

Timothy Twisted

Some Protestant religious groups misunderstand the Apostle Paul's personal, private writings to Timothy, believing Paul is giving instruction to, and setting doctrine for their religion of today, 2000 years after the fact. Not true.

Paul, at the end of his life, pens two letters addressed specifically to his companion in the ministry, Timothy. These letters Paul did not write to every member of his Churches, and Paul did not write these letters to us today. Notice Paul's words: "This charge I commit to **thee**", not to anyone else or everyone else. Neither is Paul setting here a pattern for the Body of Christ to follow for all time, and most certainly, Paul is not writing to a small offshoot of the wayward Christian religion that began preaching this errant concept in the early 20th century.

I Timothy 1:18 **This charge I commit unto thee**, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee,

This charge is Paul passing his ministerial baton to Timothy who was unique to Paul in the service of his Gospel message.

Philippians 2:19-22 **But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.**

Notice Paul's words describing Timothy's qualifications for this assignment:

I Timothy 1:2 **Unto Timothy, [my] own son** in the faith:

I Timothy 1:18 **This charge I commit unto thee**, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee,

I Timothy 4:14 **Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you**, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with **the laying on of hands by the presbytery**.

II Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, **[my] dearly beloved son**:

II Timothy 1:6 ¶ Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands**.

I Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is **committed to thy trust**,

These words Paul wrote to Timothy; words he never wrote to anyone else, nor could he write these words to anyone else as these words could not apply to anyone else:

- Paul referred to Timothy as a son
- Timothy was a brother in the faith
- Paul gave a specific charge to Timothy
- Timothy accompanied Paul on many of his missionary journeys
- Paul trusted Timothy when he had no one else he could trust
- There were prophecies of Timothy beforehand
- Timothy was trusted with and received his calling
- Timothy had a spiritual gift from God that fitted him for his specific ministry
- Through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery
- Paul himself bestowed on Timothy his Spiritual gift by “the putting on of my hands”

There is not one other person on earth, or in the history of the Body of Christ – then or now - with Timothy’s qualifications. Paul did not give this charge he gave to Timothy to anyone else, nor did he tell Timothy to give such instruction or gift to anyone else, and Timothy did not give this ministry / gift to anyone else. So, with this information so apparent and so readily available, why do some religions wish to usurp the role of Timothy to themselves, requiring, even demanding repeatedly their parishioners be a Timothy?

Like the rest of the Bible, written for us to know and understand that which came before, I & II Timothy is informative, **descriptive** of a moment in Paul’s ministry, not **prescriptive** to everyone for all time and eternity.

When studying the Bible, the first three questions you should always ask a verse:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is the speaker speaking to?
- Am I in the Room?

When it comes to the New Testament books of first and second Timothy, Paul is writing specifically to Timothy about a very specific subject that effects only Timothy, who is uniquely gifted and qualified to receive what Paul is giving him. Paul is **not** writing to me or you, or to anyone else: we are not in the room. Paul is not setting a standard or pattern for all members of the Body of Christ to follow for all time and eternity. It is a private communication between Paul to Timothy.

These same religions (Bereans and the Grace Church) also take II Corinthians out of context to create a made-up “greater commission”, and imagine they received a command from Paul that every saved individual is an ambassador, and must be fully engaged in full-time evangelistic efforts as an obligation of their salvation. In both cases, Paul’s writings to Timothy and to the Corinthians, these religions see in the passages of Scripture things that are not there. They do this also with Paul, telling their followers to be a Paul and take up Paul’s ministry. More phooey and religious quackery.

The foundation of these errors began with an evangelical preacher who was active in the early 1900's, J.C. O'Hare. It was O'Hare's focus on evangelism that led him to take II Cor 5:18-20 out of context leading to yet another imaginary religion in the Protestant collection of wayward religions. In a real sense, O'Hare is a case of a false doctrine on evangelism looking for a verse.

Like Christ's words to His disciples to "Go Ye", the words Paul wrote to Timothy describe a moment in Paul's ministry. God included Paul's letters to Timothy in the Bible, in part, to provide closure in the saga of the Apostle Paul's life and ministry, and to show Paul passing his ministry to Timothy. Neither the misunderstood "Go Ye", nor the Timothy model have anything to do with the Body of Christ, and nothing at all to do with the religious dogma someone made up in the 1920's.

The end, drop the curtain, roll the credits.

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For more information on this subject, see the articles "*The False Ministry of Reconciliation*" and the in-depth study "*The Reconciliation Conundrum*", also, "*Paul the Pattern*", "*It is Finished*", "*All Scripture?*", "*Missionary Madness*" "*The Four Jewish Gospels*" "*The Jewish Hebrew Epistles*" "*Why People Cannot Understand*" "*The Jewish Hebrew Epistles*" **PPGpilot.com**