

# Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 8, 2 Timothy 1

## Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### 1. Abstract of Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 8, 2 Timothy 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Robert Yarbrough **analyzes** 2 Timothy 1, framing it within the larger context of the Pastoral Epistles and the Bible as a whole. He employs a **PMEEC** acronym (Preparation, Manifestation, Expansion, Explanation, Consummation) to illustrate the Bible's overarching gospel narrative. Yarbrough emphasizes the importance of **sound interpretive method**, advocating for careful observation before interpretation, and highlights key themes and vocabulary in 2 Timothy 1, such as the **prominence of God and Christ, Paul's apostleship**, and the **importance of loyalty and steadfastness in ministry**. He concludes by discussing examples of both disloyalty and loyalty among Paul's associates.

**2. 12 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Yarbrough, Session 8 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Pastoral Epistles).**



**Yarbrough\_PastEpis  
tles\_Session08.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 8, 2 Timothy 1

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 1, as presented in the provided transcript:

#### Briefing Document: Dr. Yarbrough on 2 Timothy 1

##### Introduction:

This document summarizes Dr. Robert Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 1, the eighth session of his series "Apostolic Instructions for Pastoral Leaders and Their Followers." The lecture focuses on key themes within the first chapter of 2 Timothy, using it to emphasize important principles for Christian leadership and believers in general. Dr. Yarbrough employs a method of careful observation of the text before interpretation, and highlights the importance of context in understanding the Bible.

##### I. Biblical Overview (P-M-E-E-C):

- Dr. Yarbrough begins by reviewing his framework for understanding the entire Bible in light of the gospel, summarized by the acronym **P-M-E-E-C**:
- **Preparation** (Old Testament): The Old Testament prepares for the gospel. It's "not all it is, but that's the core of what it's all about."
- **Manifestation** (Gospels): The Gospels manifest the gospel.
- **Expansion** (Acts): Acts details the expansion of the gospel, the establishment of churches and the beginning of the mission movement.
- **Explanation** (Epistles): The epistles explain the gospel, providing teachings, beliefs, and practices for church leaders and believers. This is where 2 Timothy is located.
- **Consummation** (Revelation): Revelation portrays the consummation of the gospel, "where things are headed."
- He emphasizes that all Scripture is "God-breathed" and "flawless," drawing a close connection between God and His Word, noting that God reveals himself through the Word. "God and His Word are very, very closely related in biblical thought because God in His fatherly essence is invisible."
- Dr. Yarbrough stresses the importance of observing what is in the text before making a judgment about what it says, drawing from the work of Adolf Schlatter,

emphasizing "seeing what is there." This is a call against imposing our own ideas onto the scripture.

## **II. Key Words in 2 Timothy:**

- A core element of the introduction focuses on the frequency of certain words within 2 Timothy, which Dr. Yarbrough uses to underscore the letter's focus.
- High Frequency of Words for God: He notes the prominence of "Kurios" (Lord, 16 times), "God" (13 times), and "Jesus/Christ" (13 times), highlighting the importance of both God the Father and God the Son in the letter.
- He notes that "Lord" can refer to God the Father, but often refers to Christ in Paul's writings.
- "Didomi" (to Give): The verb "didomi" appears 6 times in 2 Timothy, and every time refers to God giving something. For example:
  - God has given us a spirit of power, love, and self-control (2 Tim 1:7)
  - Grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began (2 Tim 1:9)
  - May the Lord grant mercy (2 Tim 1:16)
  - God will grant repentance (2 Tim 2:25)
- Other Key words: "Work" or "deed", "person", "I know", "grace", and "love" are all emphasized as being of particular note.
- The use of "kalos" or "kalon" (good) related to "work" was also discussed

## **III. Background and Authorship:**

- 2 Timothy was likely written during Paul's second Roman imprisonment, shortly before his execution.
- While some scholars debate the authorship of the pastoral epistles, Dr. Yarbrough notes that 2 Timothy is difficult to argue against being Paul's writing because of its specific, personal, and plausible details regarding Paul and Timothy's relationship. He asks, "Why would a forger make up all this stuff that is so plausible as having been real between these two men and colleagues?"

