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2 Timothy

1 Greetings from Paul, an apostle* of Christ Jesus. I am an apostle because God wanted me to be. God sent me to tell people about the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.

2To Timothy. You are [like] a dear son to me. Grace (*kindness*), mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

3I always remember you in my prayers day and night. I thank God for you in those prayers. He is the God my ancestors* served. I have always served him, doing what I know is right. **4**I remember that you cried for me. I want very much to see you so that I can be filled with joy. **5**I remember your true faith. That kind of faith first belonged to your grandmother Lois and to your mother Eunice. I know that you now have that same faith. **6**That is why I want you to remember the gift God gave you. God gave you that gift when I put my hands on* you. Now I want you to use that gift and let it grow more and more, like a small flame grows into a fire. **7**The Spirit* God gave us does not make us afraid. He is our source of power and love and self control.

8So don't be ashamed to tell people about our Lord [Jesus]. And don't be ashamed of me—I am in prison for the Lord. But suffer

with me for the Good News.* God gives us the strength to do that. **9**God saved us and made us his holy people.* That happened not because of anything we did ourselves. No! God saved us and made us his people because that was what he wanted and because of his grace (*kindness*). That grace was given to us through Christ Jesus before time began. **10**That grace was not shown to us until now. It was shown to us when our Savior Christ Jesus came. Jesus destroyed death and showed us the way to have life. Yes! Through the Good News Jesus showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed. **11**I was chosen to tell that Good News. I was chosen to be an apostle* and a teacher of that Good News. **12**And I suffer now because I tell that Good News. But I am not ashamed. I know the One (*Jesus*) that I have believed. I am sure that he is able to protect the things that he has trusted me with until that Day.* **13**Follow the true teachings you heard from me. Follow those teachings with the faith and love we have in Christ Jesus. Those teachings are an example [that shows you what you should teach]. **14**Protect the truth that you were given. Protect those things with the help of the Holy Spirit.* That Holy Spirit lives inside us.

15You know that every person in the country of Asia* has left me. Even Phygelus and Hermogenes have left me. **16**I pray that

apostle A person Jesus chose to represent him in a special way.

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

put my hands on A sign to show that Paul had power from God to give Timothy a special blessing.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

holy people God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ and belong only to God.

Day The day Christ will come to judge all people and take his people to live with him.

Asia The western part of modern Turkey.

the Lord will show mercy to the family of Onesiphorus. Many times Onesiphorus encouraged me. He was not ashamed that I was in prison. ¹⁷No. He was not ashamed. When he came to Rome, he looked and looked for me until he found me. ¹⁸I pray that the Lord will allow Onesiphorus to have mercy from the Lord on that Day.* You know how many ways Onesiphorus helped me in Ephesus.

An Approved Worker

2 Timothy, you are [like] a son to me. Be strong in the grace (*kindness*) that we have in Christ Jesus. ²You have heard the things that I have taught. Many other people heard those things too. You should teach those same things. Give those teachings to some people you can trust. Then they will be able to teach those things to other people. ³Share in the troubles that we have. Accept those troubles like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴A person that is a soldier wants to please his commanding officer. So that soldier does not use his time doing the things that most people do. ⁵If an athlete is running a race, he must obey all the rules to win. ⁶The farmer who works hard should be the first person to get some of the food that he grew. ⁷Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand it all.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ. He is from the family of David.* After Jesus died, he was raised from death. This is the Good News* that I tell people. ⁹And I am suffering because I tell that Good News. I am even bound with chains like a person who has really done wrong. But God's teaching is not bound. ¹⁰So I patiently accept all these troubles. I do this to help all the people that God has chosen. I accept these troubles so that those people can have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. With that salvation comes glory that never ends.

¹¹This teaching is true:

- If we died with him (*Jesus*),
then we will also live with him.
- ¹² If we accept suffering,
then we will also rule with him.
- If we refuse to accept him,
then he will refuse to accept us.
- ¹³ If we are not faithful,
he will still be faithful,
because he cannot be false to himself.

An Approved Worker

¹⁴Continue telling the people these things. And warn those people before God not to argue about words. Arguing about words does not help any person. And it ruins those people who listen. ¹⁵Do the very best you can to be the kind of person that God will accept, and give yourself to him. Be a worker who is not ashamed of his work—a worker who uses the true teaching in the right way. ¹⁶Stay away from people who talk about useless things that are not from God. That kind of talk will lead a person more and more against God. ¹⁷Their [evil] teaching will spread like a sickness inside the body. Hymenaeus and Philetus are men like that. ¹⁸They have left the true teaching. They say that the rising from death [of all people] has already happened. And those two men are destroying the faith of some people. ¹⁹But God's strong foundation* continues to be the same. These words are written on that foundation: "The Lord knows those people who belong to him."* Also, these words are written on that foundation: "Every person who says that he believes in the Lord must stop doing wrong."

²⁰In a large house there are things made of gold and silver. But also there are things made of wood and clay. Some things are used for special purposes. Other things are made for dirty jobs. ²¹The Lord wants to use you for special purposes. So make yourself clean from all those evil things. Then you will be holy,* and the Master can use you. You will be ready to do any good work.

Day The day Christ will come to judge all people and take his people to live with him.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

foundation The bottom part or first part of a house that the rest of the house is built on.

