

Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy

A New Rendition

(prepublication version)

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About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary, a project by a group of Latter-day Saint specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to Latter-day Saint general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of Latter-day Saint scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers.

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these

features distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefitted from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisors, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling this a new “rendition” clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the New Rendition in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

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Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy

Greeting (1:1–2)

1 Paul, an envoy of the Anointed Jesus by the will of God according to a promise of life in the Anointed Jesus, 2 to Timothy, beloved son: grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Anointed Jesus, our Lord.

Thanksgiving (1:3–7)

3 I am thankful to God, whom I worship even as my ancestors did, with a pure conscience, that I continually remember you during my prayers, both night and day. 4 I long to see you, recalling your tears, so I may be filled with joy, 5 remembering the unfeigned faith within you that dwelt first in your grandmother, Lois, and your mother, Eunice. I believe that such faith dwells in you also. 6 For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God, which is in you by the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice but of power and love and self-control.

Don't Be Ashamed of God (1:8–14)

8 Therefore, do not be ashamed of the witness of our Lord, nor of me, his prisoner. Instead, share in affliction for the good news according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy invitation, not according to our deeds but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us by the Anointed Jesus before time eternal. 10 This has now become known through the appearance of our Savior, the Anointed Jesus, who after he nullified death brought to light life and immortality through the good news, 11 in which I was made a herald and an envoy and a teacher. 12 For this reason, I suffer even these things. However, I am not ashamed. For I know in whom I have placed my faith, and I believe that he is able to guard that which has been entrusted to me until that day. 13 Hold up the standard of sound

words, which you heard from me, with the faith and charity that are in the Anointed Jesus. 14 Guard the good thing entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us.

Blessing on Onesiphorus (1:15–18)

15 You know this, that all those in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 May the Lord give mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, since he has often encouraged me, and he was not ashamed of my chain. 17 But after he arrived in Rome, he zealously searched for me and found me. 18 May the Lord allow him to find mercy from the Lord on that day! How much he served me in Ephesus you also know very well.

Metaphors of Service (2:1–7)

1 Therefore, my son, strengthen yourself in the grace that is in the Anointed Jesus 2 and that which you have heard from me from the reports of many witnesses. Entrust these teachings to faithful individuals who are competent also to teach others. 3 Share in afflictions as a good soldier of the Anointed Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier entangles himself in life's affairs, so that he might please the one who enlisted him. 5 Likewise, if someone competes as an athlete, he doesn't win a crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 For the exhausted farmer should partake of his fruits first. 7 Ponder what I am saying, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

God's Word Is Not Bound (2:8–13)

8 Remember Jesus the Anointed, who was awakened from the dead and was from the seed of David according to my good news, 9 for which I suffer evil, even to the point of being placed in chains as an evil doer. But the word of God is not fettered. 10 For this reason, I patiently persevere everything for the sake of the elect so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in the Anointed Jesus along with everlasting glory.

11 Trustworthy is the saying:

“For if we died with him, so we will live with him.

12 If we persevere, so will we rule together with him.

If we will deny him, he will deny us

13 If we lack faith, he remains faithful,
for he is not able to deny himself.”

Warn False Teachers (2:14–19)

14 Remind them of these things, solemnly entreating them before God not to fight about words, which is good for nothing except for the overthrow of those listening. 15 Strive to prove yourself acceptable before God, an unashamed workman cutting straight the word of truth. 16 Avoid worldly empty discussions, for they will lead the way to more ungodliness 17 and their message will spread like gangrene. Among those individuals are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have missed the mark concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened, and they overturn the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and “Depart from iniquity everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord.”

Vessels of Honor and Dishonor (2:20–21)

20 In a great house there are not only gold and silver objects but also ones of wood and clay, and some are for honor while others are for dishonor. 21 If therefore anyone will cleanse himself thoroughly away from these teachings, he will be an object of honor, sanctified and useful to the household ruler, having prepared himself for every good work.

Pursue Righteousness (2:22–26)

22 Flee from youthful lusts. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those individuals calling upon the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Decline foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they engender quarrels. 24 It is not fitting for a servant of the Lord to quarrel but be kind to all, inclined to teach, patient, 25 instructing opponents in meekness. At some time, God may give them remorse in regard to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they might come to their senses and escape from the snare of the Devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Behaviors in the Last Days (3:1–9)

1 Know this, however, that in the last days dangerous times will come. 2 For people will be self-centered, money-lovers, braggarts, arrogant, abusive in speech, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving,

unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, untamed, without a love of good, 4 betrayers, reckless, conceited, loving pleasure rather than loving God, 5 having the appearance of godliness while denying its power. Turn away from these individuals as well! 6 For out of these people come those individuals who enter into houses and lead away captive foolish women who have been burdened with sins, being led astray by various passions. 7 They are always learning yet never are able to come to a recognition of truth. 8 As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these individuals oppose the truth—people corrupted in mind and unworthy concerning the faith. 9 However, they will not progress further, for their foolishness will be evident to all, just as happened to those two.

Discipleship in the Last Days (3:10–17)

10 But you have closely followed my teaching, conduct, offering, faithfulness, forbearance, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet out of all the Lord rescued me. 12 Likewise, all those who desire to live righteously in the Anointed Jesus will be pursued. 13 Wicked individuals and imposters will progress to worse things—leading astray and being led astray. 14 However, you must abide in what you have learned and are assured of, since you know from whom you learned these teachings 15 and that from infancy you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise in regards to salvation through faith in the Anointed Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired and is beneficial for teaching, for reproach, for correction, and for training in righteousness 17 so that the person of God may be fully capable, having been fully equipped for every good work.

Do the Work of God (4:1–5)

1 I solemnly charge you before God and the Anointed Jesus, who will certainly judge the living and the dead, and by his appearance and his kingdom: 2 Proclaim the word! Be ready at opportune and inopportune times! Correct! Admonish! Encourage!—with complete patience and teaching. 3 For there will be a season when they will not tolerate sound teachings but according to their own desires, those with itching ears will accumulate teachers for themselves, 4 and they will first turn away from hearing what is the truth, then turn aside to myths. 5 You,

however, be sober in everything. Endure afflictions. Do the work of a bringer of good tidings. Fulfill your ministry.

Paul's Final Testimony (4:6–8)

6 For I am already poured out as a drink offering, and the appointed time of my departure is near at hand. 7 I have contended for a prize in the good contest. I have completed the footrace. I have protected the faith. 8 Already the crown of righteousness is stored away for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will deliver to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all those who have loved his coming.

Deserters and Supporters (4:9–18)

9 Hasten to come to me quickly. 10 For Demas has deserted me, loving as he does the present age, and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia; Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Luke alone is with me. After picking up Mark, bring him with you, for he is useful to me for the ministry. 12 I dispatched Tychicus to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the traveling cloak that I left in Troas with Carpus, and the papers, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did a great evil to me. The Lord will give back to him according to his deeds. 15 You too must beware of him, for he opposed our words exceedingly.

16 During my first defense, no one supported me, but they all deserted me. May it not be counted against them. 17 Instead, the Lord stood by me and strengthened me so that through me the proclamation of the good news should be fulfilled and all the nations should hear it. So I was rescued from the mouth of lions. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every wicked deed and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him is the glory through the ages of the eternities, amen.

Final Greeting (4:19–22)

19 Greet Pricsa, Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained in Corinth, but I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. 21 Hurry to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters. 22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.