3:1-8: As the decline of the church worsens, we need patterns (those whom we can follow), causing us to live a godly life in Christ Jesus. However, the more we live a godly life, the more we will be persecuted.

Week 6: Chapter 3:9-17: The word of God is the safeguard and equipment that will cause us to continue in the things which we have learned and enable us to suffer persecution as we stand against further decline and departure from God.

Week 7: Chapter 4:1-8: In a time of decline, may we be those who accomplish our ministry, fighting the good fight and keeping the faith, having before us the crown of righteousness as an incentive which the Lord will give to all those who are waiting for and love His return.
Week 8: Chapter 4:9-22: Can we grow to the point where even towards the end of our life, our hearts long for the word of God, long for the brothers and sisters, and long for people, that they may be saved?

Course Objective:

The final words of a writer before his death are perhaps the most crucial because they encompass a cumulative wealth of experience, wisdom and knowledge that can point the reader to a bright and hopeful future by avoiding the pitfalls in the way and by pursuing the things of value. The words written become even more significant if the writer is expecting imminent death. Such were Paul's words to Timothy, his genuine spiritual child. The charge to Timothy was twofold: to pay attention to the growth and advancement of others, and to pay attention to himself and his ministry. In a time of decline when the love for the Lord of many brothers and sisters will wane, and unhealthy teaching becomes the norm rather than the exception, the need for pillars to be raised up becomes even more urgent. Who will stand against the tide? Who will be equipped with the word of God and be able to divide it properly to convict those who err and who lead others astray? Who will fight the good fight of the faith? Who will run the race with endurance? Paul's final epistle challenges us with these questions and seeks to bring us out of a condition of lukewarmness or indifference or timidity and lead us to fan into flame the gift that God has given each one of us. As more and more turn away from Christ, may we be empowered by the Lord to fully accomplish our ministry and remain faithful to the Lord till He returns.

Resources:

2 Timothy, the Bible

Structure:

Lecture with a 10-15 minute question/discussion period

Homework:

Participants will be expected to invest 30 minutes each week in reading assigned verses and giving short answers to assigned questions. Group work is encouraged.

The timing and content of this class has been specially considered in view of participation of saints from Africa. For those from Africa who wish to join, please register through the church in Accra or the church in Kampala. Even though this class has been designed with Africa in view, all saints from everywhere are welcome to join them. All other registration is still through this website.