

What is God's Main Point in 2 Timothy?

The following are the Words, Themes, and Ideas found in 2 Timothy (the **red** number is the number of times the item appears in the book):

1. Jesus, 1:1, 2, 8, 9, 9-10, 10-12, 13; 2:1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19, 22, 24-25; 3:11, 12, 15; 4:1, 7-8, 14, 16, 16-17, 17, 18, 22.....**27**
2. God, 1:1, 2, 3-5, 6, 7, 7-8, 9; 2:8-9, 15, 14-19, 24-26; 3:4, 16, 16-17; 4:1.....**15**
3. Living by and spreading what Jesus said, His Goodnews, 1:1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 10-11, 12, 15-18; 2:2, 8-9, 19, 24-26; 3:14-15, 16-17; 4:2.....**15**
4. Suffer/Endure, 1:7-8, 10-12; 2:1, 3-4, 5, 6, 8-9, 10, 12, 15-16; 3:10-11, 12; 4:5, 18.....**14**
5. Word/Truth, 1:8, 10-12, 13; 2:8-9, 15, 17-18, 25; 3:6-7, 8, 15, 16-17; 4:2, 3-4, 17.....**14**
6. Living by and/or spreading Satan's lies, his Badnews, 1:6-14, 15; 2:13, 14, 16, 17-18, 23-26; 3:2-7, 8-9, 13; 4:10, 14, 16.....**13**
7. Jesus owns life and controls death, 1:1, 9-10; 2:8, 11, 24-26; 3:11; 4:6 and 18.....**8**
8. Endurance/Reward, 1:16-18; 2:3-6, 8, 8-9 and 12, 10 and 12, 12, 14-18 and 20-26; 4:7-8...**8**
9. Avoiding error and accurately handling God's Word, 1:13; 2:2, 7, 14, 15, 16-18, 23-26.....**7**
10. Faith/Trust/Believe, 1:5, 13; 2:18, 22; 3:10, 15.....**6**
11. God's Power and Love...is ours, 1:7, 6-8, 13, 7 and 14; 3:10-11; 4:16-18.....**6**
12. Ashamed, 1:7-8, 12, 15-18; 2:15.....**4**
13. Love, 1:7, 13; 2:22; 3:10.....**4**

So what's the main point in 2 Timothy? The big issues at play in 2 Timothy are: *Jesus, God, Endure, Word/Truth, and Endurance/Reward*. Additionally, every other repeated idea ties back to one of these: Living by and spreading Jesus' Goodnews and living by and spreading Satan's Badnews ties back to all five. Jesus owns life and controls death ties back to *Endure* and *Endurance/Reward*. Avoiding error and accurately handling God's Word ties back to *God, Endure, and Word/Truth*. Even the rest (Faith/Trust/Believe, God's Power and Love...is ours, Ashamed, and Love) all tie back to the main five themes of the letter. God is telling Timothy and us,

"I know the tremendous difficulties you're facing and how My Truth is being twisted, used, and set aside for nonsense, all at Satan's behest. But remember that I've given you My Son's Spirit. He will thoroughly equip you; follow His example and endure no matter the challenge or suffering. Carefully discern and walk in His Truth and show others how to do the same. If you do this, I will not only protect you from every threat, including death, I will reward you in the end."

2 Timothy Summarized:

Chapter 1, Paul, who is driven and lives by Jesus' promise of life, wants Timothy to do the same. That is, Paul is concerned that Timothy is drawing back from the mission and gift God gave him. He encourages him to ignite what God gave him; after all, God did not give him a spirit of fear but an indwelling Spirit of power, love, and a disciplined mind. He wants Timothy to be bold instead of turning his back on God, as those in Asia did. He should follow Onesiphorus' faithful example, whom the Lord will surely reward because Jesus is 100% faithful to the faithful. Thus, Timothy must take Jesus' sound truth of life and immortality and mentor those around him, the way Paul taught and mentored him, regardless of the potential danger or suffering.

Chapter 2, [In light of everything Timothy has in Christ and his guaranteed reward for faithfully enduring] he must stand strong in the favor Jesus gave him and mentor other faithful men who will repeat the process. He must endure like the greatest example of rewardable endurance: Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. Paul endured all things so that the elect would likewise experience Jesus' glorious salvation, i.e., those who died with Jesus, will live with Him. Those who endure, will reign with Him; those who deny Him, won't. To those who are completely faithless, Jesus remains faithful for He can't deny Himself. Thus, Timothy must rightly handle God's Truth and not be like those who distort it. He must flee quarreling and be gentle, able to teach, patient, and humble so that God can use him to free those held captive by Satan's lies.

Chapter 3, [Though Timothy will be able to rescue some who are captive to Satan's lies] he must avoid *men of the last days*, i.e., narcissistic, unrestrained, hedonistic, God-haters. Such people have a veneer of godliness but they deny God's transforming power. They are constantly learning but never arrive at God's Truth. However, Timothy has carefully followed Paul's Christlike manner of life, including his suffering. Yes, all who desire to be Christlike will suffer persecution, while evil men grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. Thus, Timothy must continue in the things he was shown and is sure of, i.e., from childhood he has known God's Holy Scriptures, which enlightened him to the salvation found in Christ Jesus by simple faith. He knows that all Scripture is God's voice designed to teach, correct, improve, and train us in proper godly living so that the godly will be completely equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4, [Since the Lord's servant—whom God has thoroughly equipped—must endure by taking God's Truth and freeing those held captive by Satan's lies, knowing full-well the reward that awaits the faithful] Timothy must preach the Word! That is, he must correct, rebuke, and encourage, whether it is popular or not. The time will come when people will turn from God's sound Truth to fables. And since Paul knows his end is near, he wants Timothy to come quickly with Mark and some personal belongings. However, he is 100% certain that he has kept the faith and that Jesus will reward him for it, a reward available to all who eagerly await His return. In fact, though everyone abandoned Paul at his first trial, Jesus stood with him and enabled him to preach His promise of life to all the Gentiles. Thus, Paul is certain that the Lord will deliver him from everything, including his inevitable death, and preserve him for His heavenly Kingdom.

2Timothy

2Timothy Chapters 1-4, Paul urges Timothy to ignite what God gave him, since God did not give him a spirit of fear but an indwelling Spirit of power. He must not turn his back on God, but take Jesus' sound truth and mentor those around him the way Paul mentored him, regardless of the danger. If he does, Jesus will reward him since Jesus is 100% faithful to the faithful. He must emulate the greatest example of rewardable endurance—Jesus—and produce other faithful men who will repeat the process. He must endure all things like Paul so others will experience Jesus' glorious salvation, i.e., soothers can likewise be rewarded with reigning alongside Jesus. Timothy must correctly handle God's Truth so he can free those who are captive to Satan's lies. He must avoid God-haters who use godliness but deny it's transforming power. He must continue following Paul's Christlike manner of life no matter the suffering. He must continue in the things he's certain of: that God's Holy Scriptures contain salvation, which is acquired through faith in Christ Jesus and that they are God's voice, fully capable of equipping us by teaching, correcting, improving, and training us in proper godly living. Therefore, Timothy must preach the Word! He must correct, rebuke, and encourage, whether it's popular or not. Paul is certain that his death is near but he's also certain that Jesus will reward him and everyone else who eagerly awaits His return. In fact, at his first trial when everyone abandoned him, Jesus stood with him. He enabled Paul to preach the Gospel message to all the Gentiles. Thus, Paul knows that Jesus will deliver him from everything, including his inevitable death.