

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S AMAZING CLAIM

2 Timothy 3:10-17

The year 67 A.D., the year the Apostle Paul was re-arrested, also brought a crisis of leadership in the Church. Because of Rome's persecution many first-generation Bible teachers, trained by Paul, abandoned the faith. It fell to Timothy to train replacements. The main subject of this letter is found in 2 Timothy 2:2.

*²and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

How was Timothy to train the next generation of Bible teachers? This is the subject of 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

Paul confirmed that the Scriptures included his letters along with the Old Testament and that the teaching of these Scriptures would produce competent Bible teachers.

Paul's claim was rooted in a prophecy given by our Lord Jesus to His disciples. In John 14:25-26 Jesus revealed that after His departure, the Holy Spirit would continue to teach the disciples and bring to their remembrance all that Jesus had taught them. The New Testament is the fulfillment of this prophecy. The following timeline shows when many of the books of the New Testament were written.¹

33A.D.	Jesus crucified, resurrected, ascended, Church born.	
40's	Gospel of Matthew written.	
44-47	James	
49	Galatians	
51	1 & 2 Thessalonians	
56	1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans	
57-59	Gospel of Luke	
60	Ephesians	Paul under house arrest in Rome.
61	Colossians, Philemon	"
62	Philippians, Acts	"
62	1 Timothy	Paul released, 4 th missionary journey.
64	1 & 2 Peter	Peter crucified in Rome.
64-68	Gospel of Mark	
66	Titus	
67	2 Timothy	Paul arrested and jailed in Rome.
68	Hebrews	Paul beheaded.

The point of this timeline is to show that by 67 A.D. when Paul wrote 2 Timothy, most of the New Testament had been written. By 67 A.D. all of Paul's letters had been written. In 64 A.D., three years before Paul wrote 2 Timothy, the Apostle Peter referred to Paul's letters as "Scripture" (2 Peter 3:15-16).

3:10-11 The word "followed" in verse 10 means "to investigate carefully, to diligently check out". In other words, Timothy was a subject expert on the teachings and life of Paul. Much of his knowledge was from his direct contact with Paul and from Paul's letters. The persecutions at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra occurred on Paul's first missionary journey before he met Timothy on his second. Timothy would have learned of these from Paul and also from Luke's history which we now know as the book of Acts.

3:12-13 Persecution and evil people will continue to be the order of the day. Though that's the case, Paul instructed Timothy to stay focused on his assignment.

3:14-15 From Paul, Timothy learned Paul's teachings, his conduct, his aim in life etc. From Lois his mother and Eunice his grandmother Timothy learned the Hebrew Scriptures, what Paul called the "sacred writings", Genesis through Malachi in our Bibles.

¹ Adapted from Harold W. Hoehner, "A Chronological Table of the Apostolic Age," ThD Diss., Dallas Theological Seminary, 1964, rev. 1972.

3:16-17 In verse 16 those things learned from Paul and those things learned in Timothy's childhood (the sacred writings) are referred to as "all Scripture". Timothy had the Holy Spirit-inspired, books of the Old Testament, but now, in addition, he had the Holy Spirit-inspired, letters of the Apostle Paul.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Content</u>		<u>Nature</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Paul (2 Tim. 3:10-11)	...my teaching... (2 Tim. 3:10-11)	}	...all Scripture... (2 Tim 3:16)	...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:17)
Lois / Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5)	...the sacred writings... (2 Tim. 3:15)			

Paul assured Timothy that with the "sacred writings" of the Old Testament and the record of Paul's life and teachings contained in his letters, Timothy had everything necessary to teach, rebuke, correct, and train competent Bible teachers.

We, too, should be encouraged and strengthened to continue to teach "all Scripture" and raise up competent Bible teachers for the Church

By the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God, every one of us can become a "man of God" or a "woman of God", complete and equipped for every good work.

Our part is to saturate our hearts and minds with the Scriptures (Psalm 1).

GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- **VBS Volunteers needed! July 24-28. Sign-ups out on the patio!**
- **Women's Bible Study on Ruth (Childcare provided).**
Wednesday's 10am-12noon. July 5th-Aug. 9th
Contact Sharon Plunkett to sign up@760-310-5062
- **Women's Ministry / VOM Event: "Hearts of Fire", Friday, July 14th, 6:30p-9:40p.**
- **VOM Needs for June: Bar Soap (in paper, not cardboard) / Nail Clippers**
- **Financial Update: \$-12,390.00 below goal of \$349,507.00. Love Fund balance: \$14,124.00**