#### IV. Analysis of 2 Timothy 1:1-18:

- **Greeting (1:1-2):** Paul identifies himself as an apostle “by the will of God,” emphasizing the divine source of his authority. This is the means by which Christ appeared to Paul and commissioned him.
- He addresses Timothy as his "dear son," highlighting their close, personal bond.
- Paul uses the Trinitarian formula “grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Paul's Apostleship: Yarbrough points to 1 Corinthians 4:9-13, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 and 11:16-12:10 to show how apostles were treated poorly and were often considered “the scum of the earth.”
- **Thanksgiving (1:3-5)** Paul expresses gratitude for Timothy and his faith. This apostolic godliness is characterized by thanksgiving and prayerfulness.
- He recalls Timothy's tears and longs for fellowship with him, indicating his deep personal affection. He also acknowledges Timothy's “sincere faith” coming from his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice.
- He emphasizes the continuity of faith across generations in the family, with the idea of “friend who is closer than a brother” emerging.
- **Appeal for Loyalty (1:6-14):** Paul urges Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" (charisma), using a command but in a diplomatic way with “I remind you to...”
- He reminds Timothy that he has been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline, and not one of timidity. “The Holy Spirit stabilizes us, he encourages us, he gives us a spirit of strength and sufficiency.”
- Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel or Paul's imprisonment, but to join in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.
- Paul transitions into a "soteriological reminder," a reminder of the doctrine of salvation. He emphasizes salvation is "not because of anything we have done" but because of God's "purpose and grace... given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time."
- Salvation is viewed as a past, present, and future reality. God's purpose is a "mystery".

- He highlights that Christ "destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Christ died for our sins and took them to the grave. Christ's resurrection showed death has been defeated.
- Paul's call as a "herald, an announcer, and an apostle and a teacher" are highlighted.
- Paul's confidence in God is emphasized, "I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day." He then calls on Timothy to "keep" the pattern of sound teaching. This teaching is not merely textbook knowledge, but rooted in a relationship with God and with the love of the church.
- Timothy is called to "guard the good deposit."
- The Holy Spirit's work: "The Holy Spirit dwells among His people, not just in us individually." The plural is emphasized here as "distributive".
- **Examples of Loyalty and Disloyalty (1:15-18):** Paul laments that "everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me," including Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- He contrasts this defection with the loyalty of Onesiphorus, who "often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains." Onesiphorus searched for Paul in Rome and was kind to him.
- The language used in the text may suggest that Onesiphorus has passed away, but this is not definitive.

#### V. Key Themes and Principles:

- **God's Sovereignty:** God's will and purpose are central.
- **Importance of Scripture:** All of scripture is God-breathed and is inerrant. A careful approach to the Bible includes observation, context, and humility.
- **Apostolic Suffering:** Apostleship involves suffering, not earthly glory or comfort.
- **The Gospel's Power:** The gospel brings life, immortality, and transcends earthly limitations, including death.
- **Faithfulness and Steadfastness:** The need to remain faithful to the gospel, to hold onto sound teaching, and to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry. Timothy's calling is emphasized as being integral to his ministry's steadfastness.

The Holy Spirit does not instill cowardice, but strength, love and clear-headedness.

- **Covenant Relationships:** The relationships within the church are often closer than familial relationships.
- **Gratitude and Encouragement:** The importance of thanksgiving, prayerfulness, and encouragement in Christian life and leadership.
- **Disloyalty vs. Loyalty:** The lecture contrasts the disloyalty of some with the steadfast loyalty of others to remind Timothy that it's important to stay tethered to Christ.
- **The Nature of God:** God is presented as a personal God, who calls us by name. God created us and saves us.

## VI. Conclusion:

Dr. Yarbrough concludes by emphasizing that while people may disappoint, God's purpose will prevail. He highlights the importance of recognizing and appreciating encouraging people and circumstances. The lecture on 2 Timothy 1 functions as a call to remain grounded in sound teaching and reliant on the Holy Spirit as they live for Christ. He asks, "Are you a lugubrious person?" as a warning against fixating on the negative.

