



your grandmother Lois and in your  
 another Eunice and, I am persuaded, I  
 now lives in you also. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I  
 remind you to fan into flame the gift of  
 God, which is in you through the laying  
 on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God did not give  
 us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of  
power, of love and of self-discipline.  
<sup>8</sup>So do not be ashamed to testify about  
 our Lord, or ashamed of me his prison-  
 er. But join with me in suffering for the  
 gospel, by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who has  
 called us to a holy life—

Versify: Life 2 Timothy 1:7 More Visual Verses  
at VersifyLife.com

me. <sup>18</sup>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.  
<sup>2</sup>You then, my son, be strong in the  
grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And  
 the things you have heard me say in the  
 presence of many witnesses entrust to  
 reliable men who will also be qualified  
 to teach others. <sup>3</sup>Endure hardship with  
 us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.  
 No one serving as a soldier gets  
 involved in civilian affairs.

Versify: Life 2 Timothy 2:1 More Visual Verses  
at VersifyLife.com

# UCONAVS

Everyday Faith Transforming Everyday Life

those who taught you  
 taught the holy Scriptures from child-  
 hood, and they have given you the wis-  
 dom to receive the salvation that comes  
 by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture  
is inspired by God and is useful to teach  
us what is true and to make us realize  
what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us  
when we are wrong and teaches us to do  
what is right. <sup>17</sup>God uses it to prepare and  
 equip his people to do every good work.

Versify: Life 2 Timothy 3:16-17 More Visual Verses  
at VersifyLife.com

to say. <sup>4</sup>The  
 from the truth a  
 But you, keep your  
 your ministry, endure hardship, do the work of the Lord  
 an evangelist, discharge all the duties of strength  
 like a good soldier, do not get entangled in worldly affairs, for the Lord  
 For I am already being poured out  
 like a drink offering, and the time has  
 come for my departure. <sup>7</sup>I have fought  
the good fight, I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Now there is in  
 store for me the crown of righteous-  
 ness, which the Lord, the righteous  
 will award to me on that day—  
 only to me, but also to all who  
 love his appearing.

Versify: Life 2 Timothy 4:7 More Visual Verses  
at VersifyLife.com



# 2 Timothy



## Intro

2 Timothy is an important letter because it is the last of Paul's letters to be included in the Bible. It represents the final recorded words of the first century's greatest missionary, the words of a man soon to be executed. It gives us fascinating insights into his state of heart and mind at the end of his life. Furthermore it is written to his closest friend and coworker, perhaps the most important person in his life, the person groomed to carry on his mission after his death.

Timothy may have been staying in Ephesus, but in whatever city, he was carrying on the work Paul had begun but could not continue. Timothy had been working with Paul for over fifteen years, but now the apostle was departing for good.

## Background

Paul was probably released from his first imprisonment in Rome in 62 AD but was rearrested sometime later, perhaps in 65. He wrote 2 Timothy during this second imprisonment. Before, he had been treated as a political prisoner, now he is treated as a criminal. In his first imprisonment Paul was under house arrest. Now he is in a dungeon chained to a wall or a soldier.

Emperor Nero had his reasons for this change. Back in 60-62 AD when Paul was in Rome the first time, the Empire had been running well and Nero had been popular. He had been leaving affairs of government to some gifted advisors. But between 62 and 65 Nero had replaced his competent servants and had begun to plunder the Empire to pay for his own pleasures. The provinces, especially Judah, were groaning under his taxes, the economy was slumping, and Nero was in trouble with the Roman Senate for his murdering, licentious lifestyle. When a fire broke out in Rome in 64, Nero was suspected of arson. He found a scapegoat in an unpopular religious sect; Christians in the city were rounded up and thrown to animals-officially to pay for setting the fire but really to satisfy Nero's blood lust. The Roman people soon grew disgusted at this persecution, but it was unsafe to be a Christian in Rome as long as Nero lived, for he continued to need scapegoats for his crimes.

Thus, when Paul was rearrested, he became another pawn in Nero's game to survive politically. Paul wrote 2 Timothy from his dungeon cell shortly before he was executed.

This is a letter that speaks powerfully to anyone who is serious about serving God. As you begin studying this letter, ask the God to teach you what it means to be a servant of God from these two committed men.

## Understanding the Text

A great way to better understand the meaning of a biblical text is to learn to come to the Bible, *for ourselves, first-hand*, without an agenda. By doing this we can grow in our confidence to interpret and apply the Bible accurately. This is an essential part of developing personal convictions and spiritual maturity.