"The Lord knows ... him" Quote from Num. 16:5.

holy A holy person is pure and belongs only to God.

²²Stay away from the evil things a young person wants to do. Try very hard to live right and to have faith, love, and peace. Do these things together with those people who have pure hearts and trust in the Lord. ²³Stay away from foolish and stupid arguments. You know that those arguments grow into bigger arguments. ²⁴A servant of the Lord must not argue! He must be kind to every person. A servant of the Lord must be a good teacher. He must be patient. ²⁵The Lord's servant must gently teach those people that don't agree with him. Maybe God will let those people change their hearts so that they can accept the truth. ²⁶The devil has trapped those people and makes them do what he wants. But maybe they can wake up and see that the devil is using them and free themselves from the devil's trap.

The Last Days

3 Remember this! There will be many troubles in the last days. ²In those times people will love only themselves and money. They will be boastful and proud. They will say bad things against other people. They will not obey their parents. They will not be thankful. They will not be the kind of people God wants. ³People in those times will not have love for other people. They will refuse to forgive and will talk about other people to hurt them. People will not control themselves. They will be angry and mean and will hate things that are good. ⁴In the last days people will turn against their friends. They will do foolish things without thinking. They will be conceited and proud. People will love pleasure—they will not love God. ⁵Those people will continue to act like they serve God. But the way they live shows that they don't really serve God. Timothy, stay away from those people. ⁶Some of those people go into homes and get women who are weak. Those women are full of sin. Those women are led to sin by the many evil things they want to do. ⁷Those women always try to learn [new teachings], but they are never able to fully understand the truth. ⁸Remember Jannes and Jambres.* They were against

Moses.* It is the same with these people. They are against the truth. They are people whose thinking has been confused. They have failed in trying to follow the faith. ⁹But they will not be successful in the things they do. All the people will see that they are foolish. That is what happened to Jannes and Jambres.

Last Instructions

¹⁰But you know all about me. You know what I teach and the way I live. You know my goal in life. You know my faith, my patience, and my love. You know that I never stop trying. ¹¹You know about my persecutions (*troubles*) and my sufferings. You know all the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. You know the persecutions I suffered in those places. But the Lord saved me from all those troubles. ¹²Every person who wants to live the way God wants, in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted. ¹³People who are evil and cheat other people will become worse and worse. They will fool other people, but they will also be fooling themselves.

¹⁴But you should continue following the teachings you learned. You know that those teachings are true. You know you can trust the people who taught you those things. ¹⁵You have known the Holy Scriptures* since you were a child. Those Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is given by God. And all Scripture is useful for teaching and for showing people the things that are wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live right. ¹⁷Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be ready and will have everything he needs to do every good work.

4 Before God and Jesus Christ I give you a command. Christ Jesus is the One who will judge the people who are living and the people who have died. Jesus has a kingdom, and he is coming again. So I give you this

Moses One of the most important leaders of the Jewish people during the time of the Old Testament.

Holy Scriptures Writings that Jews and Christians accepted to be from God—the Old Testament.

Jannes and Jambres Probably the magicians that opposed Moses in Pharaoh's court. See Ex. 7:11–12, 22.

command: ²Tell people God’s message.* Be ready at all times. Tell people the things they need to do, tell them when they are wrong, and encourage them. Do these things with great patience and careful teaching. ³The time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching. But people will find more and more teachers that please them. People will find teachers that say the things those people want to hear. ⁴People will stop listening to the truth. They will begin to follow the teaching in false stories. ⁵But you should control yourself at all times. When troubles come, accept those troubles. Do the work of telling the Good News. Do all the duties of a servant of God.

⁶My life is being given as an offering for God. The time has come for me to leave this life here. ⁷I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. ⁸Now, a crown (*reward*) is waiting for me. I will get that crown for being right with God. The Lord is the judge who judges rightly. He will give me the crown on that Day.* Yes! He will give that crown to me. He will give that crown to all people who have wanted him to come again and have waited for him.

Personal Words

⁹Do your best to come to me as soon as you can. ¹⁰Demas loved this world too much. That is why he left me. He went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia. And Titus went to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke is the only one still with me. Get Mark and bring him with you when you

come. He can help me in my work here. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

¹³When I was in Troas, I left my coat there with Carpus. So when you come, bring it to me. Also, bring my books. The books written on parchment* are the ones I need.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did many bad things against me. The Lord will punish Alexander for the things he did. ¹⁵You should be careful that he doesn’t hurt you too. He fought strongly against our teaching.

¹⁶The first time I defended myself, no person helped me. Every person left me. I pray that God will forgive them. ¹⁷But the Lord stayed with me. The Lord gave me strength so that I could tell the Good News* everywhere. The Lord wanted all the non-Jews to hear that Good News. So I was saved from the lion’s (*enemy’s*) mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will save me when any person tries to hurt me. The Lord will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Glory forever and ever be the Lord’s.

Final Greetings

¹⁹Say hello to Priscilla and Aquila and to the family of Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus stayed in Corinth. And I left Trophimus in Miletus—he was sick. ²¹Try as hard as you can to come to me before winter.

Eubulus says hello to you. Also Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers in Christ say hello to you.

²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace (*kindness*) be with you.

message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

Day The day Christ will come to judge all people and take his people to live with him.

parchment Something like paper made from the skins of sheep and used for writing on.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.