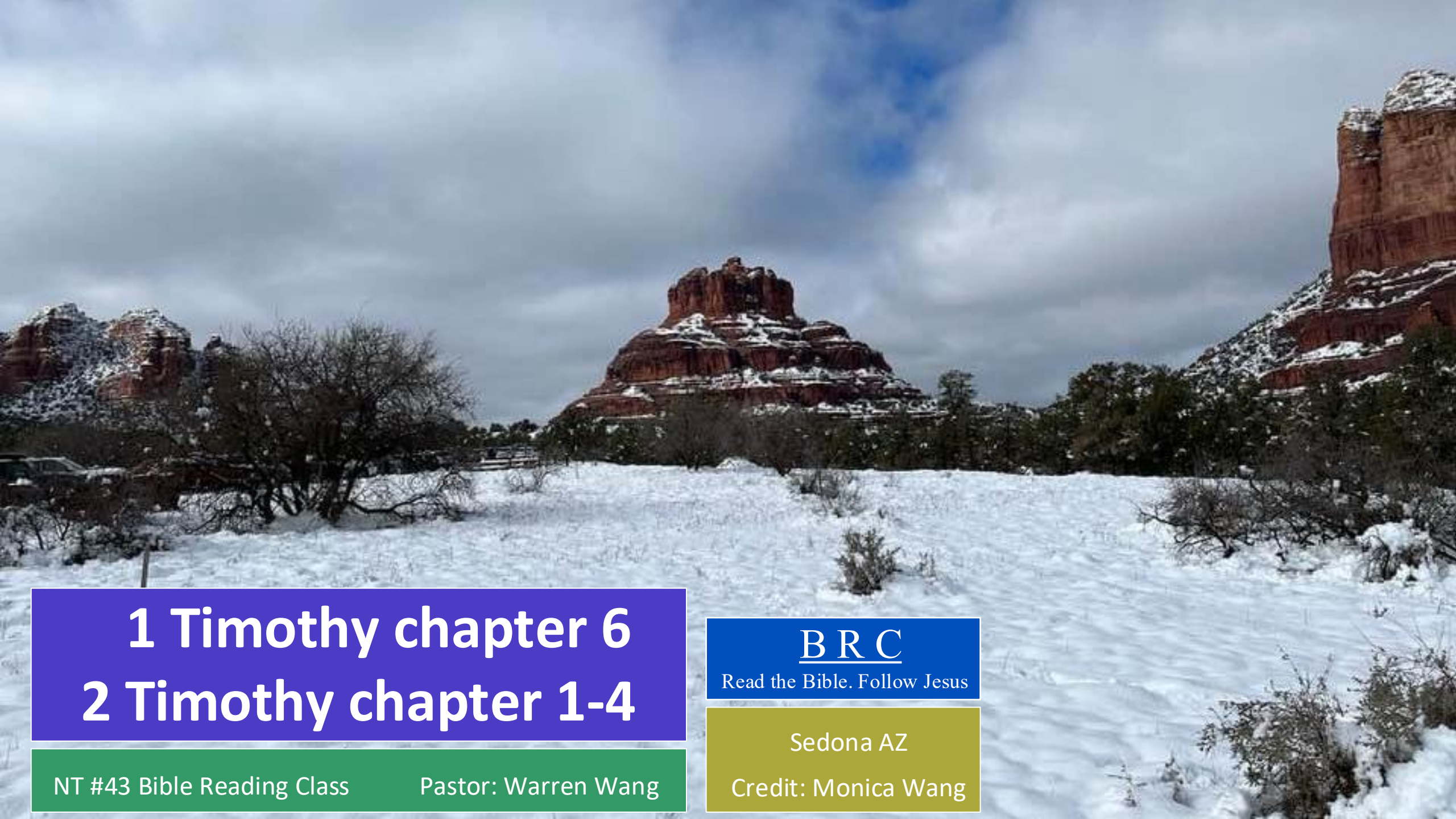




1 Timothy chapter 6 2 Timothy chapter 1-4

NT #43 Bible Reading Class

Pastor: Warren Wang

B R C

Read the Bible. Follow Jesus

Sedona AZ

Credit: Monica Wang

A Bible Reader's Conviction

- *All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17, NIV)*

A Blessed Journey

1. May you study God's Word with a reverent heart and walk in His will.
2. May the Word of the Lord prosper, and may He add to the church those who are being saved.
3. May the Lord bless your days of reading Scripture.