If you are just beginning to study the Bible for yourself it can be a bit intimidating. But remember, the Holy Spirit caused this to be written and, if you are a follower of Jesus, then the Holy Spirit lives in you to "guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)

***"Opinion is something you hold; conviction is something that holds you."***

".....they received the message with great eagerness and examined the scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11

"By this time you ought to be teachers yourselves, yet here I find you need someone to sit down with you and go over the basics on God again, starting from square one--baby's milk, when you should have been on solid food long ago! Milk is for beginners, inexperienced in God's ways; solid food is for the mature, who have some practice in telling right from wrong." Heb 5:12-13

## Chapter By Chapter

When we read a chapter for the first time it is easy to miss a lot of what is being said. In particular we have two natural tendencies that work against doing justice to the whole passage:

1. The tendency to focus on things that are *personally meaningful* to us. When an idea or phrase resonates with us it is very easy to jump to conclusions about what it means without really examining the context.
2. We also have a tendency to zero in on *things that puzzle* us. If we are not careful our whole approach can be narrowed down to problem solving. The danger is that we only give serious attention to the bits we don't understand. In reality, if we don't see these difficult bits in the context of the whole passage often our "answers" are imported solutions that don't really fit.

So it is important that we develop a disciplined approach that helps us take in the *whole passage*.

Study each chapter by filling out the three columns on the blank page assigned to that chapter. Take a paragraph at a time. At first focus on the left-hand column. As you make observations feel free to jot things down in the other two columns as they come to mind, but don't dwell on them. You can come back to them later as in turn you focus on the Interpretation and Response columns.

## How to do it: ABC'S... OBSERVATION / INTERPRETATION / RESPONSE

### A. What does it Say? – Observation

- ❖ Read the passage through 2-3 times picking up as much as you can about the **context**, **content** and **feeling** of the chapter. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the writer and readers. Jot down your observations.



#### **Things to try:**

- Ask the “**Detective**” **Questions** - Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- Take note of the **emotion tone** of the chapter. What do you think Paul was feeling as he wrote these words? Underline words and phrases that seem to express strong emotion and identify the emotions involved.
- Read the passage from **different perspectives**. Read it from Paul's perspective. Read it from Timothy's perspective. You could even read it as a complete stranger who found the letter on the street. What do you notice?
- Take note of the words being used. **Repeated words** point to themes – find key verbs, nouns, adjectives (and their synonyms); **Linking words** reveal the logic of the chapter – if, but, because, therefore, then, so, also, etc.

### B. What does it Mean? - Interpretation

Interpretation asks the question, “What does this **mean**?” Or more particularly “What did this mean when it was written 2000 years ago?” One danger is that we move too quickly to “What does this mean to me?” (That comes later, in the “Response” step). Here, in particular, we are trying to come to grips with things we don't understand. Interpretation involves stating our **questions**, gathering **information** and drawing **conclusions**.

- ❖ Read the passage through again and write down several of your questions with possible answers.



### Things to try:

- For each question find at least one **cross-reference**. Find cross-references by recalling similar passages you have read before. Check your Bible's cross-reference column and footnotes. Look up key words in the concordance at the back of your Bible or at [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com). You may also find some good cross-references by skim reading the rest of Philippians
- **Summarize** the main thrust of the chapter in one short paragraph. It may help to first write a single sentence capturing the content of each paragraph in the chapter.
- Develop an **Outline** for the chapter. Break it into sections with a title for each section. Write sub points under each section title. Give the chapter an overall title. Try to keep the titles and sub points as succinct as possible. Outlining helps you identify the main ideas and see how they are connected.
- Find key passages that give important **background** information. It might be good to compare this letter with 1Timothy, which was also written when Paul was under arrest. What differences do you notice? How might the circumstances have been different?

### C. How does it Apply? - Response

Here the question is, "What does this mean **to me**?" Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements that you believe he wants you to respond to in some way. God is in the process of transforming us, making us more and more like Jesus in how we think, feel and act (2 Corinthians 3:18). In this step we need to identify where **we are** at present and where we believe God **wants us to be**.



- ❖ Write out the statement(s) that speak to you and alongside write how you would like to respond.

### Things to try:

- For each statement write down any feelings, memories, relationships, issues or situations that come to mind.
- Ask these questions: Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? An error to avoid? An example to follow? A principle to apply?
- **Pray** your way through the passage. Read a sentence or two then stop and pray about whatever comes to mind. Invite the Holy Spirit to direct your heart and mind as you pray
- Having identified the truth that seems to be speaking to you, run through the following questions to help you locate a specific sphere of application:
  - How should this truth affect my attitudes, behaviour, relationships, motives, values, priorities, character?
  - How does it apply at home, at uni, in my social life, in my faith community, with my family, with my non-Christian friends?