This briefing document provides a comprehensive overview of the key topics and principles presented in Dr. Yarbrough's lecture on 2 Timothy 1. It highlights the text's theological depth, and its practical implications for believers, and particularly for those in pastoral leadership.

## 4. Study Guide: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 8, 2 Timothy 1

### 2 Timothy 1 Study Guide

#### Quiz

1. What does the acronym PMEEC stand for, and how does it relate to the Bible's overall message? *PMEEC stands for Preparation, Manifestation, Expansion, Explanation, and Consummation of the gospel. It is a framework for understanding how the Old Testament, Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Revelation contribute to the overarching narrative of God's saving work through Christ.*
2. According to the lecture, what is the significance of observing what is present in scripture before interpreting its meaning? *Observing what is present before interpreting is crucial to avoid imposing personal biases or contemporary perspectives onto the biblical text. It allows the reader to understand the original context and intended meaning before applying it to modern situations.*
3. What does the frequency of the words "God," "Lord," and "Christ Jesus" in 2 Timothy reveal about the book's focus? *The high frequency of words referencing God, Lord, and Christ Jesus demonstrates the book's primary focus on the divine nature of the Christian faith. It also emphasizes the core importance of God and Christ in the lives and work of believers and their leaders.*
4. How does Paul's use of the word "didomi" (give) in 2 Timothy contribute to the understanding of God's role? *In 2 Timothy, the use of "didomi" (give) is connected to God's actions, underscoring that all gifts, including the Spirit, salvation, mercy, and repentance, come from God as acts of his grace and power.*
5. What is the significance of Paul's statement about having a "clear conscience," and why does he keep mentioning it? *Paul's repeated affirmation of a "clear conscience" is crucial because it counters accusations from fellow Jews who saw him and Timothy as traitors to their tradition. It asserts that following Jesus as the Messiah is compatible with their Jewish heritage.*
6. How does the lecture describe the relationship within the "household of faith," and why is this important? *The household of faith is described as having deeper relationships than even biological families. Believers can find a closeness that surpasses that of one's own relatives, because it is based on a shared bond through Christ.*

7. What does it mean to "fan into flame the gift of God" (charisma) according to Paul's exhortation to Timothy? *"Fanning into flame" the gift of God means actively and intentionally nurturing the spiritual gifts and abilities God has bestowed, using them to serve and further the gospel, rather than letting them diminish through disuse or neglect.*
8. How does the concept of "grace" play a role in salvation according to 2 Timothy 1:9? *Paul emphasizes that salvation is not earned through personal effort or merit but is instead a gift of grace rooted in God's own purpose. This grace, given in Christ Jesus before time began, is the reason for salvation, not any action on the part of the recipient.*
9. What was the main point of the discussion of Onesiphorus and those in Asia who deserted Paul? *The discussion of Onesiphorus and those in Asia highlights the contrasting behaviors that believers can display. Onesiphorus demonstrates loyalty and encouragement, while the deserters remind us of the potential for defection. Both are used as examples for Timothy.*
10. How does the lecture connect the call to ministry with the need for a grounding in sound teaching? *The lecture emphasizes that faithfulness to sound teaching is the foundation of ministry fruitfulness. A deep grounding in theological truth is necessary to prevent doubt, stay stable, and produce fruit in ministry, rather than being easily destabilized by the challenges of life.*

### Answer Key

1. *PMEEC stands for Preparation, Manifestation, Expansion, Explanation, and Consummation of the gospel. It is a framework for understanding how the Old Testament, Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Revelation contribute to the overarching narrative of God's saving work through Christ.*
2. *Observing what is present before interpreting is crucial to avoid imposing personal biases or contemporary perspectives onto the biblical text. It allows the reader to understand the original context and intended meaning before applying it to modern situations.*
3. *The high frequency of words referencing God, Lord, and Christ Jesus demonstrates the book's primary focus on the divine nature of the Christian faith. It also emphasizes the core importance of God and Christ in the lives and work of believers and their leaders.*