B R C

Read the Bible. Follow Jesus

Read the Bible. Follow Jesus.

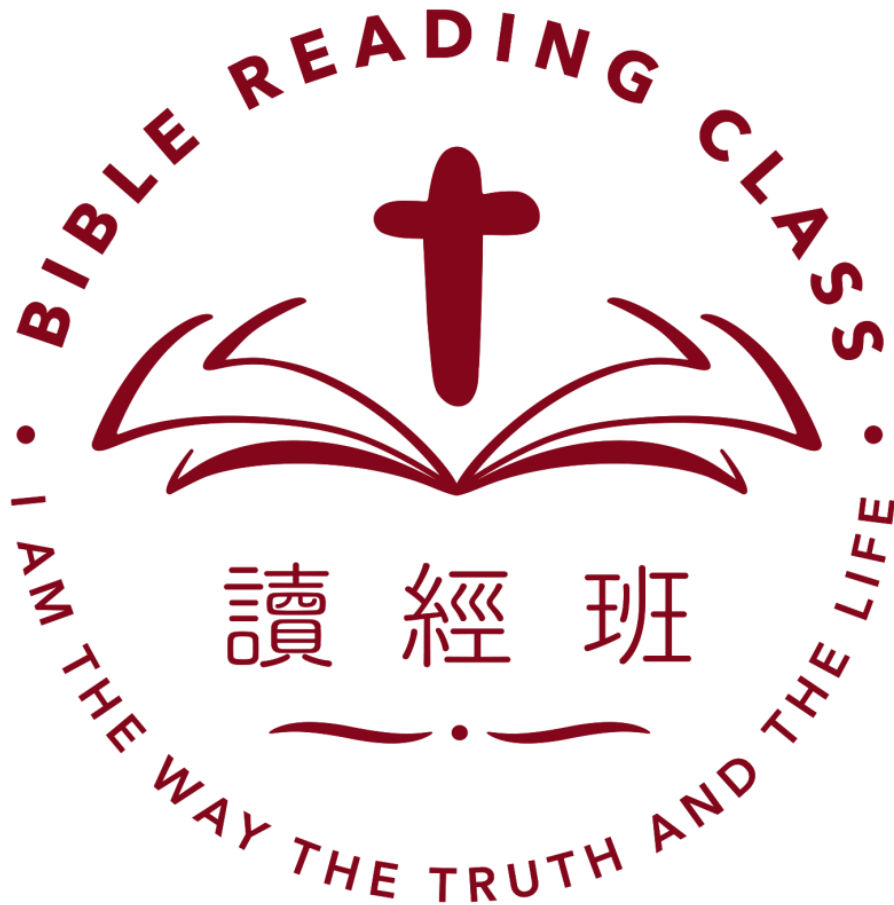


The Guiding Principles of BRC



- Christ-Centered
- Bible-Based
- Mission-Minded

BRC: A Gentleman's Agreement



- I'll complete weekly reading assignment
- I'll watch weekly teaching video in its entirety
- I'll complete weekly quiz (closed book)