## Chapter One

2Ti 1:1-18 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, (2) To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (3) I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. (4) As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. (5) I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (6) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (7) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (8) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (10) and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (11) for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, (12) which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. (13) Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (14) By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. (15) You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. (16) May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, (17) but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me-- (18) may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!--and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

<p><b>Verse</b></p>	<p><b>Observation</b> (What does it say?) Read the passage through 2-3 times picking up as much as you can about the <i>context</i>, <i>content</i> and <i>feeling</i> of the chapter. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the writer and readers. Jot down your observations.</p>	<p><b>Interpretation</b> (What does it mean?) Read the passage through again and write down several of your questions with possible answers. Locate cross-references that help further illuminate the passage.</p>	<p><b>Response</b> (What does it say to me?) Write out the statement(s) that speak to you, and alongside write how you would like to respond.</p>

## Chapter Two

2Ti 2:1-26 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (2) and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (3) Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (4) No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. (5) An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (6) It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. (7) Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (8) Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, (9) for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! (10) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (11) The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; (12) if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; (13) if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself. (14) Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. (15) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (16) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, (17) and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, (18) who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. (19) But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." (20) Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. (21) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (22) So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (23) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (24) And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, (25) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

<p><b>Verse</b></p>	<p><b>Observation</b> (What does it say?) Read the passage through 2-3 times picking up as much as you can about the <i>context</i>, <i>content</i> and <i>feeling</i> of the chapter. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the writer and readers. Jot down your observations.</p>	<p><b>Interpretation</b> (What does it mean?) Read the passage through again and write down several of your questions with possible answers. Locate cross-references that help further illuminate the passage.</p>	<p><b>Response</b> (What does it say to me?) Write out the statement(s) that speak to you, and alongside write how you would like to respond.</p>

## Chapter Three

2Ti 3:1-17 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. (2) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, (4) treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (6) For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, (7) always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. (8) Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. (9) But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. (10) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, (11) my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra--which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. (12) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (13) while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Observation</b> (What does it say?) Read the passage through 2-3 times picking up as much as you can about the <i>context</i> , <i>content</i> and <i>feeling</i> of the chapter. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the writer and readers. Jot down your observations.	<b>Interpretation</b> (What does it mean?) Read the passage through again and write down several of your questions with possible answers. Locate cross-references that help further illuminate the passage.	<b>Response</b> (What does it say to me?) Write out the statement(s) that speak to you, and alongside write how you would like to respond.

## Chapter Four

2Ti 4:1-22 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (3) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (5) As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing. (9) Do your best to come to me soon. (10) For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (11) Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. (12) Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. (13) When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. (14) Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. (15) Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. (16) At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! (17) But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (19) Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. (20) Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. (21) Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. (22) The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

<b>verse s</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Observation</b> (What does it say)</p> <p>Read the passage through 2-3 times picking up as much as you can about the <i>context</i>, <i>content</i> and <i>feeling</i> of the chapter. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the writer and readers. Jot down your observations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interpretation</b> (What does it mean?)</p> <p>Read the passage through again and write down several of your questions with possible answers. Locate cross-references that help further illuminate the passage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Response</b> (What does it say to me?)</p> <p>Write out the statement(s) that speak to you, and alongside write how you would like to respond.</p>

## **Wrap Up:**

## **Grasping God's Word:**

### **9 Tools for Reading Sentences...**

- 1.) Repetition of words – Look for words and phrases that repeat.
- 2.) Contrasts – Look for ideas, individuals, and/ or items that are contrasted with each other. Look for differences.
- 3.) Comparisons – Look for ideas, individuals, and/ or items that are compared with each other. Look also for similarities.
- 4.) Lists – Note where the text mentions more than two items.
- 5.) Cause and effect – There may be more than one effect from a single cause mentioned in the text.
- 6.) Figures of speech – Look for expressions that convey an image, using words in a sense other than the literal sense.
- 7.) Conjunctions – Notice terms that join units, like “and,” “but,” “for.” Note what they are connecting.
- 8.) Verbs – Note whether a verb is past, present, or future; active or passive; also look for imperatives.
- 9.) Pronouns – Identify the antecedent for each pronoun.

### **9 Tools for Reading Paragraphs...**

- 1.) General to specific and specific to general – Find the general statements that are followed by specific examples or applications of the general. Also find specific statements that are summarized by a general one.
- 2.) Questions and answers – Note if the text is built on a question-and-answer format.
- 3.) Dialogue – Note if the text includes dialogue. Identify who is speaking and to whom.
- 4.) Purpose/ result statements – These are a more specific type of “means,” often telling why. Purpose and result are similar and sometimes indistinguishable. In a purpose statement, you usually can insert the phrase “in order that.” In a result clause, you usually can insert the phrase “so that.”
- 5.) Means – Note if a sentence indicates that something was done by means of someone/ something (answers “how?”). Usually you can insert the phrase “by means of” into the sentence.
- 6.) Conditional clauses – A clause can present the condition by which some action or consequence will result. Often such statements use an “if ... then” framework (although in English the “then” is often left out).
- 7.) Actions/ roles of God – Identify actions or roles that the text ascribes to God.  
Actions/ roles of people – Identify actions or roles that the text ascribes to people or encourages people to do/ be.
- 8.) Emotional terms – Does the passage use terms that have emotional energy, like kinship words (“father,” “son”) or words like “pleading”?
- 9.) Tone of the passage – What is the overall tone of the passage: happy, sad, encouraging, and so on?

Duvall, J. Scott; Hays, J. Daniel (2012-05-08). *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