4. *In 2 Timothy, the use of "didomi" (give) is connected to God's actions, underscoring that all gifts, including the Spirit, salvation, mercy, and repentance, come from God as acts of his grace and power.*
5. *Paul's repeated affirmation of a "clear conscience" is crucial because it counters accusations from fellow Jews who saw him and Timothy as traitors to their tradition. It asserts that following Jesus as the Messiah is compatible with their Jewish heritage.*
6. *The household of faith is described as having deeper relationships than even biological families. Believers can find a closeness that surpasses that of one's own relatives, because it is based on a shared bond through Christ.*
7. *"Fanning into flame" the gift of God means actively and intentionally nurturing the spiritual gifts and abilities God has bestowed, using them to serve and further the gospel, rather than letting them diminish through disuse or neglect.*
8. *Paul emphasizes that salvation is not earned through personal effort or merit but is instead a gift of grace rooted in God's own purpose. This grace, given in Christ Jesus before time began, is the reason for salvation, not any action on the part of the recipient.*
9. *The discussion of Onesiphorus and those in Asia highlights the contrasting behaviors that believers can display. Onesiphorus demonstrates loyalty and encouragement, while the deserters remind us of the potential for defection. Both are used as examples for Timothy.*
10. *The lecture emphasizes that faithfulness to sound teaching is the foundation of ministry fruitfulness. A deep grounding in theological truth is necessary to prevent doubt, stay stable, and produce fruit in ministry, rather than being easily destabilized by the challenges of life.*

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of Paul's emphasis on apostolic suffering and its relationship to the call to ministry in 2 Timothy 1. How does his own experience of hardship serve as an encouragement and a warning for Timothy?
2. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit as presented in 2 Timothy 1, focusing on how the Spirit empowers believers and how the Spirit's work is connected with Timothy's calling and ministry.
3. Compare and contrast the descriptions of faithfulness and disloyalty in 2 Timothy 1. How do the examples of Onesiphorus, Phygelus, and Hermogenes function as models or warnings for Christian leaders?
4. Explain how Paul's understanding of salvation encompasses past, present, and future dimensions. How does his description of salvation (verses 9-10) impact a leader's perspective on challenges and setbacks in ministry?
5. Explore the various facets of God's character highlighted in 2 Timothy 1. How do these attributes of God contribute to Paul's message of encouragement to Timothy and how might they influence how individuals approach faith and leadership?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **PMEEC:** An acronym representing the overall narrative of the Bible: Preparation (Old Testament), Manifestation (Gospels), Expansion (Acts), Explanation (Epistles), and Consummation (Revelation).
- **Euangelion:** The Greek word for "gospel" or "good news," referring to the message of Christ's saving work.
- **Hermeneutic:** The theory and practice of interpretation, particularly in relation to the Bible.
- **Kurios:** The Greek word for "Lord," which can refer to God the Father or Christ Jesus.
- **Christos Iesus:** The Greek term for "Christ Jesus," emphasizing Jesus as the Messiah and deliverer.
- **Didomi:** The Greek verb for "give," frequently used in 2 Timothy to describe God's actions.
- **Agathos:** A Greek word meaning "good," used in reference to works, but not as often as kalos.
- **Kalos/Kalon:** A Greek word also meaning "good," used to describe good works.
- **Charisma:** The Greek word for "gift," often referring to spiritual gifts or abilities given by God.
- **Pseudepigraphic:** A work that is falsely attributed to a particular author.
- **Soteriological:** Relating to the doctrine of salvation.
- **Ecclesial:** Relating to the church.
- **Lugubrious:** A descriptive word that defines a person as sad and melancholy, often used in an excessive or exaggerated way.
- **Apostolic:** Relating to the apostles or their teachings.
- **Covenant Language:** Language that references the relationship between God and his people, with promises and obligations.