The Structure of the 27 Books of the New Testament

three Synoptic
Gospels

John

Four Gospels

Acts

Thirteen Pauline
Epistles

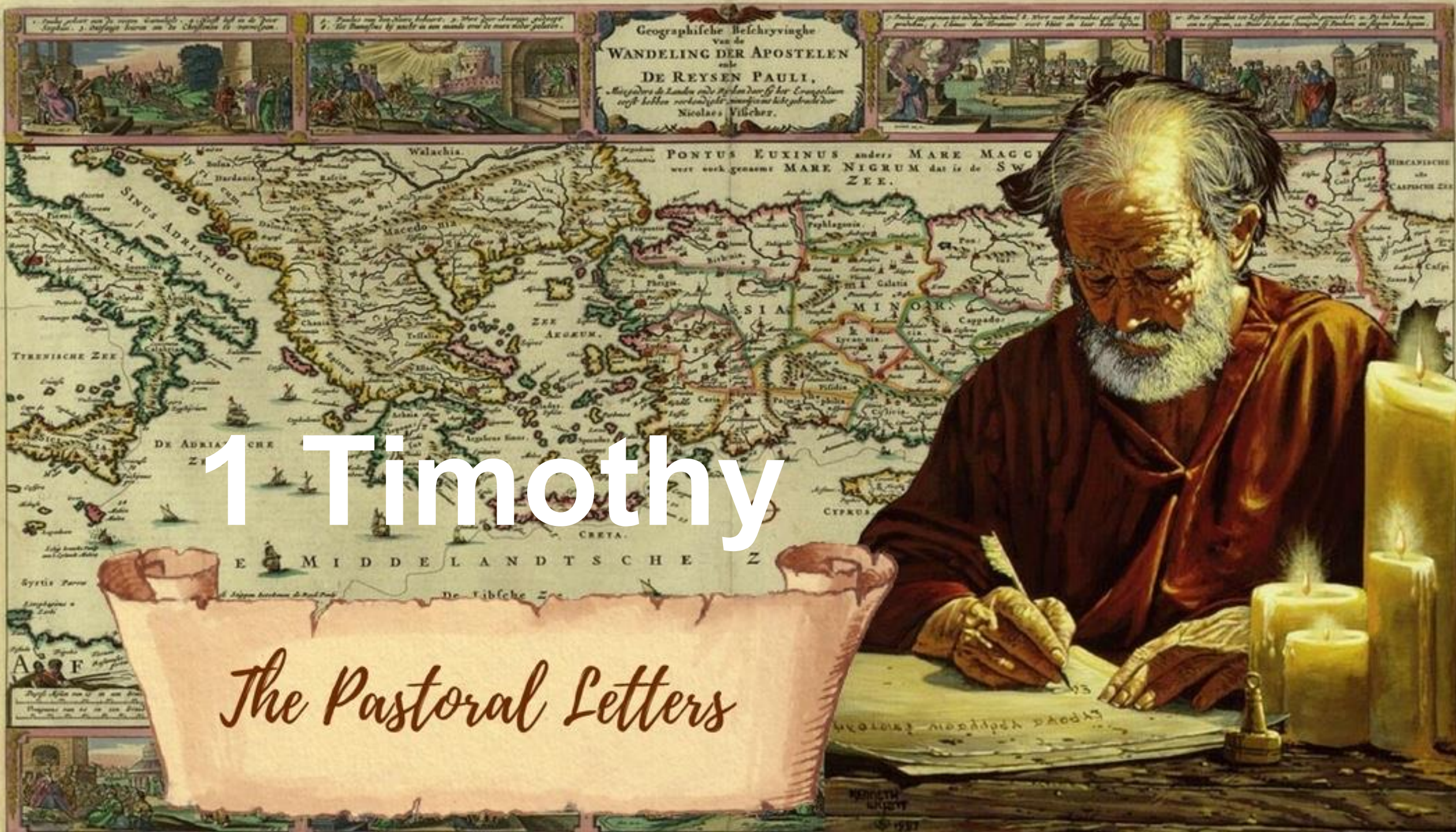
Other Nine
Epistles

Five Books of Historical Narrative

Twenty-two Books of Doctrinal Teaching

1 Timothy

The Pastoral Letters



The Love of Money Is a Root of All Kinds of Evil

- *But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:6–10, NIV)*
- *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and **greed, which is idolatry**. (Colossians 3:5, NIV)*
- *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or **greedy person—such a person is an idolater**—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. . (Ephesians 5:5, NIV)*



Do Not Put Your Hope in Money, Put Your Hope in God

- *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17–19, NIV)*
 1. *Wealth, which is so uncertain.*
 2. *God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*
 3. *Be rich in good deeds.*

