

Second Timothy Outline

Introduction: In Paul's second letter to Timothy Paul is again offering general advice to his young protégé, and although there is some dispute about this, it sounds like Paul is also sensing he is drawing near to his death. Particularly at the end of his letter as he asks Timothy to come to see him, Paul sees himself as having "fought the good fight", and now that he has neared the end of his race he can hold his head up high for having run the race well.

One of the most quoted texts in all the Bible is found in Paul's second letter to Timothy- that all scripture is inspired. This quote is often cited when people are making arguments to support the authority of scripture. Two things that are important to remember here: Paul writes that scripture is inspired, not inerrant; in Paul's day "scripture" referred only to parts of the Old Testament, as most of the New Testament was still yet to be written.

In the last century the protestant church in America has been largely divided over questions relating to the authority of scripture. In the Presbyterian church the 'fundamentalists' argued that scripture is inspired and inerrant (without error) and not subject to scholarly criticism in the same manner as other literature. The 'modernists' agreed with the fundamentalists that scripture is inspired, but disagreed that the Bible is inerrant, acknowledging the importance of textual criticism and other important ways of studying the Bible believing that God's spirit will speak through the entire process. Although Paul is often dragged into these bitter disputes, these fights are foreign to him and his worldview. This is all the more true when we remember that the scripture to which Paul refers isn't even the Bible as we have come to know it nor even the entire Old Testament, but was the Pentateuch, some of the prophetic books, and various others.

Chapter 1: Paul remembers the faith in Timothy's family and encourages him

Chapter 2: Doctrinal reminder, various bits of advice

Chapter 3: Warning of hardship; scripture as God-breathed

Chapter 4: Paul has fought the good fight; calls for Timothy to come to him

Stories/texts to know: "All scripture is inspired" (Chapter 3); Paul has fought the good fight (Chapter 4)