## 5. FAQs on Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 8, 2 Timothy 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions About 2 Timothy 1

- **What is the overarching framework through which the Bible should be understood, according to Dr. Yarbrough?**
- Dr. Yarbrough proposes an acronym, PMEEC, which stands for Preparation, Manifestation, Expansion, Explanation, and Consummation. This framework views the entire Bible through the lens of the gospel: The Old Testament as the *Preparation* for the gospel, the Gospels as the *Manifestation* of the gospel, Acts as the *Expansion* of the gospel, the Epistles as the *Explanation* of the gospel, and Revelation as the *Consummation* of the gospel. The overarching focus of the Bible is understood as God's saving self-disclosure through his Son.
- **What is the importance of observation and context when studying the Bible, and how does it relate to theological work?**
- Drawing from Adolf Schlatter, Dr. Yarbrough emphasizes the critical need for careful observation in biblical study. It's essential to understand what the text *actually says* before interpreting what it *means*. This means getting outside of our own preconceived notions and biases through discipline and humility, and avoiding reading our current desires into scripture. This approach ensures we are faithful to the original context of the text before applying it to the present.
- **How does the frequency of words in 2 Timothy help to understand the book's focus?**
- The frequency of certain words highlights central themes in 2 Timothy. Dr. Yarbrough notes a preponderance of words related to God, including "Lord," "God," and "Jesus/Christ," indicating the book's focus on God's nature and work through Christ. Additionally, the frequent use of "give" (didomi) related to God's giving highlights God's active role in believers' lives, emphasizing gifts like the spirit and grace. This points to the book's emphasis on the divine initiative in salvation and sanctification.

- **What is the significance of Paul's apostleship in the opening of 2 Timothy, and how was it understood in his time?**
- Paul's affirmation of his apostleship, received through the will of God, is significant in the context of his era. Rather than being a position of power and wealth, it was associated with suffering and hardship, such as beatings, being without food or shelter, and other trials. Despite these challenges, apostles were driven by the joy of fellowship with Christ and the hope of an eternal reward, demonstrating the paradox of strength in weakness.
- **What does 2 Timothy 1 reveal about the relationship between Paul and Timothy, and what key concepts are communicated through their interaction?**
- Paul refers to Timothy as his "dear son," highlighting a deeply personal and covenantal relationship that extends beyond typical familial bonds. Paul's language emphasizes gratitude, prayerfulness, and a longing for fellowship, showcasing the importance of love and support within the faith. He reminds Timothy of their shared faith, and their call to serve. These elements emphasize that spiritual bonds in Christ can be even stronger than blood relations.
- **What is the significance of "fanning into flame the gift of God" and how does this relate to the nature of the Holy Spirit?**
- "Fanning into flame the gift of God" refers to the need for Timothy to actively engage the gift of the Spirit he received through the laying on of hands. Paul contrasts this with a spirit of timidity, noting the Holy Spirit bestows power, love, and self-discipline. He calls Timothy to avoid shame and encourages him to join in suffering for the gospel. This illustrates that the Holy Spirit empowers believers for active service and perseverance, rather than passivity.
- **How does Paul describe the concept of salvation and its timeline, particularly in 2 Timothy 1?**
- Paul emphasizes that salvation is not based on human works, but on God's purpose and grace given in Christ Jesus, even before the beginning of time. He stresses that Christ's appearing has revealed this salvation, destroying death and bringing life and immortality through the gospel. Paul views salvation as a total reality, encompassing the past, present, and future, including justification and future glorification. This points to the comprehensive nature of God's redemptive plan in Christ.

- **What can be learned from the examples of disloyalty and loyalty at the end of 2 Timothy 1, and what practical application does this have for pastoral ministry?**
- The contrasting examples of those who deserted Paul and the loyalty of Onesiphorus illustrate that ministry will be marked both by disappointments and encouragement. The defection of those in Asia serves as a reminder of the potential for people to turn away. However, the loyalty and sacrifice of Onesiphorus shows that others can be huge sources of support and encouragement. This highlights the need to be deeply grounded in teaching, to rely on God, and to be both aware of dangers, and grateful for encouragement from God and his people. This also encourages a balanced view of people within the church, seeing their flaws but appreciating their gifts.