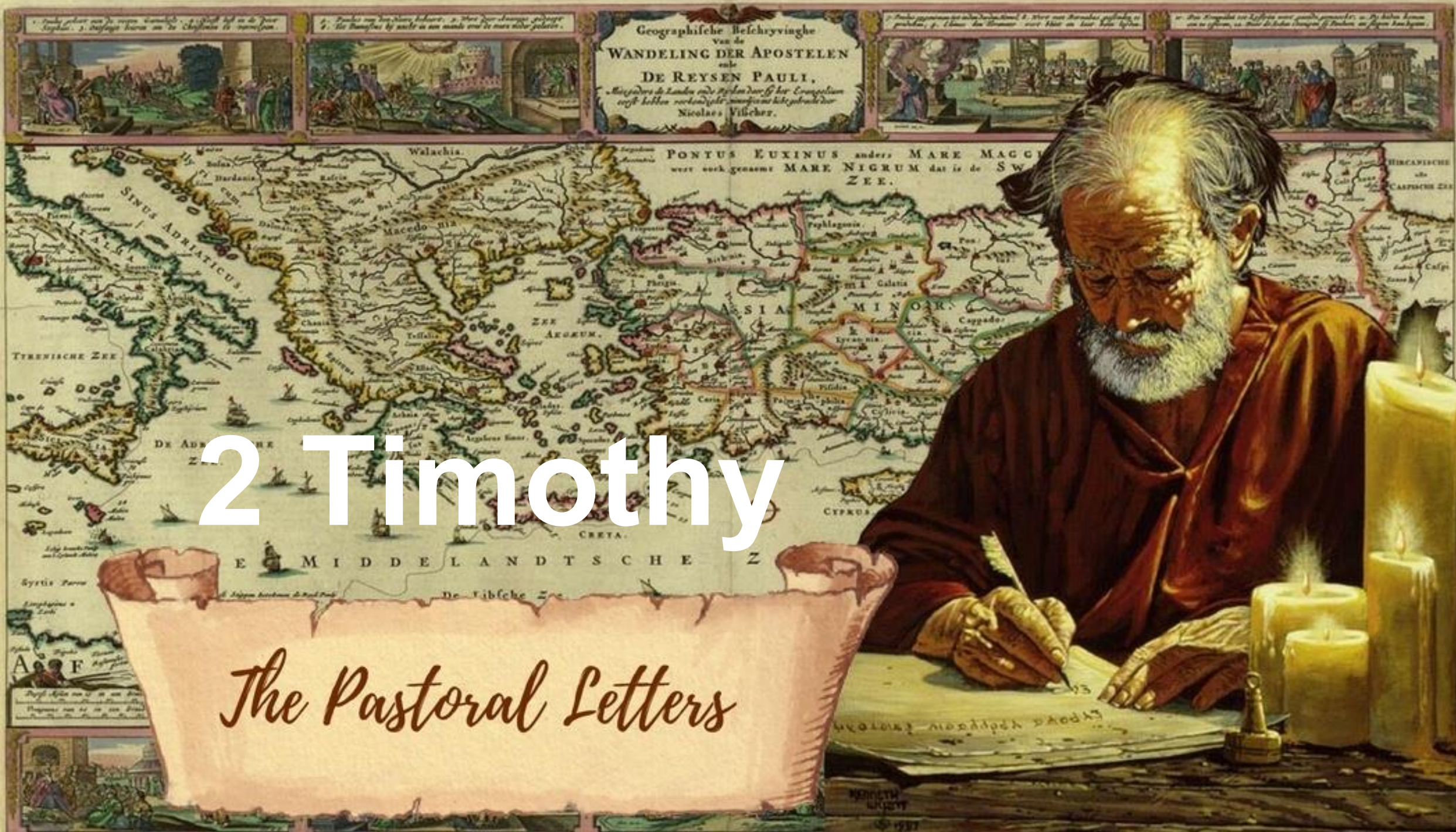


A Christian's Attitude Toward Money

- **Two “Do’s” and Two “Don’ts”:**
 1. **Be content.** *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6, NIV) “But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” (1 Timothy 6:8, NIV)*
 2. **Do good.** *“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” (1 Timothy 6:18, NIV)*
 3. **Do not love money.** *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1 Timothy 6:10, NIV)*
 4. **Do not put your hope in wealth.** *“...not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (1 Timothy 6:17, NIV)*

2 Timothy

The Pastoral Letters



2 Timothy

- **Date of Writing:** AD 66–67, during Paul's second imprisonment in Rome, shortly before his martyrdom for the Lord.
- **Purpose of Writing:** Knowing that his time was short, Paul encouraged Timothy to serve faithfully and to proclaim the pure gospel.
- **Outline:**
 1. **Paul's Concern for Timothy** — Chapter 1
 2. **Paul's Instruction to Timothy** — Chapter 2
 3. **Paul's Warning to Timothy** — Chapter 3
 4. **Paul's Charge to Timothy** — Chapter 4

Paul's Situation at the Time

- Second Timothy is the apostle Paul's *Swan Song*, written near the end of his life to his beloved disciple Timothy. The following describes Paul's condition at that time:

1. He Was Imprisoned and in Chains

- *"I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained."* (2 Timothy 2:9, NIV)
- *"So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner."* (2 Timothy 1:8, NIV)
- *"May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains."* (2 Timothy 1:16, NIV)

2. He Was Abandoned by Friends

- *"You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me."* (2 Timothy 1:15, NIV)
- *"At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me."* (2 Timothy 4:16, NIV)

