

REKINDLE THE EMBERS

A Study in 2 Timothy

INTRODUCTION

Unlike most of Paul's letters, which were addressed to the entire congregation of a church, we see here in 1st and 2nd Timothy, along with Titus and Philemon, personal letters sent by Paul. Timothy, whom Paul considered his son in the faith, was the pastor of the church of Ephesus. He had been pastoring there during the first letter Paul wrote to him and was still there at the time of this letter.

This second letter of Paul to Timothy was more intensely personal than any of the other personal letters that Paul wrote, including his first letter to Timothy. It was written around 67 A.D. and it is believed by most scholars to be the last letter Paul penned, while he was imprisoned in Rome, before his execution. As we go through the letter, we have many indications that Paul knew he was about to die, and it seems he was leaving Timothy with a "Last Will & Testament," so to speak, containing final encouragements and instructions to his beloved son in the faith.

According to early church tradition, Paul suffered execution shortly before Nero committed suicide in June of A.D. 68. Paul's letter is believed to have been written in the Fall of 67, as we read of him urging Timothy to do his utmost to come to him before winter in 2 Timothy 4:21.

There are a number of, what we'll call, "**Solemn Charges**" that Paul will give to Timothy throughout this letter, and we will be looking at all of them as we go through this study. One of those charges, which we find in chapter one, is thought by most scholars to be the **key verse** of this entire letter. It is Paul's charge to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:13 to "**Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.**" We will find this to be a theme Paul focuses on throughout his entire letter.

Another of the solemn charges Paul gives to Timothy in this first chapter is the one that we see in verse six to "**Rekindle (or stir up) the gift of God which is in you...**" This charge is the one we have named and fashioned this Bible study on, and one which will be a major focus throughout these lessons. We acknowledge, before we even begin this study of 2 Timothy, that we are incapable of accomplishing anything for the Lord in our own power. It is only as we are empowered by His Spirit that we are able to do anything of eternal value. We acknowledge that it is the Holy Spirit who works in us and through us to do the works that the Lord has prepared for us. He is the one who prepares and equips us, who supplies our lack, strengthens us in our weakness and gifts us and empowers us for the work of the ministry. Because of this fact, we must be filled with His Spirit, and keep being filled, asking Him for a fresh filling of His Spirit each day.

We need to have the flames of passion rekindled in our hearts on a regular basis, asking Him to fan the flames and stir up the gifts He has given to each one of us for the edifying of His church.

Please have the first lesson completed when you come to the first study. We strongly encourage you to complete your lesson each week. Don't try to do it all in one sitting, but spread it out throughout the week, which will give you more time to glean all that the Lord has for you and to come prepared to share your thoughts in our discussion time.

If for some reason you were not able to complete your study, **we want you to come anyway**. I know that you will receive much from the overview and discussion each week and you can always go back to complete the lesson afterwards.

Take a few moments before you begin your time of study in God's Word to ask Him to quiet your mind from all other distractions and open your heart to the things He wants to show you. Take notes as you read, jotting down those things the Lord impresses on your heart.

The **Amplified Bible** gives us a deeper and broader look at the language being used in this letter and we will be looking at 2 Timothy from the Amplified Bible throughout our study, so for your convenience, the verses we are looking at in the Amplified Bible will be printed for you in each lesson.

We are excited to dig into God's Word together and look closely at this special letter of Paul to Timothy, and we pray that it will be an edifying, encouraging, challenging and fruitful time as the Lord speaks to each one of our hearts.

Shawn Van Hook & Cathy Philipp