Paul's Situation at the Time

3. He Knew His Life Was Near Its End

- *“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store 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 also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:6-8, NIV)*

The Great Fire of Rome

- On the night of July 18, AD 64, a great fire broke out in Rome and burned for seven days and seven nights. A few days later, several new fires flared up again. When the flames were finally extinguished, half of the city's fourteen districts had been reduced to ruins, and only four districts escaped completely unharmed. When the fire broke out, Emperor Nero was not in the city. After returning to Rome, however, he was said to have watched the burning city from his palace, playing music and singing. As a result, rumors quickly spread that Nero himself had ordered the city to be set on fire.
- To quell public outrage, Nero shifted the blame to the Christians, accusing them of starting the fire. He ordered their arrest and punishment. A bloody calamity soon fell upon the Christians. The wave of persecution quickly spread from the capital to the provinces, and many Christians were brutally killed. Christianity came to be regarded as an illegal religion, no longer tolerated within the empire.
- In AD 66, amid this wave of persecution, Paul's enemies seized the opportunity to act. They reported him to the authorities, falsely accused him, and had him imprisoned as a condemned criminal. He remained in a dark and damp dungeon, awaiting his final fate.

The Arena and “Human Torches”

- Nero’s persecution of Christians was extraordinarily cruel, and some of his methods were newly devised. He opened the imperial gardens and arenas to the public so that the citizens of Rome could witness how Christians were punished. He released wild beasts to tear apart defenseless believers. He dressed Christians in blood-soaked animal skins and had them torn to pieces by savage dogs. Some were crucified. Others were tied to tall poles, drenched in oil, and set on fire to illuminate the night sky of Rome. Meanwhile, Nero himself rode in a chariot in triumphal display.
- During the first three centuries, Christians endured repeated waves of persecution—some empire-wide, others regional. It was in such harsh circumstances that believers paid the price of their lives to preserve, share, and proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ. They were not roses in a greenhouse, but plum blossoms blooming in the bitter cold of winter.
- Not long after writing 2 Timothy, Paul was beheaded and martyred for the Lord. His noble character, his faith that has shone through the ages, and his letters filled with heavenly inspiration have guided believers throughout the generations, even to this day.

Loneliness

- When reading 2 Timothy, one deeply senses the loneliness that came from Paul's heart. He missed his friends. Facing his impending martyrdom, Paul longed for human sympathy and companionship. He wanted to see Timothy. He asked Timothy to bring him a cloak to keep warm, and also his scrolls and parchments (the Hebrew Scriptures) to read: *"When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments."* (2 Timothy 4:13, NIV) In the midst of an inescapable loneliness, Paul wanted something to read. Even more, he wanted to see someone—especially Timothy. He also wanted to put on a warm cloak; it was simply too cold there.
- Second Timothy reveals the human side of Paul. Paul was a servant of Christ and a great apostle, but he was also human, with human needs. One of the most basic human needs is companionship—to see others, to touch others, to speak with others; to receive comfort for the soul and share in emotional fellowship.
- One harsh reality of modern Christianity is the dehumanization of faith. The church becomes a machine in operation, and people become statistics. When the time comes, I attend worship. I come only to listen to a sermon, not to make friends. There is no cultivation of mutual affection. The preacher is treated merely as a tool for delivering messages. Scattered here and there, many lonely people sit in the sanctuary—without comfort for the soul, without emotional fellowship, only shallow greetings and hollow doctrines.

A Clear Conscience and a Sincere Faith

1. Paul Served God with a Clear Conscience

- *“I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience.” (2 Timothy 1:3, NIV)*

2. Timothy Had a Sincere Faith

- *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5, NIV)*

A. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. Serving God is not merely outward activity; it is a condition of the heart.

B. A Clear Conscience: The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin; our guilty conscience has been cleansed, so that we may come before God with clean hands and a pure heart.

C. A Sincere Faith: With pure motives, genuinely believing in the Lord, and serving God with wholehearted sincerity.

The Passing on of Faith

- *“I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:3–5, NIV)*
 1. Paul followed in the footsteps of his ancestors in serving God with a clear conscience.
 2. Timothy’s grandmother and mother came to faith before him, and he followed in their faith.
 3. Paul nurtured, taught, and prepared Timothy to be his successor.
 4. We Are Both Heirs and Stewards of Faith

A Spirit of Power, Love, and Self-Discipline

- *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7, NIV)*
 1. In serving the Lord, we must not be timid—even if we are naturally timid by temperament.
 2. The Spirit God gives enables you to live with power, love, and self-discipline.
 - If you lack strength, rely on the Lord to make you strong.
 - If you lack love, ask God to enlarge your heart toward others.
 - If you lack self-control, ask the Spirit to rule your desires and train you in obedience.

Not Ashamed

1. Not Ashamed of Christ

- *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:38, NIV)*

2. Not Ashamed of the Gospel

- *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” (Romans 1:16, NIV)*

3. Not Ashamed of Suffering for the Lord

- *“So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.” (2 Timothy 1:8, NIV)*
- *“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame...” (2 Timothy 1:12, NIV)*

Sharing in Suffering

- Jesus told His disciples that they would face persecution. Paul likewise urged Timothy to share in suffering with him.

1. Share in Suffering for the Gospel

- *“Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.” (2 Timothy 1:8, NIV)*

2. Share in Suffering Like a Good Soldier

- *“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:3, NIV)*

3. Endure Hardship in Fulfilling Your Ministry

- *“But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5, NIV)*

Forsaken by Many, Except One

- **Forsaken by Many**

- *“You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.” (2 Timothy 1:15, NIV)*
 - When Jesus suffered, everyone deserted Him. Paul experienced something similar.
 - Those who serve God must be prepared in their hearts: betrayal is to be expected. Do not lose heart—fix your eyes on the Lord.

- **Except for One**

- *“May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.” (2 Timothy 1:16–17, NIV)*
 - The faithful friend Onesiphorus diligently searched for Paul and brought comfort to his heart.
 - Coal delivered in the snow feels especially warm; friendship in times of suffering brings special comfort.
 - May you be a Onesiphorus—not a Phygelus or a Hermogenes.

Four Generations in One Verse: Teaching the Lord's Word

- *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2, NIV)*
 1. **First Generation:** Paul
 2. **Second Generation:** Timothy
 3. **Third Generation:** Reliable people who are qualified to teach others
 4. **Fourth Generation:** Those who are taught
- The church must have a *legacy of teaching*. We are not only to teach others, but also to train others to teach. A teacher must meet two qualifications: **Faithfulness** — faithful in duty and faithful to the Lord. **Ability to teach** — capable of teaching people effectively. Notice: the verse says able to teach *others*, not merely able to prepare material and deliver it once. A true teacher must make people want to listen, help them understand, and equip them to pass the truth on to the next generation.

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

- *“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.” (2 Timothy 2:3–6, NIV)*

1. Like a Soldier: Be single-minded and devoted, not entangled in civilian affairs, but seeking to please the One who enlisted you.

2. Like an Athlete: Compete according to the rules, give your full effort, and strive to win the crown.

3. Like a Farmer: Work diligently and patiently, trusting that faithful labor will yield its harvest.

The Five “Trustworthy Sayings” in the Pastoral Epistles

- In the Pastoral Epistles, the phrase “Here is a trustworthy saying” appears five times. Each instance highlights an important teaching concerning faith and life.

1. The Central Message of the Gospel: Christ Came to Save Sinners

- *“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...” (1 Timothy 1:15, NIV)*

A. Who The central figure of the gospel is Jesus Christ.

B. Why The purpose of Jesus’ coming into the world was to save sinners.

The Five “Trustworthy Sayings” in the Pastoral Epistles

2. The Primary Office of the Church: Overseer

- *“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.” (1 Timothy 3:1, NIV)*

A. The terms **overseer**, **elder**, and **pastor** are interchangeable.

B. Paul said to the elders of Ephesus: *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28, NIV)*

C. The overseer (pastor, elder) is the primary leadership office in the church. His responsibility is to shepherd the flock and to oversee the overall affairs of the church.

The Five “Trustworthy Sayings” in the Pastoral Epistles

3. Spiritual Growth of Believers: Train Yourself to Be Godly

- *“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. **This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.**” (1 Timothy 4:8–9, NIV)*

A. Training in godliness includes: (1) Learning the truth. (2) Living out the truth in daily life. (3) Using one’s spiritual gifts.

B. Training in godliness benefits the whole person—body, soul, and spirit.

The Five “Trustworthy Sayings” in the Pastoral Epistles

4. The Perseverance of Believers: Faithful Even to Death

- *“Here is a trustworthy saying:*
 - *if we died with him, we will also live with him;*
 - *if we endure, we will also reign with him.*
 - *If we disown him, he will also disown us;*
 - *if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”*

(2 Timothy 2:11–13, NIV)

The Five “Trustworthy Sayings” in the Pastoral Epistles

5. The Central Doctrine: The Method and Purpose of Salvation

- *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **This is a trustworthy saying.** (Titus 3:4–8, NIV)*

A. The Way of Salvation:

Salvation is the mercy of God, accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit, who brings about rebirth and renewal.

B. The Purpose of Salvation: Salvation results in our justification, so that we may become heirs of God.

AWANA: Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

- *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15, NIV)*
- The well-known Christian children’s ministry **AWANA** (**A**pproved **W**orkmen **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed) takes its name from 2 Timothy 2:15:

Correctly Handling the Word of Truth

- *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15, NIV)*
- Paul exhorted Timothy to be a worker who has no need to be ashamed before God, and his most important task was to **correctly handle the word of truth**.
- A preacher must expound the word of truth. One who does not preach the truth cannot be called an unashamed worker. A pastor must preach the Word of God—not theology, not philosophy, not success principles, not psychology, not sociology, not sentimental encouragement, and not merely comforting stories, but the Word of God.
- God’s Word must be preached according to the true meaning of the text. It must not be misrepresented, distorted, or handled carelessly. One should study diligently, prepare wholeheartedly, and seek out the proper meaning of Scripture, rather than interpreting it according to personal opinion.

The Mark of the Church

- *“Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription:
‘The Lord knows those who are his,’ and, ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.’” (2 Timothy 2:19, NIV)*
- **God’s solid foundation** refers to the church.
 - **The church’s assurance:** The Lord knows those who are His.
 - **The church’s responsibility:** Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.

Vessels in a Great House

- *“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth and **pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace**, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:20–22, NIV)*
- God’s household is like a great house. In a great house, there are both honorable vessels and common vessels.
- By fleeing youthful desires—whether in youth, middle age, or old age—and by pursuing **righteousness, faith, love, and peace**, one may become a vessel for honorable use.
 1. Righteousness
 2. Faith
 3. Love
 4. Peace

The Benefits of Scripture

- All Scripture comes from God and is profitable for:
 - **Teaching** us sound doctrine,
 - **Rebuking** our wrong ideas,
 - **Correcting** our improper behavior, and
 - **Training** us in righteousness, shaping upright character.
- All of this is for the purpose of:
 - Equipping the servant of God completely,
 - So that he or she may be prepared to do every good work.

The Benefits of Scripture

- *All scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17, NIV)*
- *All Scripture is **inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (NASB)*

The Benefits of Scripture

- **God-breathed** (*theopneustos*): a compound word formed from **theo** (“God”) and **pneustos** (“breathed” or “blown”). Just as the Spirit of God moved over the waters at creation, and God breathed into man’s nostrils the breath of life so that he became a living being, so also God’s Spirit breathed upon His Word. This means that God is the author of Scripture, and that Scripture comes from God.
- At that time, **“Scripture”** (*graphe*, “the writings” or “the sacred writings”) referred to the Old Testament. The Old Testament is God-breathed, and the New Testament is also God-breathed.
- **Inspiration** was not a mechanical process, as if human beings were merely typewriters used by God to record His words. Rather, God used each biblical author’s personality and life experience, and through various means—including direct revelation as well as gathering and arranging materials—to record His Word.

The Benefits of Scripture

1. Teaching: By nature, we do not know the things of God, nor do we know Jesus Christ. It is through learning the Scriptures that we come to know them.

2. Reproof / Rebuking: The original meaning is “to test and expose.” In all matters of faith and life, everything must be examined in the light of God’s Word; only after such testing can right and wrong be discerned.

3. Correcting: The original meaning is “to restore to an upright position.” Just as a fallen tree is set upright again, a person who has gone astray is corrected and restored.

4. Training in Righteousness: This refers to the education of a child or the training of a beginner; it is a process of cultivation. Scripture teaches us the righteousness of God and trains us to do what God considers right, good, and beautiful.

The Benefits of Scripture

- **The people of God:** This refers to Christians—those who have become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Thoroughly equipped:** The original sense is to be fully furnished or completely supplied, so that what is lacking is made complete and nothing is left wanting.
- **For every good work:** The definition of a “good work” is determined by God, not by man. Doing good is one purpose of God’s redemption—that we may be delivered from sin and do what is good in His sight.
- *“We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
(Ephesians 2:10, NIV)*

Preach the Word

- **Preach the word.**
 - **Do not wait for the right time** (*be prepared in season and out of season*)
 - **Do not be distracted by other things** (*be focused and ready*)
 - **Do not lose heart** (*with great patience*)
 - **Do not teach only one kind of message** (*with careful instruction / all kinds of teaching*)
- Use the Word of God to:
 - **Rebuke**
 - **Correct / warn**
 - **Encourage / exhort**

The Time Will Come (and Has Already Come)

- For the time will come when people will:
 - **In Their Attitude:**
 - Say “**No**” to the Word of God: *They will not put up with sound doctrine.*
 - Say “**Yes**” to their own desires: *They will follow their own sinful desires.*
 - **In Their Practice:**
 - Support false teachers: *To suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*
 - Turn away from the truth: *They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

A Beautiful Life

- **A Beautiful Life:**

- *I have fought the good fight,*
- *I have finished the race,*
- *I have kept the faith.*

- **A Beautiful Reward:**

- *Now there is in store 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 also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

Paul's List of Names

- One distinctive feature of 2 Timothy is its many **named individuals**. Besides Timothy, more than twenty people are mentioned in the letter. Some are presented as **faithful examples**, while others are **negative examples**.

Faithful Examples:

1. **Lois:** *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother **Lois** and in your mother **Eunice** and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."* (2 Timothy 1:5, NIV)

2. **Eunice**

3. **Onesiphorus:** *"May the Lord show mercy to the household of **Onesiphorus**, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus."* (2 Timothy 1:16–18, NIV)

Paul's List of Names

4. **Crescens:** *"Crescens has gone to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia" (2 Timothy 4:10, NIV)*

5. **Titus**

6. **Luke:** *"Only Luke is with me." (2 Timothy 4:11, NIV)*

7. **Mark:** *"Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry." (2 Timothy 4:11, NIV)*

8. **Tychicus:** *"I sent Tychicus to Ephesus." (2 Timothy 4:12, NIV)*

9. **Priscilla:** *"Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus." (2 Timothy 4:19, NIV)*

10. **Aquila**

Paul's List of Names

11. Erastus: *“Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.” (2 Timothy 4:20, NIV)*

12. Eubulus: *“Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters ” (2 Timothy 4:21, NIV)*

13. Pudens

14. Linus: According to church tradition, after the martyrdom of Peter and Paul, Linus became the bishop of Rome.

15. Claudia: It is said that Claudia was a princess.

Paul's List of Names

Negative Examples

1. **Phygelus:** *"You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including **Phygelus** and **Hermogenes**."* (2 Timothy 1:15, NIV)

2. **Hermogenes**

3. **Hymenaeus:** *"Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus**, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some."* (2 Timothy 2:17–18, NIV)

4. **Philetus**

Paul's List of Names

5. **Jannes:** *“Just as **Jannes** and **Jambres** opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.” (2 Timothy 3:8, NIV)*

6. **Jambres:**

7. **Demas:** *“For **Demas**, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.” (2 Timothy 4:10, NIV)*

8. **Alexander:** *“**Alexander** the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.” (2 Timothy 4:14, NIV)*

- Of the people mentioned above, there are **fifteen “good” people** and **eight “bad” people**, for a total of **twenty-three**. In his final letter, Paul mentioned many individuals. He wanted Timothy to know that some were faithful and some were not. The standard for distinguishing good from bad is sometimes based on **truth**: for example, Hymenaeus and Philetus had departed from the truth, whereas Lois and Eunice were marked by sincere faith. At other times, the distinction reflects **Paul's personal experience**: he was deeply grateful for the care shown to him by Onesiphorus, yet strongly resentful of the harm done to him by Alexander the metalworker. I think this list is excellent and precious. Even the standard by which good and evil are distinguished here is valuable—it is deeply human.

Paul's List of Names

- I like Paul's list of names. I like the words, "Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done." I also like the words, "Onesiphorus often refreshed me... May the Lord show mercy to him." I find this list very real and unpretentious. The standard of good and evil is also well balanced: there is both a firm commitment to the truth and an honest acknowledgment of personal feeling. When one comes to the point in life where "the race" has been finished, the experiences of a lifetime rise again in the mind. When we think of those who were good to us, a smile comes to our lips; when we think of those who harmed us, the pain still lingers in the heart.
- Second Timothy is the final scene in the great drama *The Apostle Paul*. As the curtain slowly falls at the end of the play, the audience is startled to discover that Paul was not an actor on the stage, but a real man among us. His story took place in our midst.